

# STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

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## Human Faces

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### WTCA-Northeast Chapter President NEMBOS Wrap-up Speaker by Stan Sias & Tim LaChapelle

The annual New England Municipal Building Officials Seminar (NEMBOS), sponsored by the New England Building Officials Education Association was held at the University of Massachusetts on October 7-10, 2002. This seminar is a major educational activity for many building officials in the New England region. NEMBOS consists of general session lectures, specialized breakout sessions, and "cracker barrel" sessions. Cracker barrel sessions are thirty-minute moderated open discussion forums situated at "sponsored" round tables. Each sponsor establishes the table topic from which attendees are allowed to choose.

The wrap-up speaker for this year's program was Tim LaChapelle, P.E., President of the WTCA-Northeast Chapter. In a multi-media presentation, LaChapelle provided the 390 attendees with up-to-date information about the Wood Truss Council of America (WTCA) and its many ongoing activities. Using the "hot off the press" ANSI/TPI/WTCA 4-2002, National Standard and Recommended Guidelines on Responsibilities for Construction Using Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses, and WTCA's new multi-media Truss Technology Workshop CD: Storage, Handling, Installation and Bracing of Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses (SHIB), he discussed typical design responsibilities within the market and explained that these were the guidelines under which component manufacturers work in lieu of specific contract language. WTCA 4-2002 is very specific with regards to who is responsible for what in the entire process of incorporating metal plate connected wood trusses into the construction process.

LaChapelle went on to review the highlights of the SHIB TTW involving storage, handling, installing and bracing basics. Bracing discussions, as always, draw much attention and due to the fact that engineered wood components are making significant in-roads in the New England construction marketplace, there was again much interest in this important topic with the assembled building officials.

LaChapelle went on to announce WTCA's upcoming online continuing education programs, part of the newly created Truss Knowledge Online (TKO) training platform which includes Truss Technician Training (TTT) Level I program as well as several Truss Technology Workshops (TTW). These program announcements were well received and generated much interest in the possibility of completing CEU credits online with this audience.

The Northeast Chapter supplied each attendee with current publications from WTCA's Truss Technology in Building (TTB) series pertaining to design responsibilities, in addition to those addressing the handling installing and bracing of trusses.

WTCA-NE member company, Wood Structures, Inc. of Biddeford, ME, represented by Josh Bartlett, also sponsored a table-top booth at this year's event and discussed engineered wood products and trusses with a large group of interested officials.

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