

Chapter Corner



ALABAMA: The election of officers were conducted at January's meeting. Michael Balliet has been selected as the WTCA Board representative.

CAPITOL AREA: The Wood Truss Council of the Capitol Area elected its new officers in late January. The chapter is planning to start a newsletter, and education will be a key focus in 1998. The group's tentative scheduled meetings in 1998 will take place quarterly on the second Tuesday of the first month of the quarter.

CHICAGO AREA: The Greater Chicago Chapter is continuing to organize its efforts, as well as contacting all potential members. Representatives of the chapters met with WTCA staff to determine an area in which to focus. The focus will be building officials and fire officials that have banned, or are attempting to ban, floor trusses and/or I-joists. The group is hoping to organize a meeting in the spring with building and/or fire officials to begin the process of accomplishing this goal.

IOWA: The main focus of the Iowa Truss Manufacturers Association in 1998 will be education. In January, WTCA held a Level I Truss Technician Training program in Des Moines. ITMA made an investment of almost \$600 in handbooks, fire videos, and *Framing the American Dream*® videos to give to educational institutions for use as training tools for students. ITMA continues to conduct seminars for building officials on the proper use of trusses. The chapter met in late January.

KENTUCKY: On November 13, officers were elected for two-year terms by the board of directors to serve the chapter through 1999. Koss Kinser will again lead the Kentucky chapter as president. Keith Kinser will fill the office of vice-president/treasurer, while also representing the Kentucky chapter on WTCA-National's Board of Directors. Mike Hamrick will be serving as secretary. The newly-elected officers began their positions at the

chapter's meeting earlier this month. They are filling two-year terms. The chapter members voted unanimously at its July 1997 meeting to invite any Indiana, Ohio, or any other bordering state manufacturers marketing trusses in Kentucky to become members of the Kentucky chapter. Interested parties should contact WTCA-National on how to join the Kentucky chapter. For 1998, WTCA Kentucky, Inc., will be focusing its efforts on building the membership and promoting the use of trusses in high percentage stick frame markets, by attending shows and workshops.

MICHIGAN: The Wood Truss Council of Michigan had 46 in attendance at its fall chapter meeting on October 30. Larry Krantz, Weighmaster of Saint Clair County, talked about the regulations that govern shipping of trusses in Michigan, focusing on permits and load limits.

MISSOURI: The Missouri Truss Fabricators Association (MOTFA) held its annual meeting on October 22 at the Opryland Hotel. MOTFA had its first transition of board members. Elected to the board of directors were: John Kelly, O'Fallon and Southern Cross (two-year term), Tim Shepard, BBI Buildings and Components (two-year term), and Mary Pat Keller (re-elected for a two-year term). Other Board members are John Hogan (one year left of initial three-year term), and Robert MacGillivray (one year left of initial three-year term). Officers for the upcoming year are Robert MacGillivray, president; John Hogan, vice president; Gary Atwell, treasurer; and Tim Shepard, secretary. MOTFA's main issues for the year will be lumber price volatility and lumber quality. MOTFA held a meeting earlier this month.

NORTHEAST: The Northeast chapter participated in several educational programs last fall. A presentation on fire performance of trusses was given for the New England Association of Fire Marshal's 38th Annual Seminar on September 8, with approximately 125 in attendance. The Northeast chapter set up a presentation for the New England Building Inspectors Conference on October 9, for approximately 400 building inspectors. On November 14, there was another opportunity to speak to approximately 115 fire instructors at the Connecticut Fire Department Instructors Conference. WTCA presented the morning seminar on fire performance of truss construction and participated on a panel discussion regarding building labeling legislation in Connecticut. This seminar went exceedingly well for our industry. Vincent Dunn, who calls truss plates "killer connectors" and trusses "killers" was the afternoon speaker. The chapter will get copies of the evaluation forms and will let you know the results. The Northeast chapter met in late January in Worcester, Mass.

NORTHWEST: The Northwest Truss Fabricators Association just had its elections, and Brian Scott of Woodinville Truss was elected as a new board member, along with Stan Dickhoff and Dave Motter, who were re-elected to the board. The president is Ed Hawkinson, Stan Dickhoff is vice president, Dave Motter is treasurer, and Vaeth Hewitt is secretary. Roy Schiferl is the WTCA Representative for the Board. Brian Scott is responsible for education, and Junior Manning is responsible for the membership. At the last general membership meeting, 64 people attended. The speaker was Bryan Huddle of Circle of Champions, who has coached Olympic athletes. Bryan gave a very inspirational message. Members of the association attended the Western Chapter Summit Meeting in Denver on November 19. The next chapter meeting will be in March.

SOUTH FLORIDA: The South Florida chapter of WTCA's top priority in 1998 will be education. At the last meeting, several ideas were discussed, and it was suggested that seminars be given to builders and building officials, educating them on erection and inspection techniques. The group would also like to educate local fire officials on truss construction. South Florida, along with the other associations in Florida, are donating trusses to the "Give Kids the World" house. The delivery date for the project was December 12, and there was great media cover-age on our industry.

TEXAS: Truss Manufacturers of Texas had a mid-year meeting August 14 in Austin, with 55 people in attendance. The chapter is working with the Texas Department of Insurance assisting it with its pro-posed windstorm code that is soon to be adopted. The group is monitoring the progress of advisories published by the Texas State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers. At January's meeting, the chapter met with Sam Nelson, P.E., chief engineer of the Texas Department of Insurance, to work on standard industry details for wind tie-down conditions at bearing walls.

WISCONSIN: The Wisconsin Truss Manufacturers Association has developed a "Take Five" document of suggestions for important details to take care of with each project. The chapter's last meeting was on November 13 in Green Bay. The chapter will be very active in educational programs in the upcoming year. The Carpenters Training Center in Wisconsin has expressed interest in conducting training pro-grams, as well as truss plant tours for students. It has several locations across the state, including Mosinee, Green Bay and Madison.