

Chapter Corner

ALABAMA: The chapter is going through a period of re-growth, and is enthusiastic. Recent chapter meeting topics have been employee leasing, CNA, and truss-to-truss connections. The chapter's main goal this year is to build on the successful educational pro-grams conducted last year in Alabama.

CAPITOL AREA: The Capitol Area chapter's goal in 1998 will be to set up two Truss Technology Work-shops, as well as a Truss Technician Training program.

CENTRAL FLORIDA: The Central Florida Component Manufacturers Association has voted to become a chapter of WTCA. The WTCA Board will vote to approve the chapter by letter ballot in the next few weeks, after review of the organization's bylaws.

ILLINOIS: The chapter is beginning a program to educate fire officials in the area. This will include seminars dealing with tactics and strategies by John Bujalski, who is both a fire chief in Marshfield, Wis., and a partner at Automated Products, a truss plant. WTCA staff will also provide separate seminars dealing with the facts about performance of metal plate connected wood trusses in fires, citing comprehensive research that has been done on the topic.

INLAND EMPIRE: The Inland Empire chapter recently had elections, and is in the process of developing priorities for the upcoming year.

IOWA: The Iowa chapter's educational committee has identified 10 key universities and trade schools, and provided them with handbooks and bracing videos for their library. The chapter participated in a successful Level I Truss Technician Training course in Des Moines in January. The program had 22 students, and the feedback about the course was very positive.

MISSOURI: The Missouri chapter invited all truss plants in Missouri and surrounding states to its latest meeting, at which 28 people attended. The topic was lumber issues, and it was a very successful meeting. Membership has increased, and more people are interested in chapter activities.

NORTHEAST: New England will be focusing its efforts on education of building officials, specifiers, and builders. The chapter provided a presentation for the New England Building Officials Seminar. The chapter will set up a Truss Technician Training Course in the Northeast. They will also become more active in local trade shows, beginning with the

"Journal of Light Construction Show" in Massachusetts held in early April.

NORTHWEST: This year, the Northwest chapter will be providing a seminar to fire and building officials. At the last meeting in November, 65 members attended. One goal for this year will be to set up a Risk Management seminar.

SOUTH FLORIDA: The chapter's main concentration this year will be education. Three WTCA Truss Technician Training programs are scheduled in South Florida, and the chapter is going to subsidize a portion of each program. All Florida chapters donated 21 sets of trusses to *Give Kids the World*, totaling \$110,000 worth of trusses.

SOUTH NEVADA: The South Nevada chapter had a successful Risk Management Seminar on March 6, with 20 attendees, as well as a Truss Technician Training Program March 11-14. The chapter's focus this year will be on education, externally to building departments and internally for truss designers.

TENNESSEE: The Tennessee chapter put on a Truss Technician Training course in Chattanooga, February 25-28, and it was a huge success.

TEXAS: The Texas chapter finished its first full year in January, and has 51 members. It has been active in issues relating to the State of Texas Board of Engineering. This year, it plans to set up another round of seminars regionally, as well as a Truss Technician Training course and a Risk Management seminar.

WISCONSIN: The Wisconsin chapter will give several educational programs in 1998. Three years ago, the chapter began approaching technical trade schools to provide educational programs, and while it was a bit slow at first, this seed that was planted is really starting to grow. Schools are now making requests to the chapter and adding truss educational programs to their agendas.

WEST FLORIDA In April, the chapter will gather a group of fire officials to discuss wood trusses. In addition, the chapter will be providing CEU programs for the Building Official Association of Florida (BOAF) program in May.