

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

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SCDA Update

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President's Message by Phil Barkey

Thirty-eight years ago I began my career in the engineered wood products industry. The first job I had was carrying 2x4s covered with glue from the glue spreader to the stack form to make laminated beams. Like most sixteen-year-olds I had no imagination or vision for the future. Little did I know that in thirty-eight years other industry veterans and I would be forming a national trade association to educate engineered wood technicians.

Education has always been important to me. In the early years, just knowing where to find the information you needed to learn was difficult. Any bit of knowledge gained was then transferred to customers who, unfortunately, had an infrequent need for your product and, worse yet, did not have the knowledge it took to use it.

Today things are different. Engineered wood products are used in virtually every single-family residence and light commercial building. One thing that hasn't changed, however, is the need for product knowledge. Several years ago the truss industry (WTCA) addressed a critical education need by creating its Truss Technician Training testing and certification program. I have always looked at this program with envy, thinking it would be great if we had a comparable program for engineered wood products. Early last year, at an LVL users conference, several of us got together and began planning the formation of the Structural Component Distributors Association. Today, the association is a reality in its infancy. Our goal is not to create technology, but to take individuals and educate them about the technology to use engineered wood products correctly and efficiently, creating a labor pool of well-trained individuals who are tested and certified to do the job. These individuals are needed throughout the industry. Membership is targeted specifically to I-joist, LVL and glulam distributing companies that take title to the product, add value to it and re-sell it to the construction industry. Our goal is to protect and advance our industry through knowledge. We all have experienced the fact that education is one of the best market development tools we have, and knowledge truly is power. Please join us and help us help your company be its technical best.

For information about supplier or regular membership in SCDA please contact us at 608/271-1176.

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