

# STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

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## WTCA 2004 Regional Workshops & Conferences by WTCA Staff

The results are in—the 2004 Regional Workshop & Conferences were even better than last year! Thank you to all of our generous sponsors for making these Workshops possible, and thank you to all of the attendees for making them informative and fun!

### RISK, SAFETY & QUALITY CONTROL

The first of this year's two Workshops was held in Las Vegas on February 6. Geared toward business owners and managers, the focus was risk, safety and quality control. Instead of counting on Lady Luck, the companies in attendance were reminded of the steps everyone should take to protect their businesses. In the morning, WTCA Legal Counsel Kent Pagel delivered an excellent presentation on "Claims Management and Truss Collapse and Product Performance Investigations." By the afternoon, the session opened up to a broader risk management discussion and included hot items from WTCA such as BCSI 1-03, In-Plant WTCA QC, insurance and Operations Safety Certification. Following the day-long seminar, attendees were treated to a sponsors' reception that allowed time to check out the tabletop displays by the gold and silver sponsors before enjoying the group dinner. A golf outing the following morning was open to anyone interested in hitting the greens. Mixing business with pleasure could not have been better, and the odds are we'll be returning to Vegas in 2005.

"I was very impressed with the Las Vegas Workshop. The risk management presentation by Kent Pagel was excellent. I learned a lot and it was ABSOLUTELY worth my time to attend." —Richard Brown, Truss Systems, Inc., Oxford, GA

"The workshop in Las Vegas was again both very informative and fun. This year's focus on risk was a reminder of the continuous hazards that we face daily. I have attended a few previous WTCA Risk Management Seminars and I always learn something new and get a few new ideas that make the trip both fun and profitable. It was also great to see many new faces and to share some time with a few fellow chapter members. All of the attendees from Texas are looking forward to next year's trip." —Jack Dermer, American Truss Systems, Houston, TX

"The Southern Nevada Chapter was very pleased to be the host city again and enjoyed having the many local and out-of-state members take advantage of this great opportunity to support our industry." —Rick Barkemeyer, The Truss Company, Inc., Las Vegas, NV

"I always get something from these meetings and usually something more than I expected. I guess the more time you spend around top Truss people, the more you learn about our industry. The seminar on Risk Management by Kent Pagel was very

good. I have been trying to attend one of these sessions for a couple of years but was never able to before this Workshop. It was a very good session and I recommend that everyone in the truss business attend one of these sessions. " — Frank Klinger, Mid-Valley Truss & Door Co., Harlington, TX

## **BUILDING CODE & DESIGN ISSUES**

The second Workshop was held in New Orleans on March 26. Designed for engineers, managers and technicians, a panel of industry engineers and experts was on hand to address the design and code issues that are faced on a daily basis. Much information was exchanged on the impending IBC and IRC code changes, and the question-and-answer period was especially lively. By the afternoon, the agenda opened up for more general discussion on industry initiatives that companies can use to support their businesses. The day concluded with an impressive sponsors' reception and group dinner held with a backdrop of the river view. Offering continuing education credits and Cajun food, the New Orleans Workshop may just become an annual event too.

"Thank you to all involved in putting on a great workshop in New Orleans. It was very informative and I enjoyed the discussions." —Steve Kennedy, E.I.T., Lumber Specialties, Dyersville, IA

"The New Orleans Workshop, while only one day, was worth the trip from North Carolina to Louisiana. Not only did we get updated on current issues concerning Codes and their three-year revision cycles, we were able to communicate face to face with the human technical resources (who are usually on the other end of a long distance phone call) about many different issues including my main design concern—wind. In addition to the benefits of good discussion, I was excited to hear about WTCA plans to finalize a truss loading reference document by the end of the year. I want to commend the Workshop sponsors and organizers for the excellent meals provided and choice of hotel. The location could not have been better for Saturday sightseeing." —Betsy Conzelman, P.E., Eastern Building Components, New Bern, NC

"The best feature of the New Orleans Workshop was the interaction between the attendees and the panel of experts. In fact, during the question-and-answer period, my office was calling me with questions, which I was then able to ask and have answered. The person back at the office did not realize where I was, but it could not have worked out better and this was an unexpected benefit of my being in attendance. In addition to having all of my questions answered, the meeting location was great! I have eaten in some great restaurants in New Orleans, but the food at the dinner Friday night was as good as I have ever had. I am glad I went and I will definitely attend next year." —Robert J. Becht, Chambers Truss, Inc., Fort Pierce, FL

"The New Orleans Workshop on building code and design issues was very informative. Initially I had hoped the presentation on the I-Codes would give me a simple picture of all of the issues involved, but I soon learned that details in the codes resist simplification. Instead, I learned a great deal and know a lot more

about the nuances and requirements now. In addition to the presentation, I particularly enjoyed the lively question-and-answer period that was able to focus on the issues of most interest to the attendees. Overall, the Workshop exceeded my expectations." —Michael Karceski, Atlas Components, Inc., Rockford, IL

## THE FUTURE

So, as the planning process begins for next year, let us know what you would like to see in 2005! Simply drop an email to [chapters@woodtruss.com](mailto:chapters@woodtruss.com) or call staff at 608/274-4849 to tell us your recommendations and suggestions. Remember, the Regional Workshop & Conferences are designed with members in mind. They are a terrific forum for learning, planning and networking. The more people who attend, the better they will be!

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