

# **Chapter Corner**

For more information about WTCA Chapters and how to become more involved, contact Anna L. Stamm (608/310-6719 or astamm@qualtim.com) or Danielle Bothun (608/310-6735 or dbothun@qualtim.com). Contributions to Chapter Corner, including pictures, are encouraged. Submissions may be edited for grammar, length and clarity.



### **Chapter Spotlight**

#### **Building Relationships** with WTCA-NY

by Anna L. Stamm

In December's SBC, we reported on the success our New York Chapter was having building relationships with the New York State Building Officials Conference (NYSBOC). Now we are pleased to report that those relationships are continuing to thrive!

Following up on its successful truss plant tours and demonstrations for the NYSBOC-Capital District and NYSBOC-Rockland County groups in 2006 and 2007, now our chapter can add another very well received tour for Rockland County in January and a great educational presentation for the Westchester Fire Marshals & Inspectors Association in April.

Now that the word is out—WTCA-New York provides excellent plant tours and seminars—the requests keep coming in. More plant tours are in the works, including one for NYSBOC-Tri County, and the chapter is eager to pursue additional groups as its members make contact with them. There is no end in sight for building relationships and increasing understanding of structural building components in the state. Great work, New York! SBC

## **Chapter Highlights**

#### Alabama Component **Manufacturers Association**

In April, the Alabama Chapter gave its members a unique choice attend the chapter meeting in person or online via SBC Connection. For those members who preferred to get together socially and have dinner, a meeting room was available that included a speaker phone, internet connection, laptop and projector. For members and speakers unable to travel to Birmingham, the chapter meeting was held online with a teleconference number and website link. Everyone in the meeting room could watch the web-based presentation and participate along with everyone attending via **SBC Connection**.

The meeting delivered a full agenda of topics, too. By request, a presentation was created for the chapter meeting on the new WTCA QC for Wall Panels program. Delivered by WTCA Executive Director Kirk Grundahl, the presentation demonstrated how, like In-Plant WTCA QC for trusses, QC Wall acts as a management information system that helps wall panel manufacturers monitor their wall panel production and quality, and it provides the plant with benchmarks to monitor. Kirk led an open forum discussion on the marketplace and current economic conditions. Members discussed how they are dealing with the economic climate and were given tips on thinking strategically in these challenging times.

The second guest speaker for the meeting was WTCA Legal Counsel Kent Pagel. Asked to discuss credit and collections issues, Kent reviewed how the stakes for component manufacturers have never been higher when it comes to how to extend/investigate a builder's credit and getting paid fully and on time. The members appreciated his insight on these matters.

#### **Mid South Component Manufacturers Association**

The Mid South Chapter held its first chapter meeting online using SBC Connection in April. Attending through a teleconference line and internet connection, neither chapter members nor WTCA staff had to move from their desks to attend.

Because no travel was required, staff member Ryan Dexter, P.E., was able to answer members' technical questions and deliver two presentations. Ryan's first presentation focused on the newest Truss Technology Workshop (TTW), "Today's Wood Framing Systems—Problems and Solutions." Giving an overview of framing issues commonly seen in the field, key problem areas, and field examples, this TTW demonstrates how traditional framing practices simply may not meet the structural demands of modern residential construction whereas using components has many benefits. Members were encouraged to use this tool when encouraging potential customers to switch from stick framing to components.

In addition to the TTW, Ryan covered the key changes in the latest version of The National Design Standard for Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses. The revisions to the 2007 edition of TPI 1 primarily impact standard design responsibilities (Chapter 2), in-plant quality control (Chapter 3), evaluating connector plates (Chapter 5), materials and general design considerations (Chapter 6), designing truss members' procedures (Chapter 7), and designing connector plate joints (Chapter 8). TPI 1-2007 will be referenced in the 2009 International Building Code and International Residential Code, so this was a great opportunity to learn more about this important industry document

#### **North Florida Component Manufacturers Association**

Chapter President Dan Morris took on the presentation duties at the North Florida Chapter's spring meeting. Beginning a meeting series on the components of a healthy business, he kicked things off by focusing on a healthy plant. His presentation highlighted production: teach the basics and make a quality product. With WTCA's new In-Plant Basic Training program, Dan reviewed how this program can help component manufacturers improve efficiency, reduce training costs, streamline new hire training and expand production management knowledge. Bringing In-Plant WTCA QC into the equation, members considered how this can be a valuable tool for tracking quality, establishing benchmarks and Continued on page 58

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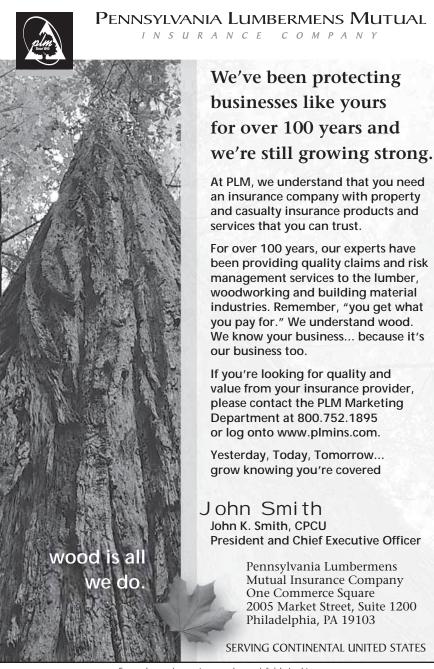
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signifying a commitment to quality in the marketplace.

At the meeting, the members discussed ways to increase attendance and involvement. A survey would be prepared to collect feedback on meeting times and locations as well as groups in the marketplace to which the chapter would like to provide education. The results of the survey will be discussed at the next chapter meeting on July 17.

#### **Wood Truss Council of the Capital Area**

This spring, the Capital Area Chapter was pleased to sponsor a presentation of "Leadership Landmines," a workshop from WTCA's Professional Leadership Academy. Leadership landmines are 100%-controllable leadership actions, inactions, behaviors, words, signs and

signals which negatively impact a leader's ability to profitably grow their business through others. This workshop, presented by Randy Goruk of The Randall Wade Group, provided an eye-opening look at leadership landmines and their impact on time and profitability. Using real life personal, business and sports experiences, Randy demonstrated how to easily apply and benefit from the solutions offered to steer attendees toward exceptional leadership and improved profitability. The Capital Area Chapter provided the workshop for free to its members, and 100% of the respondents to the workshop evaluation stated that they enjoyed it and believed the leadership concepts developed at this session would help them as good reminders of how to be most effective.

#### WTCA-Kentucky

The Kentucky Chapter held its first meeting of 2008 in early April. Using SBC Connection, members called in from across the state to discuss hot topics in the state and make plans for chapter activities. Central to the discussion was building relationships with code officials. With the economic slowdown, inspectors have more time to devote to each job, so it is more important than ever to provide them with educational literature and conduct seminars on Building Component Safety Information (BCSI). The chapter is following up with contacts in Louisville and Lexington as well as considering additional avenues for information exchange. It is also pursuing structural engineering groups and responding to requests for the Carbeck CD from fire officials. With a lot on its plate, the chapter plans to have an active educational schedule this year.

#### **WTCA-Northeast**

Education was the watchword at the Northeast Chapter's spring meeting. The members were given an update on the chapter's recent educational efforts including: a truss plant tour and barrel burn demonstration for the Acushnet, MA Fire Department in March; a presentation for the Eastern States Building Officials Federation

Conference in Sturbridge, MA in April; truss plant tours being arranged for the Laconia, NH Fire Department and the MA Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association; and the chapter's upcoming booth at the big New England Fire, Rescue & EMS show in June. Members were encouraged to contribute any additional names or groups that should be contacted to offer tours and seminars.

Under legislative issues, it was reported that the chapter and staff are looking into a building labeling placard on commercial buildings built in Vermont and providing educational materials to members of the fire service. As for Massachusetts, there were no new developments to report on House Bill 2331 proposing a special commission to investigate the use of structural building components in construction.

Under building code issues, WTCA staff member Ryan Dexter, P.E., was on hand to discuss current technical and code issues as well as deliver

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#### **June**

- <u>19</u>: Truss Manufacturers Association of Texas (TMAT) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Anna at WTCA, 608/310-6719 or astamm@qualtim.com.
- <u>24</u>: 45-Minute Webinar from WTCA's Professional Leadership Academy: "A Slow Market is EXACTLY the Time for a Sound Succession Plan" 2:00 pm EDT/1:00 pm CDT/12:00 pm MDT/11:00 am PDT. Go to <a href="https://www.wtcatko.com/leadership.php">www.wtcatko.com/leadership.php</a> for details.

#### July

- <u>8</u>: Tennessee Truss Manufacturers Association (TTMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Chapter President Ted Kolanko at 615/355-6517 or kolanko2@yahoo.com.
- <u>10</u>: Alabama Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Dani at WTCA, 608/310-6735 or dbothun@qualtim.com.
- 10: Wood Truss Council of Michigan (WTCM) Chapter Meeting.
  For more information, contact Anna at WTCA, 608/310-6719 or astamm@qualtim.com.
- <u>15</u>: Central Florida Component Manufacturers Association (CFCMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Dani at WTCA, 608/310-6735 or dbothun@qualtim.com.
- <u>16</u>: WTCA-Arizona Chapter Meeting. For more information contact Chapter President Perry Lowe at 623/584-8151 or perryl@sunstateaz.com.
- 16: Georgia Component Manufacturers Association (GCMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Chapter President Jim Finkenhoefer at 770/787-8715 or jf8515@trusssystemsinc.com.
- <u>16</u>: WTCA-Northeast Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Anna at WTCA, 608/310-6719 or astamm@qualtim.com.
- <u>17</u>: North Florida Component Manufacturers Association (NFCMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Anna at WTCA, 608/310-6719 or astamm@qualtim.com.

- <u>17</u>: South Florida WTCA (SFWTCA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Dani at WTCA, 608/310-6735 or dbothun@ qualtim.com.
- <u>17</u>: Southern Nevada Component Manufacturers Association (SNCMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Anna at WTCA, 608/310-6719 or astamm@qualtim.com.
- <u>17</u>: WTCA-Indiana Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Anna at WTCA, 608/310-6719 or astamm@qualtim.com.
- <u>17</u>: WTCA-New York Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Anna at WTCA, 608/310-6719 or astamm@qualtim.com.
- 29: Mid South Component Manufacturers Association (MSCMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Dani at WTCA, 608/310-6735 or dbothun@qualtim.com.

#### **August**

- Z: West Florida Truss Association (WFTA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Chapter President John Goley at 813/887-3664 or johngoley@westcoasttruss.com.
- <u>7</u>: Wisconsin Truss Manufacturers Association (WTMA) Annual Golf & Fishing Outing, Town & Country Golf Club, Sheboygan, WI. For more information, contact Chapter President Steve Johnson at 608/884-6141 or sjohnson@nelsontruss.com.
- 13: Southwest Florida Truss Manufacturers Association (SWFTMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Chapter President Joe Falis at 863/385-8242 ext 207 or joef@scostacorp.com.
- 20-22: WTCA Open Quarterly Meeting, Chicago City Centre Hotel & Sports Club, Chicago, IL. Call staff for details, 608/274-4849. All are welcome to attend.
- <u>21</u>: Minnesota Truss Manufacturers Association (MTMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Chapter President Tom Nomeland, 507/872-5195 or tnomeland@ufpi.com.

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his presentation on the updated ANSI/TPI 1-2007. At members' request, following the meeting a comparison between Sections 2.3 (Responsibilities where the legal requirements mandate a registered design professional for the building) and 2.4 (Responsibilities where the legal requirements do not mandate a registered design professional for the building) was prepared and distributed to all.

At the meeting, John Goodrich was awarded a plaque for his service as Chapter President from 2004 to 2007. His outstanding efforts in the job were greatly appreciated. SBC

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#### Calendar of Events

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#### September

- <u>9</u>: Colorado Truss Manufacturers Association (CTMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Chapter President Dennis Wilson at 303/307-1441 or DWilson@HomeLumber.com.
- 9: WTCA-Illinois Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Dani at WTCA, 608/310-6735 or dbothun@qualtim.com.
- 12: Missouri Truss Fabricators Association (MTFA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Dani at WTCA, 608/310-6735 or dbothun @gualtim.com.
- <u>16</u>: Central Florida Component Manufacturers Association (CFCMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Dani at WTCA, 608/310-6735 or dbothun@qualtim.com.
- 17: North Carolina/South Carolina Joint Chapter Meeting. For details contact Anna at WTCA 608/310-6719 or
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  - 18: South Florida WTCA (SFWTCA) Chapter Meeting. For details, contact Dani at WTCA, 608/310-6735 or dbothun@qualtim.com.
  - <u>18</u>: Truss Manufacturers Association of Texas (TMAT) Chapter Meeting. For details, contact Anna at WTCA, 608/310-6719 or email astamm@qualtim.com.

#### **October**

- 1-3: 2008 Building Component Manufacturers Conference (BCMC), Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO. For information contact staff at 608/ 268-1161, ext 9 or visit <a href="https://www.bcmcshow.com">www.bcmcshow.com</a>.
- 2: Iowa Truss Manufacturers Association (ITMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Chapter President Tom Lambertz at 515/283-7100 or tlambertz@robertsdybdahl.com.
- <u>2</u>: West Florida Truss Association (WFTA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Chapter President John Goley at 813/887-3664 or johngoley @westcoasttruss.com.
- <u>7</u>: Tennessee Truss Manufacturers Association (TTMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Chapter President Ted Kolanko at 615/355-6517 or kolanko2@yahoo.com.
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# In Memoriam

## Raymond J. Noonan Sr.



On April 22, 2008, the industry lost a beloved member and veteran. Raymond J. Noonan Sr., founder of Cascade Lumber Co., passed away peacefully at the age of 90 in Cascade, IA.

A native of Chicago, Ray graduated with a B.A. in English from St. Ambrose College (Davenport, IA) in 1939. He served as a communications

officer in the Navy during World War II, and was discharged with the rank of lieutenant in 1945. He married the love of his life, Mary, in 1947, and they moved to Cascade. "He had more of a liking for the lowa area," explained son Mike Noonan. "He liked the people, he liked the topography, and he liked the lack of traffic jams."

Ray saw the shortage of building materials that followed WWII and decided to start Cascade Lumber Company in 1953, to which he would dedicate the next 55 years of his business career.

"His was an innovative and pioneering spirit with which he grew the business," Mike said. Selling and installing building materials was the company's focus, but he soon saw prefabricated building components as an opportunity to speed up the building process. "Dad was always the kind of person looking to see what he could do to [fill] a need that wasn't being filled," shared Mike.

His entrance to the structural building components industry soon followed; the company started building wood roof trusses and wall panels. When the roller press was invented, it allowed Ray's company to mass produce components at a lower cost. In 1963, Ray established Cascade Mfg Co to manufacture, market and sell prefabricated wood trusses. Soon Cascade tapped into what would become its largest area of business: selling components to lumber yards. "It was a seamless and natural transition from making components for our own use and resale to making them for the use of other lumberyards," recalled son Ray Noonan Jr. "As other lumberyards became aware of this 'new' product, they asked us to provide trusses for their jobs, so we responded to their needs."

Ray worked tirelessly to ensure the business' success during a time when prefabricated components were not yet embraced by the construction industry in the Midwest. "Back then our trusses were mostly used in agriculture buildings, since we could make a then unheard of 40-foot long span," noted Ray Jr. Ray also was an early proponent of colored steel roofing panels, wood foundations and post framed building packages.

Ray's hard work paid off. Today, Cascade Manufacturing Company has four plants (one each in Eldridge and Pleasantville, and two in Cascade) and has grown to over 275 employees. The growth was beyond what Ray Sr. had ever imagined. In 2003, he told the Dubuque Telegraph Herald that he was taken aback at how expansive the company had become. "I never thought it would be as big or as comprehensive as it is today," he said.

The company's success was likely due to Ray being the kind of businessman everyone loved to work with. "He was always making fun of himself as a way to make other people feel better about themselves," recalled Mike. His generosity in giving credit where it was due was also a well known trait. "He would say that we all, as a team, have made this business do well," Mike said. While he had a great deal of pride in the accomplishments he made over the past 55 years, Ray remained to the very end a modest and unassuming man. Like most people he appreciated positive comments, but was never blinded by his own successes. "In that sense he was a great role model for me as a business owner and a father."

His humility was an impression Ray made on all of his children. Eventually all four sons (Ray Jr., Mike, Pat and John) and his daughter (Mary Beth and her husband John) came to work in the business. This interest has even been passed onto several third generation family members who have joined the family business.

Throughout his career, Ray was involved in several professional organizations including the National Lumbermen's Association, the Northwestern Lumbermen's Association and the lowa Lumbermen's Association (which awarded him Lumber Dealer of the Year in 2003.) Ray Jr. recalled, "He had a deep love for the industry that served him and that he served. Our involvement in WTCA has its roots in his lumber association involvement."

He was also active in his community currently serving on the boards of the Cascade Communications Company and Tri-County Historical Society. In addition he was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Ray unofficially retired from Cascade in 1989, although he continued to serve as a chairman of the board up until his passing. For those who knew Ray, it was a well known fact that if he wasn't at 7 a.m. mass, he was most likely at the lumberyard.

Mike described his father as a devoted family man who was very active in his community and in his industry, and he said that Ray's interests were pretty straightforward. "His hobbies were basically his family, his work and raising cattle on his farm."

Ray Sr. is preceded in death by Mary, his wife of 53 years. He is survived by five children, 19 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren, his sister and several nieces and nephews. SBC

Submissions to "In Memoriam" can be emailed to editor@sbc-mag.info. Photos are encouraged and will run as space allows. Submissions may be edited for grammar, length and clarity.

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