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SCDA Update

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The True Benefits of Association Membership by Phil Barkey

The benefits of association membership vary from individual to individual. The perspective that I have as one of the founders and president of the Structural Component Distributors Association (SCDA) will help everyone understand what SCDA is set to accomplish.

Years ago, our company used to judge the value of association membership by what we felt we got in exchange for our annual dues. This, we have come to realize, is a backwards way of thinking. Experience has shown us that by giving, the value of our membership increases. I now understand that by starting as a giver, I am able to improve the quality of what I receive.

To me, the true benefit of association membership is the opportunity it offers to contribute to an industry that has been very good to me. It also helps all of us fulfill our obligation to set into motion the vehicle that will pass our knowledge on to those who seek it, and archive this knowledge for the next generation of answer seekers. SCDA does this for the distributors of structural building components. However, for this to happen a lot of work must take place.

Many of us have been asked to serve on a committee, sit on a board of directors or contribute to an association in some way. No one who is asked to contribute ever really has the time to do so. It is understood that, in our lives there are many priorities that come before our trade association. We all have the same difficulty balancing our time and our obligations; yet, we all find some time to contribute. We do this because we remember that there was someone before us who took the time to help us get answers.

The benefit to others is what we create for them. The networking that takes place whenever we gather is very valuable. It provides a forum for exchange that is beneficial to all. The industry becomes a fraternity of experience seekers and providers, of information and answers.

SCDA is just beginning. We are in the information gathering stage for the development of our first industry certification exam. The next step is to create the questions for the certification exam. The third step will be to create the database of knowledge that will be used to train the next generation of answer seekers. To become a member of SCDA, contact staff at 608/271-1176.

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