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STCA Update

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2001: The Year That...by Mike Noonan

It's hard to believe that the year 2001 is about to change from the present to the past tense. This year has seen several STCA accomplishments that need to be mentioned.

One of the biggest projects that STCA has been involved with is the In-Plant Quality Control Standard. A dedicated group on the STCA Executive Committee is in the final review process prior to BETA testing of what is

expected to be a very comprehensive guideline. This vital document has as its goals:

- Providing our industry a high level of assurance that our products will conform to the performance expectations of the truss design.
- Providing an efficient quality control process in the plant.

Have you visited the STCA web site lately? There's plenty of good information available on it. From association news and products that are available to helpful industry links, the STCA web site is both useful and informative. Visit this site often. New sections will continue to be added in the future.



The STCA meeting at MetalCon gave members and non-members the opportunity to provide their perspective on STCA accomplishments, as well as their feedback on our association's future work. We had several great discussions with non-members who were pleased to see our brochure, tags and the other risk management work that STCA has done to protect and advance the light gauge, steel components industry. These discussions made it apparent that STCA is very fortunate to have our component manufacturers' association formed and operating at the launch of this emerging market. This will allow us to be proactive in the development of programs and policies to advance our industry in the most businesslike manner possible.

There's news on the marketing front as well! In October a new brochure was introduced at MetalCon. This colorful brochure informs the reader of the adaptability and versatility of cold-formed steel trusses. It's a great sales and marketing tool.

A PowerPoint® presentation (created with significant assistance from Alpine Engineered Products) on CD-ROM entitled "STCA's CFS Trusses" is now available to STCA members. It has qualified for continuing education units from the AIA. I have personally reviewed the presentation and feel it is going to be a huge asset for your marketing efforts with architects.

Finally, STCA has been involved in discussions with CSI to be assigned a specific number (05425 - Cold-formed Steel Trusses) for CFS trusses in project specification manuals. This would go a long way toward establishing the place of CFS trusses in construction. When you get the chance check out www.4specs.com/s/05/05425.html.

How can so much be accomplished in a relatively short period of time? Of course, all of these projects have been in progress for some time. STCA has a small but dedicated staff that is hard working and exceptionally good at what they do. STCA also relies on help from its members. Several individuals have contributed their time and talent to guide this association toward its various goals.

One such individual is current STCA President, Keith Kinser. Keith has been tireless in his efforts to see STCA succeed in its mission. I know Keith to be one of the first to offer assistance when help is needed or willingly share information of his experiences with others. This association truly has benefited from Keith's involvement in it.

Which brings me to my last point. When are you going to do something to help this association? Much has been accomplished by the work of a small, dedicated group. Quality control standards, marketing aids and an AIA accredited presentation to name a few of the achievements. Just think of the goals that can be reached with more participation! Give it serious consideration and then join STCA. If you participate in CFS construction projects, join us. Give something back to the association that has as its mission the protection and advancement of your business. Then after you join, get involved!

Mike Noonan is the Vice President of Marketing for Cascade Mfg Co, and President-Elect of STCA. Mike will assume office in 2003.

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