

# STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

May 2002

## Learning, Planning, Networking — The 2002 WTCA Chapter Summits by Anna L. Stamm

The 2002 WTCA Chapter Summits are a resounding success. Thank you to all of the members who have been able to take time away from their companies to join us for these meetings! You all agree—it was time well spent.

By far the best feature of this year's summits, according to the attendees, is the open forum discussion. Many commented that the roundtable on day two really encouraged an open dialogue. What's more, because of the regional nature of the meetings, each summit was able to highlight the issues most important in that region while still including all of the prominent issues from the national perspective. A comment mentioned by several attendees is how they "really learned a lot" about the issues that are important to our industry. The chapter summits are a great opportunity for educating ourselves.

A close runner-up in the category of "summit's best feature" is the fire presentation on day one. This "train the trainer" workshop does an excellent job of covering the topic as well as preparing attendees to deliver this presentation in their local markets. Whether chapters are facing outright truss bans (e.g., Chicago), building labeling legislation (e.g., New York) or simply have fire fighters who are misinformed about components, members need to provide education in their markets. Considering the uphill battle we have in getting out the facts about truss fire performance, taking this program to local firehouses and firefighter associations will go a long way toward meeting this challenge.

Last but not least, another of the best features that really comes through in the attendees' comments is the benefit of networking. That is, the attendees find value in being able to come together to discuss these or any issues. Because the day-to-day operation of our businesses will often consume all of our attention, we need to seize the opportunities to step back and get perspective on the whole picture. Each manufacturer and supplier is a part of an industry with several challenges, but a huge amount of potential. What's more, when we're working together we are at our best. As Bruce Hutchins of Northeast Panel & Truss writes, "I enjoy the give and take of information with my peers and related industry professionals." In addition to education, these chapter summits are providing camaraderie and encouragement.

So, if you missed the summits in Albany, Atlanta and Denver, there's one more that's in the works for 2002. By request, we're scheduling one additional summit for the western U.S. that will be held in Washington State later this year. Please watch for more information as it becomes available and consider joining us for this event. It is a great way to stay in touch with fellow manufacturers and the work the association is doing on everyone's behalf. Together, we make a great team.

---

For more information on the last 2002 Chapter Summit or to register, contact Anna L. Stamm at 608/274-4849 ext. 19 or [astamm@qualtim.com](mailto:astamm@qualtim.com). Remember, the summit is free to WTCA members!

---

### [SBC HOME PAGE](#)

Copyright © 2002 by Truss Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. For permission to reprint materials from SBC Magazine, call 608/310-6706 or email [editor@sbcmag.info](mailto:editor@sbcmag.info).

The mission of Structural Building Components Magazine (SBC) is to increase the knowledge of and to promote the common interests of those engaged in manufacturing and distributing of structural building components to ensure growth and continuity, and to be the information conduit by staying abreast of leading-edge issues. SBC will take a leadership role on behalf of the component industry in disseminating technical and marketplace information, and will maintain advisory committees consisting of the most knowledgeable professionals in the industry. The opinions expressed in SBC are those of the authors and those quoted solely, and are not necessarily the opinions of any of the affiliated associations (SBCC, WTCA, SCDA & STCA).