

President's Message



ROGER J. GIBBS

"A Fond Farewell" by Roger J. Gibbs

Wow, has time flown by this last year! It seems like just yesterday that I assumed the position of President of WTCA. The year has been really exciting for me as I have witnessed and participated in the continuing growth of our association. I see the tremendous value WTCA has provided to the component manufacturer. At all of the board meetings, those who serve and attend also comment on the value and work involved in WTCA. I just wish that all members could have the opportunity to see firsthand the amount of effort that is put into WTCA from the committees, board of directors and staff.

Both the component industry and WTCA are changing in tremendous ways—ALL POSITIVE. In my speech to the membership at our annual meeting last fall in Kansas City, I discussed my desire for WTCA to accomplish two things that, in my opinion, were of the utmost importance to the future success of the component industry. My first goal was to establish an organization that could capture the natural synergy that exists between all components that a majority of manufacturers supply to their customers, without losing the identity of WTCA. The Structural Building Components Council is in the initial stages of development and is on the path to being an organization that will effectively tie together different areas of this industry.

My second goal was to promote the need for a *Smart Components* testing program to develop more efficient ways to brace and construct the structures our customers build. The challenge for this project has been to develop a solid understanding of what this program means by all involved. Simply, Smart Components has been renamed to more accurately state its initial objectives—*Fundamental Truss Industry Research and Testing*—that will aid us in moving our industry forward toward better understanding the 3-dimensional behavior of temporary and permanent bracing and thus buildings. Imagine what a tool such as this can do to enhance our industry, increase component market share and



increase our bottom lines. As members of WTCA and individuals in this industry, we control our own destiny. WTCA is no longer a three-to-four person staff serving only the needs of those who ask, as it was merely five years ago. A full and part-time staff of 20 now serves the needs of many, with upwards of 500 calls and emails taken or made per day. These contacts range from financial information, technical information, marketing, education, quality control issues and many other items too numerous to mention. More than ever before, WTCA is equipped to serve its members.

The unfortunate thing is that, unless you are intimately involved within WTCA or are talking with our staff on an ongoing basis, you may not know all the value that WTCA can and does provide. Those who get actively involved in meetings or with staff soon find that very valuable work is being done on behalf of our entire industry. More often than not, these individuals then want to become more engaged and take advantage of that value. This is typified in the [letter from Bob Becht](#) who has become a valuable asset to our board and committees.

In the past two years, WTCA has taken over the duties of both *WOODWORDS* and BCMC. Since we took over *WOODWORDS*, we have received only the highest compliments from members and non-members alike on what a great magazine it has become. We are likewise confident that this year's BCMC show in Milwaukee will be something all members will be quite proud of—and will benefit exhibitors and attendees alike. This is by far the best convention center that has hosted BCMC. And what is even more exciting is the number of new exhibitors attending this show. As always, your BCMC committee did a fabulous job of identifying the needs of our members and preparing some great breakout sessions so that each of us can take home valuable information.

The work at WTCA will only continue to grow as our industry's needs grow. While many of these needs are not always apparent to some manufacturers, they will become more evident in the near future as the industry continues to grow and change.

My thanks to the board of directors for their hard work and time away from their businesses for a few days a quarter to give direction and help identify the needs of our industry. WTCA's Executive Committee consists of some of the most talented people with whom I have ever been associated. You will find great leadership from Mary Pat Keller, Mike Ruede and our newest officer, Scott Arquilla. Along with the other board members, they represent component manufacturers from both family-owned companies and larger corporations.

I also don't want to forget our Associate Members who attend the board meetings. They are an important ingredient to making our association work. Without their attendance, we would not be able to understand their needs and concerns and vice versa. It has opened up some great lines of communication that have not existed for many years. The most important example of this is the appointment of the WTCA President and Executive Director to attend the TPI Board meetings and represent all of you. This kind of face-to-face communication is the most effective communication in the world. Things get accomplished and ideas become reality.

It has been a pleasure serving as your President this year and I look forward to continuing my service on the board and serving in the future as part of the past presidents committee. Thank you.

July 25, 2000

Kirk Grundahl
Wood Truss Council of America
One WTCA Center, 6425 Normandy Lane
Madison, WI 53719-1133

Dear Kirk:

I am making a commitment to attend WTCA board meetings and work here in Southeast Florida on behalf of WTCA. This commitment is for years to come. I have been at Chambers Truss since 1981 and started in the truss business before that. I am the president and an owner of Chambers Truss. I can make the financial and time commitment to attend the board meetings. I have the support of the other owners of Chambers Truss in this. My wife, who is also a manager at Chambers Truss, will travel with me and can attend meetings when more than one meeting is scheduled. I am also committed to the truss industry and believe that I have a contribution to make. I therefore request that I be considered for the WTCA board.

Henry Chambers, the founder of Chambers Truss, admired the effort that his brother Dave and Don Hershey put into WTCA. Henry also regretted the fact that he did not participate more. I know that Henry would support my work with WTCA.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Becht
President,
Chambers Truss Inc

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