

retirements

R. Larry Foley • Trus Joist

After a 35-year career in the engineered wood products industry, R. Larry Foley of Trus Joist retired on April 14, 2006. While he will be missed at Trus Joist, he and wife Mary Anne are looking forward to this exciting transition in their lives. His contributions to Trus Joist have helped shape the company's culture and business. Over the years, his professionalism and caring attitude has gained him the highest respect of his fellow associates.



Foley attended public schools in rural southeast North Dakota through high school. He graduated from North Dakota State University in 1968 with a BS in Civil Engineering. Foley began his Trus Joist career in the early 1970s at the Dubuque Iowa Open Web plant. He left the Dubuque plant in 1974 to work for a short time in Atlanta. His next stop was Oregon, which he has called home ever since. His Oregon career began with the City of Hillsboro where he managed the engineering department. In 1984, Foley left Trus Joist to join Willamette Industries and head up its ELP (StrucJoist) efforts. Finally, he found his way back to the Trus Joist commercial division when TJ acquired Willamette in 2002.

A true team player, Larry served a brief stint on the WTCA Board of Directors as an associate member director in 2002.

Foley noted the industry's continuous growth was what charmed him—and his colleagues—into staying for his entire career. "What I enjoyed the most about my career in the engineered wood industry was that it was a relatively small and in an expanding growth period during my career. Many of the people I met and enjoyed working with changed employment or location, but remained in the industry. I had the opportunity to work in several roles from engineering, sales, manufacturing and marketing during my career. This variety gave me a broad exposure to many people," he said.

Ted Osterberger, P.E., Applications Engineering Manager of Trus Joist said, "Larry's fingerprints are all over Trus Joist and will be felt long after his retirement." He began working with the likes of a Don Sharp and eventually would manage and mentor the last two commercial senior engineers, Bruce Hess and Dave Soderquist. Soderquist said of his mentor: "Larry is the consummate professional. During his career, he blended outstanding technical and engineering knowledge with a passion for our business and our customers."

After a long career, Foley still has plans to work. "It may be difficult spending all my time in leisure, so I may end up pursuing part-time consulting opportunities," he told **SBC** staff. In his retirement, Foley plans to spend time with Mary Anne, and will enjoy more frequent visits with his children and grandchildren. He also plans to start guitar lessons and is looking forward to providing daily lunches for the homeless in downtown Portland through his church's social service program. **SBC**

Thanks to Ted Osterberger of Trus Joist for contributing to this piece.

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