

# STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

August 2004

## Across the Board

WTCA Board Meeting: May 7, 2004 • Washington, D.C. by WTCA Staff

*Catch a glimpse of the topics discussed at WTCA's most recent board meeting; then plan to join us for the next OQM!*

President Dan Holland opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance. The group reviewed and approved the minutes from the February 27 meeting in San Diego. Immediate Past President Scott Arquilla announced the Nominating Committee's nomination of WTCA Secretary-elect, Barry Dixon; the group approved the motion to nominate Dixon.

Holland listed future board meetings: the Open Quarterly Meeting August 11-13 in Madison, WI, and the October 9 meeting in Charlotte, NC. He encouraged board members to invite other component manufacturers to upcoming board and committee meetings and to find replacements if they cannot attend.

### CURRENT ISSUES

- BCSI PowerPoint® presentation is a powerful tool, although it is too long to cover in one session. The group asked staff to break it into sections. Staff is currently working to break the presentation down.
- At the Iowa Truss Manufacturers Association's (ITMA) last meeting in March, the BCSI PowerPoint® was presented and well-received. The education committee was active throughout the winter, holding eight meetings.
- Idaho Truss renewed their contract with one of the WTCA-endorsed insurance brokers. The fact that the plant is WTCA QC and TTT Level II-certified helped to reduce insurance costs by \$25,000.
- Southern Nevada Component Manufacturers Association (SNCMA) teamed up with the Structural Engineers Association of Southern Nevada (SEASN) and other organizations to meet with the local building officials on implementation of the building code. As a result, the city of Las Vegas has agreed to go along with what other local cities have done.
- The current condition of competition with Canadian truss manufacturers in Washington State has been consistent; there are certain jobs that manufacturers in the U.S. can't compete with. Component manufacturers in the Northeast and Michigan remain concerned about the situation.
- The CalESCA-North Chapter put on a presentation to building inspectors in April. WTCA staff gave great support with materials and supplies to host two sessions of 50 building inspectors each time. They were very thirsty for the information. (See the article in the June/July issue of SBC for details.)
- WTCA staff attended the ICC code hearings in Overland Park, KS on May 18 to rally for two crucial rulings on truss labeling and minimum attic live loads.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

- There was a discussion about a Georgia-Pacific brochure that speaks negatively about wood trusses while marketing their I-joist product line. The committee was charged with working through this issue and reporting back to the Board.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

- Kendall Hoyd reviewed the year-to-date financials as of March 31, 2004 and reported the net operating revenue exceeds the budget in a very favorable manner. Expenses are falling in line with the budget. A reserve savings and project strategy will be prepared to ensure that we are meeting long-range organizational fiduciary and task needs.
- A discussion took place on the TPI/WTCA publications agreement and the effect on both organizations. It has become clear that tremendous value has been realized by both TPI and WTCA as a result of the collaboration. This synergy will lead us to accomplish more tasks to the direct benefit of everyone in the industry.

## CARBECK STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS INSTITUTE REPORT

- We are tending to fire service questions and contacting fire academies, who have all expressed great interest in our educational programs.
- A short version of the CSCI Fire CD will be done soon.
- We are working on truss buckling/bracing research to be complete this fall.

## BCMC REPORT

- We have set a new record for total exhibit space with 77,950 sq. ft. There are ten new exhibitors thus far.
- The online registration system is up and running at [www.bcmcshow.com](http://www.bcmcshow.com).
- The plant tour sites were confirmed: H.W. Culp, 84 Components and Stock Building Supply. The sessions promise to be outstanding, with three tracks geared to help both management and production staff. The tracks are titled: Seizing Opportunities with Wall Panels, The Most Important Part of Your Saw Operation Doesn't Even Have a Blade and How WTCA Programs Improve Your Bottom Line.
- Future BCMC shows include: October 12-14, 2005 in Milwaukee, WI; October 4-6, 2006 in Fort Worth, TX; and October 3-5, 2007 in Columbus, OH.
- Holland requested that the Board urge their chapters to promote BCMC where there is much to learn and many products to consider that will improve their business.

## SBC MAGAZINE

- The April issue was the largest ever membership directory issue at 108 pages.
- A Marketing Committee initiative has staff contacting all our component manufacturer members. Staff's goal is to get good ideas for magazine content out of these conversations.

We need members to help continue to make the magazine relevant to our industry by providing content that allows component manufacturers to learn from other component manufacturers' experiences.

## **TRUSS KNOWLEDGE ONLINE (TKO)**

- Kendall Hoyd commented on the value of TTT training in terms of timesavings in the engineering process. Idaho Truss does all their sealed engineering in-house, and since the training, the engineers send a lot less back to the desks of the truss technicians.
- Don Groom said that in having his company go through TTT Online, the program has allowed Stark companies to discover technicians and what their specific skill sets are much sooner than you would have otherwise. When they take these programs and tests, you're able to assess strengths and weaknesses, with the goal of improving on weak areas. This makes it much easier for managers to develop a team approach, build on employee strengths and make sound judgments on employee growth/evolution in the company.
- Staff noted there is significant participation in TKO from new members.

## **LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE RECAP**

There was an open forum discussion on the effectiveness of meetings with legislators, with each participant providing insights on their Congressional visits. See the June/July 2004 issue for a detailed summary of the conference.

## **KEY INDUSTRY SUPPLIER UPDATED: TRUSS PLATES & STEEL**

- WTCA and TPI reviewed the preservative treatment guidelines and decided to revise it in order to address concerns in the market that listing the preservative treatment companies and products produced may be interpreted as an endorsement.
- Work is ongoing with the new ANSI/TPI 1-2002 moment equation evaluation. Testing is currently being completed. WTCA E&T and TPI TAC will prepare an evaluation and review of the testing.
- The document on how to load trusses per ASCE 7-98 and the building code is progressing on schedule.
- ANSI/TPI 1-2002 Section 2 (design responsibilities) revisions were due June 4.
- TPI has been promoting its third party quality control system and the use of the in-plant production management system—In-Plant WTCA QC.
- TPI is undertaking a third party inspection for steel component manufacturers.
- Steel prices have gone up 50-70 percent so far this year and further increases are expected. There's still concern about supply, but steel is available if you are willing to pay the price asked. All indications are that there will be no relief until the fourth quarter.

## **KEY INDUSTRY SUPPLIER UPDATE: CONNECTOR INDUSTRY/STEEL**

The newest preservative treatment development is that there are more cases of G90 coated connectors in external application that are heavily corroded due to the new preservative treatments such as ACQ. The connector industry's original recommendations were based on

limited testing, but conditions show that the new copper-based preservative treatments are more corrosive than CCA.

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