

FRAMEWORK

YOUR GATEWAY TO THE STEEL FRAMING INDUSTRY

presented in metalHOME DIGEST



On hand for the 2007 Children's Miracle Mansion groundbreaking on November 17th were, from left to right, John Paul Funes, Our Lady of the Lake (OLOL) Children's Hospital administrator; John McPherson, Lexington Land Development, LLC; Ernie Casados, Jr., Steel Framing Alliance technical field representative (Gulf Coast region); Greg Flores, Lexington Land Development, LLC; Gil Broussard, Capital Region Builders Association; Christy Richardson Clark and David Richardson, Richardson Builders; Roberta Vicari, MD, OLOL medical director; and Terrie Sterline, OLOL chief operating officer.

THE STEEL FRAMING ALLIANCE IS GETTING A HIGH-PROFILE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE THE ADVANTAGES OF REBUILDING WITH STEEL IN THE GULF COAST, WHILE HELPING TO PROVIDE CRITICAL FUNDS TO OUR LADY OF THE LAKE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN BATON ROUGE, LA. WITH THE BACKING OF SEVERAL PARTNERS AND MEMBERS, THE ALLIANCE IS ABLE TO DONATE THE STEEL FRAMING SYSTEM AT AN ESTIMATED VALUE OF \$55,000 TO THIS YEAR'S PROJECT.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT STEEL

STEEL FRAMING ALLIANCE DONATES STEEL FRAMING SYSTEM TO MIRACLE MANSION PROJECT FOR FIRST TIME

PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT TO BENEFIT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE BENEFITS OF REBUILDING WITH STEEL

Called the "Children's Miracle Mansion" and the hospital's largest annual fundraiser for the past several years, it is sponsored by the Capital Region Builders Association (CRBA) in Baton Rouge, whose members recognize the many benefits of steel as a superior material for the region. Once complete, the 3,300 square-foot, steel-framed home will be raffled off in a live June 3 drawing during the 2007 Children's Miracle Network (CMN) broadcast on WBRZ-Channel 2. All proceeds will benefit the children's hospital.

It is not lost on the SFA or its partners that the opportunity to participate in this highly visible project pairs nicely with the ongoing efforts through the Gulf Coast Steel Initiative (GCSI). "The Miracle Mansion is a little bit of

a microcosm of what we are trying to do in the area," SFA president Larry Williams said. In addition to developing solid relationships with builders and homebuilding associations, the Alliance is working with its partners and members to provide education and training, design expertise, and overall hand-holding through the entire process. Funds made available from the GCSI are also helping to offset costs for Miracle Mansion programs and tools.

"We see it as an opportunity to showcase the best of the best," said David Jeanes, executive director of the GCSI, which has been focusing behind the scenes on such challenges as building codes, how and where to rebuild, and homeowners insurance. "We're supporting an exceptionally good cause while demonstrating firsthand our support of

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SFA PARTNERS AND MEMBERS MAKE CONTRIBUTION OF STEEL FRAMING SYSTEM POSSIBLE

At an estimated value of \$55,000, this is the first time the entire framing system has ever been donated to the Miracle Mansion project, giving the steel industry a welcomed opening for developing a highly visible model for homeowners and buyers to see the benefits of steel up close. "A lot of good things will come of this," Mr. Williams said. "We are getting the chance to introduce steel framing to the area as part of such a prestigious organization and effort, and the hospital's important programs that help so many deserving children will benefit from raffling off such a strong and solid structure."

Mr. Williams pointed out that SFA's support of this project would not have been possible without generous donations from its partners and members. The Steel Stud Manufacturers Association (SSMA), which frequently partners with the Alliance on training, education and marketing efforts, contributed \$15,000 worth of steel studs, joist and track manufactured by its members. "We are 100 percent behind the idea that in order to begin to educate about the advantages of steel framing in the Gulf Coast, there needs to be considerable training and education," August "Augie" Sisco, SSMA's executive director, said. "This is an opportunity to get something on the ground as a kind of 'show and tell.'"

Also eager to get involved with this important project, the International Zinc Association (IZA) and American Zinc Association (AZA) provided funds to help offset the design and training costs. "We are very pleased that the zinc industry could partner with the steel industry for such a worthy cause," said George Vary, AZA executive director and secretary treasurer for the Alliance's Board of Directors. "We have been urging participation in the Miracle Mansion for some time because zinc-coated steel is a natural for use in Louisiana with the problems they have - termites in one area, mold in others."

Lynda Evans, the Capital Region Builders Association's executive vice president, said the Alliance's offer to come in and assist with the 2007 Children's Miracle Mansion has been a blessing. "We always rely on our members to contribute materials and labor, but we have never received such a large donation from one organization," she said. "Every dollar we save on construction costs means one more dollar for the children of our community to receive the very latest and best medical care. A donation of this size could mean the difference in saving a child's life, and it only takes

one to make this project worthwhile. We cannot say 'thank you' enough for this very generous contribution from the Steel Framing Alliance."

The Steel Framing Alliance would like to extend its gratitude to the following members for helping to make participation in this worthy fundraising initiative possible:

Aegis Metal Framing - trusses, materials and design www.aegismet.com

American Zinc Association/International Zinc Association - training and technical support www.zinc.org

Bama Truss & Components, Inc. - truss fabrication www.bamatruss.com

Simpson Strong-Tie - shearwall www.strongtie.com

Steel Stud Manufacturers Association - studs, track, joist www.ssma.com

SuperDrive Collated Fastening Systems/Grabber - screws www.grabberman.com/superdrive

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the rebuilding effort by offering solutions to help rebuild better than before."

The cold-formed, steel-framed Miracle Mansion will receive

extensive advertising and marketing support, beginning with being showcased as the spotlight project in the annual CRBA "Parade of Homes" in April and a series of "open house" events in May. The marketing push winds down with feature spots scheduled to air during a two-day telethon at the end of which the winner will be announced live on the air.

As the area's only CMN hospital, Our Lady of the Lake treats more than 60,000 ill and injured children each year and is the second largest provider of pediatric services in the state. The hospital will direct all of the raffle proceeds toward purchasing life-giving equipment, expanding resources, and helping local children receive care close to their homes and families.

Valued at more than \$500,000, the four-bedroom, four full bathroom home will be located in the New Lexington Estates residential community in Baton Rouge. Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$100 a piece by visiting www.miraclemansion.org.

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INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS SHOW

STEEL CENTRAL AT INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS SHOW OFFERS SFA MEMBERS MANY OPPORTUNITIES

IN A STRATEGIC EFFORT TO HEIGHTEN THE STEEL INDUSTRY'S VISIBILITY AT THIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL BUILDERS SHOW (IBS) FEB. 7-10, THE STEEL FRAMING ALLIANCE (SFA) WILL BE JOINED BY NEARLY A DOZEN OF ITS MEMBER COMPANIES IN ONE CONCENTRATED EXHIBITION SPACE CALLED **STEEL CENTRAL**. THIS IS THE FIRST YEAR THE ALLIANCE HAS RALLIED ITS MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN A UNIFIED EFFORT AND LARRY WILLIAMS, SFA PRESIDENT, EXPECTS IT WILL BE A BIG SUCCESS FOR ALL INVOLVED.

"We're very excited about going down there and making a big impression for the steel framing industry," Mr. Williams said. "We have a lot of activities planned to drive more potential customers to **Steel Central**. The International Builders Show is the biggest event of the year for the residential industry, and exhibiting together in **Steel Central** is an excellent opportunity for us to exhibit and demonstrate steel's superior performance."

Steel Central is the very reason Scott Coulombe, CEO of SFA member Steel Elements of Gorham, NH, decided to participate in IBS for the first time this year. "We knew about the International Builders Show, but the combination of the show and the opportunity to exhibit in **Steel Central** made up our minds," Mr. Coulombe said. "We have a lot of international projects that we would like to showcase, and we think exhibiting in **Steel Central** is a great way to showcase some of our work because it will attract a lot more people to that specific area."

Aerosmith Fastening Systems, Inc., an SFA member since 2002, also moved to exhibit at IBS for the first time because of **Steel Central**. "We feel the Steel Framing Alliance is the best way to reach the industry. Once we decided to exhibit, being a part of **Steel Central** was the only logical

choice," Lisa Beally, a marketing and international sales manager of Aerosmith said. "It creates a one-stop shop. Everything they need to know about building with steel will be housed in **Steel Central**, including prescriptive methods, steel manufacturers, and fastener options.

Ms. Beally expects to have the opportunity to educate more people about the benefits of pin fastening technology. "Our research shows that the number one issue for contractors is how to build with steel, while the number two issue is fasteners for attaching substrate to cold-formed steel. The SFA addresses the first issue and our goal is to address the number two issue."

With more than 1.5 million square feet of exhibit space (the equivalent of 40 football fields), IBS is the largest annual light construction show in the world featuring the latest and most advanced building products and services ever assembled. Taking place Feb. 7-10 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL., IBS is the National Association of Home Builders' annual convention. This year's show will feature a record 1,600+ exhibitors and is expected to attract 100,000 attendees.

Also during IBS, the Alliance is offering "**The Formula for Success Steel Framing Seminar**" on Friday, Feb. 9, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. As cold-formed steel continues to gain in market share across the country, attendees can also find out how to design, specify, and construct residential structures with steel as well as market the increased durability. This session is part of the educational program offered to IBS attendees. To attend you must register at www.buildersshow.com. For more information, contact Maribeth Rizzuto at (412) 521-5210 or MSRizzuto@aol.com.

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STEEL CENTRAL EXHIBITOR MAP

Flex-Ability Concepts (W7313)	Intermat, Inc. (W7412)
Steel Framing Alliance (W7309)	Super Stud Building Products (W7408)
Aerosmith Fastening Systems (W7311)	

Clark Western (W7305)	Radius Track Corporation (W7404)
Metwood, Inc. (W7303)	Grabber/SuperDrive (W7402)
Steel-Con (W7301)	Steel Elements (W7400)

**SIGN UP FOR SFA'S
FORMULA FOR SUCCESS
STEEL FRAMING SEMINAR!**

FEATURED EXHIBITORS AT STEEL CENTRAL

Flex-Ability Concepts (Booth No. W7313)

Manufactures innovative products that provide solutions to framing curved structures such as curved walls, ceilings, soffits, light coves, doorway and window arches and more. Our line of hand-curveable framing products consists of 2 x 4 plate, 2 x 6 plate, Flex-C Angle, and Flex-C Header. Our products are manufactured from galvanealed and galvanized sheet metal. They are user-friendly, strong and yield a better finished-product. By using our products customers will minimize your labor and wasted material costs. Based in Oklahoma City, OK. www.flexability.com.

Intermat, Inc./Sure-Board for Shear (Booth No. W7412)

Sure-Board is a revolutionary new product to replace the commonly used OSB and Plywood sheathing products for Hurricane and Earthquake Control and Safety. As the ONLY Cylic tested and approved panels in the market today, they are used on wood or steel framing and customers can expect the strongest walls available to prevent against the attack from severe weather events such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita or the recent 6.6 earthquake in Hawaii. Based in Newport, CA. www.sureboard.com

Steel Framing Alliance (Booth No. W7309)

As the gateway to future building technology, the Steel Framing Alliance delivers innovative steel framing solutions to residential and light commercial construction industries. Resources for design and construction of steel homes. Estimating software for steel framing. Tools and fasteners used in steel construction. Based in Washington, D.C. www.steel framing.org.

Aerosmith Fastening Systems (Booth No. W7311)

Aerosmith Fastening Systems has led the way for more than 37 years in developing pneumatic tools and hardened steel pins for attaching materials to metal and concrete – from cold-formed steel construction to industrial and manufacturing applications. In 2003, they released the VersaPIN coil nailer which revolutionized the industry by allowing one tool to fire multiple lengths of pins, including 3/4-inch pins for many different applications. Based in Indianapolis, IN. www.aerosmithfastening.com.

Super Stud Building Products (Booth No. W7408)

Since 1973, Super Stud Building Products, Inc. has been a proud manufacturer of the industry's most diverse offering of steel framing components and accessories for use in the construction of commercial, institutional and residential structures. Their framing products are formed from steel coil meeting the minimum requirements of industry adopted ASTM Standards, including requirements for yield, ductility and protective coating. Based in Astoria, NY. www.buysuperstud.com.

Clark Western (Booth No. W7305)

Clark Western manufactures and provides steel framing products and building solutions for the commercial and residential marketplace. Our products ship throughout the United States and internationally. Based in Middletown, OH. www.clarkwestern.com.

Radius Track Corporation (Booth No. W7404)

Radius Track is the expert in curved cold-formed steel framing. The company offers multiple cost-effective solutions for building curved walls, door and window arches, barrel arches, vaults, domes and much more. Based in Blaine, MN. www.radiustrack.com.

Metwood, Inc. (Booth No. 7303)

Manufactures and supplies revolutionary engineered products that combine the strength of light gauge steel and the fastening advantages of wood. Metwood manufactures light gauge steel girders, headers, joists, trusses, etc, and can design and supply concrete pour-overs for garages, decks, and patios. Another product that the company has available is the Metwood Joist Reinforcer. Based in Boones Mill, VA. www.metwood.com.

Grabber Construction Products (Booth No. 7402)

Grabber is a leading manufacturer and distributor of quality products built for construction professionals. In a market where quality is everything, Grabber's products are 100 percent reliable and durable and engineered to be superior to all other products in their class. Their core line of products include screws and fasteners for a variety of wood, metal and drywall applications. Based in Concord, CA. www.grabberman.com.

Steel Construction Systems (Steel-Con) (Booth No. W7301)

Steel-Con is a major supplier of quality steel framing components, metal lath products and light gauge steel truss systems. State of the art production equipment, substantial raw material supply and combined strengths of Rinker Materials and Mittal Steel allow them to supply quality products with exceptional customer service and superior value to the construction industry. Based in Orlando, FL. www.steelconsystems.com.

Steel Elements (Booth No. W7400)

A manufacturer of load bearing light gauge steel framing systems, Steel Elements specializes in cold-formed steel engineering and design, roof truss systems, wall panel systems, flooring systems, structural steel, metal decking and related accessories to provide a complete building system for assisted living facilities, nursing homes, schools, military facilities, apartment buildings and even houses. Based in Gorham, NH. www.steelelements.com.

EVEN WITH CHALLENGES, STEEL FRAMING IS ON STRONG GROWTH TRACK FOR HOMEBUILDING INDUSTRY

WITH A STRONG FOCUS ON PROVIDING PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE THE USE OF STEEL FRAMING, THE STEEL FRAMING ALLIANCE (SFA) HAS WATCHED STEEL SHIPMENTS TO THE RESIDENTIAL INDUSTRY MORE THAN DOUBLE OVER THE PAST EIGHT YEARS. IN 1997, STEEL FRAMING MANUFACTURING SHIPMENTS WERE AT 97,000 TONS. BY 2005, THAT NUMBER HAD JUMPED TO 251,000 TONS, PROVING THAT STEEL IS MAKING SERIOUS GAINS IN THE HOMEBUILDING MARKET. AND ACCORDING TO STEEL FRAMING ALLIANCE PRESIDENT LARRY WILLIAMS, MANY INDICATORS POINT TO A POTENTIAL 16.5 MILLION TONS A YEAR.

"Over the past seven years, we have seen annual steel shipments to the housing industry steadily increase," Mr. Williams said. "These numbers consistently go up every year, and everything we are seeing tells us that these gains are going to continue. We're really only just getting started."

In key markets such as Hawaii, Florida and California – areas vulnerable to such problems as severe storms, earthquakes and termites - steel framing in the housing industry continues to penetrate the market. In Hawaii, for example, 60 to 70 percent of all new housing starts use steel framing. Steel framing starts are also up 7 percent in Florida, as well as in California where mixed-use, high-density developments are on the rise because of the high cost of land.

According to Dave Engel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), steel's growth market in the homebuilding industry is very strong in the south, especially in the Gulf Coast. One of the challenges he raises, however, is the region's number of small, traditional builders. "To what degree they are going to be willing to try steel framing, the jury is still out," said Mr. Engel, director of HUD's Division of Affordable Housing Research & Technology. "We promote it. From a ther-

mal as well as disaster, mold, rot and wind resistance point of view, it makes a great deal of sense to be considering steel framing in the post-Katrina re-build."

"After a year of a lot of hard work and countless meetings, that's where some of the SFA's efforts are finally starting to make a difference," says Larry Williams, Alliance president.

"We've been very busy this year trying to get things in place to position steel framing as the preferred material for the re-build. We've been meeting with insurance companies to get discounts on homeowners policies if they rebuild with steel, and selected the first builder to participate in our Builder Cooperative

Program," he said. "We just got a steel framing course started at Nunez Community College in St. Bernard's Parish (see article on page 37) that has been very well received, and we hired a technical field representative to provide guidance, support and training to builders interested in working with steel. We know it's going to take a long time, but we're encouraged with our progress and we're in it for the long haul."

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CALIFORNIA FORUM 2007 JUNE 15TH AND 16TH!

Save a spot on your calendars for CASFA's California Forum 2007 scheduled for June 15 and 16 at the Disneyland Resort Park. Visit www.casfa.org for more information.

FEATURING FLEX-C ARCH

Another of Flex-Ability Concepts' innovative products. Creating high quality arches is a snap with Flex-C Arch. Use it to build window, doorway, pass-through arches and more. Find out for yourself how easy it can be to build round, oval and even asymmetrical arch designs.

2" x 4"
2" x 6"
2" x 8"
2" x 10"
2" x 12"
5' and 8' Lengths




Contact Flex-Ability Concepts, **The Curved Wall People™** for complete instructions, product specifications, load capacities and allowable heights. Assistance is also available for finding all your curved framing resources and for finding a dealer near you.

FLEX-ABILITY CONCEPTS

Tel 405.996.5343 E-mail info@flexc.com or visit flexc.com

Circle #3

GROWING INDUSTRY CREATES NEED TO ENHANCE AND SIMPLIFY MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE

THE STEEL FRAMING ALLIANCE (SFA) HAS GROWN SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS AND AS THE INDUSTRY ITSELF HAS EVOLVED, SO HAS OUR MEMBERSHIP PROFILE. ALONG WITH THAT GROWTH HAS COME A FEW EXPECTED GROWING PAINS. AS IT STANDS, EVEN WITH A COMBINED CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF ABOUT 1,400, THERE ARE STILL A LARGE NUMBER OF COMPANIES THAT ARE NOT YET MEMBERS OF THE SFA FOR ANY NUMBER OF REASONS.

So that we can better maintain and continue to grow the Alliance, we are excited to report that our Board of Directors recently approved a more simplified – and ultimately far more inclusive - membership structure. Not only do we think this new structure is a lot less complicated, but by adding a “general member” category, we now have the opportunity to significantly expand our membership base to include builders and designers – our industry’s customers.

We have also done away with the ‘premium’ and ‘standard’ categories, in favor of four new membership categories that allow us to better distinguish between industry members (manufacturers and product providers) and customers (users and specifiers). And by broadening the number of memberships possible at individual companies, we can now get news of important industry advances, trends, resources and opportunities into the hands of more people, more quickly. One additional benefit that we think all of our members will be especially pleased – we’re **now providing a 25 percent discount on all SFA programs, products and services to all members** across the board.

Tim Waite of Simpson Strong-Tie Co., Inc. and President of the Hawaii chapter of Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI), believes the old system was too complicated. “It was difficult to place a potential member in the correct category. Some of the price levels were too high. The new dues system is fair, and much

easier to follow,” he said.

Longtime SFA member Danny Feazell, who recently stepped down after many years as president of the Mid-Atlantic Steel Framing Alliance, agrees. “I think the new system will work. I hope the new structure will grow membership,” he said. “The old system hindered our growth. The new system is not as complex. It’s streamlined and equitable and creates a more even balance among members. I hope more people and companies will join. This is definitely a step in the right direction.”

Our mission at the SFA is to enable and encourage the widespread, practical and economic use of cold-formed steel framing in residential construction, and to expand the use of steel framing as a load bearing element in commercial construction. Our membership continues to represent the full spectrum of trade and professions within the construction industry, and we look to our members to contribute valuable insight and expertise needed in the marketplace. We also count on our members to assist and guide our organization in developing programs and services that our industry needs.

But to be effective, we know we must maintain a broad and smooth flow of information and communication. This is the very issue we have been striving to address. For example, there are two radically different audiences that the SFA must continue to reach – builders and designers, and manufacturers and suppliers. Builders, architects and engineers are among our most important constituencies. Through our many programs and educational opportunities, we can influence and educate these decision makers about their choice of framing material by providing information and ideas that will solve a problem or increase their competitiveness. Likewise, manufacturers and suppliers are also critical links. Not only do they have direct contact with the marketplace, but their knowledge of industry initiatives can strengthen their ability to compete

against other materials in the building market.

But since most member companies have historically only had a single designated contact and listing in our database, it created a choke point because often important industry information would not go any further than the designated contact. We believe more direct communication with members will improve the flow of information and also result in greater membership stability.

PACRIM 2007 ALMOST HERE!

Join United States and world leaders from the steel industry for the 2007 Pacific Rim Steel Framing Conference (PACRIM '07), March 14-17, 2007, at the Hilton Waikiki Prince Kuhio in sunny Waikiki, Hawaii. Sponsored by the Hawaii Pacific Steel Framing Alliance, the fifth PACRIM conference will also be held in conjunction with the Steel Framing Alliance's annual Spring Forum.



In Hawaii, steel frame construction represents more than 70 percent of all new construction. “Most people in Hawaii come to expect steel framing in their homes and in construction, and the military demands it for its durability,” Tim Waite, president of the Hawaii chapter of the Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI), said. “See where steel framing predominates. Hawaii is a living laboratory (for steel framing), and you can come and see and shorten the learning curve.”

Individuals are encouraged to attend and enhance their company's ability to grow and provide a superior product for their customers. Attend excellent and meaningful seminar programs from industry experts, network with peers, learn about market trends, visit steel frame jobsites, and much more!

To register and for more information, visit www.hawaiisteel.com or call (808) 485-1400.

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STEEL FRAMING ALLIANCE'S NEW MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

INDUSTRY

Includes all major industry participants and significant contributors to overall market development efforts.

Industry Member Benefits:

- FREE access to all Steel Framing Alliance products, services and programs
- Opportunity to include unlimited number of employees in membership
- Eligibility for a seat on the Steel Framing Alliance's Board of Directors (subject to Board approval)
- All other benefits included in Association, General Member, and Subscriber categories

ASSOCIATE

Company-based and includes manufacturers of studs, specialty products, associations, and other providers of converted products for the steel framing industry. Associate members include:

- Stud Producers - Determined by the Steel Stud Manufacturers Association (SSMA), includes seven levels based on company size.
- Manufacturer of Tools, Fasteners/Connectors; Specialty Products; Component Fabricators; and Pre-Engineered Systems: Includes Connector & Accessory Manufacturer, Fastener Manufacturer, Pre-engineered Panelized Systems, Specialty Products, Pre-engineered Trusses Component & System, Tool Manufacturer, and Truss Manufacturer.
- Equipment Manufacturers - Includes companies that produce equipment used to manufacture finished products.
- Association/Allied Organization - Includes nonprofit organizations in the construction, design and manufacturing industries. Partnering associations must have current, active programs with the Steel Framing Alliance, and are not

required to pay dues.

Associate Member Benefits:

- Company-based, includes five general memberships (additional memberships are available for a nominal fee)
- All other benefits included in General Member and Subscriber categories

GENERAL MEMBER

Affords companies and associations the opportunity to add additional individuals to their membership at a nominal cost. Dues are graduated according to number of individuals from a company or association who join or are registered.

There are a number of conditions and terms associated with this level of membership and should be closely reviewed. Membership types included in the category are:

Architect
Builder Owner/Developer
Commercial Contractor
Engineer
Building Official/Inspector
Supplier/Distributor
Educator/Trainer
Residential Contractor
Manufacturers Representative
Marketing/Public Affairs
Non-Industry Professional
Researcher

General Member Benefits:

- 25 percent discount on all Steel Framing Alliance products, services, programs and seminars
- Includes Cold-Formed Steel Engineers Institute (CFSEI) membership for qualified individuals
- One membership in the Local Alliance of your choice (Additional chapter dues, if any, are determined by local Alliance or CFSEI chapter)
- 24/7 access to exclusive "Members Only" section of the Web site
- Regular mailings of Steel Framing Alliance updates

- Advance notice of Steel Framing Alliance programs, seminars and events
- Complimentary company listing on www.steel framing.org (the steel industry's "yellow pages") with a link to your Web site
- Complimentary copy of Framework, bi-monthly Steel Framing Alliance journal published in Metal Home Digest
- Complimentary product or service profile in Framework
- Complimentary listing in Steel Framing Alliance booth and marketing materials at the annual International Builders Show
- CFSEI members - one complimentary copy of substantial collections of printed documents (e.g. CFSEI Tech Note binder) will be provided to the designated primary contact. Other members will receive an electronic copy with permission to print up to three copies of each Steel Framing Alliance document (additional copies available at additional fee)
- Complimentary Steel Framing Alliance Annual Report and Annual Market Data Report featuring national and regional market share information
- All other benefits provided in Subscriber category

SUBSCRIBER (FREE MEMBERSHIP)

- Complimentary copy of Steel Framing Alliance monthly eNewsletter Gateway (features a snapshot of significant industry developments, top-line statistical information, news about Steel Framing Alliance products and services, advance announcements of Steel Framing Alliance seminars and special events)
- Not entitled to any other Steel Framing Alliance member benefits

To learn more about the Steel Framing Alliance's exciting new membership structure, or if you are not yet a member and would like to join, call (202) 785-2022, ext. 10 or visit www.steel framing.org.

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FROM THE FORUM

FROM THE FORUM BY
DON ALLEN AND SHELTON CARTWRIGHT

I would like you to assume the typical scenario: 27 mil. 3-5/8" full-height (to underside of structure) metal stud partitions with 5/8" gypsum board on both sides. Is channel bridging necessary and/or recommended?

Thank you for your question. In this condition, where both sides of the wall are sheathed all the way up to the ceiling, channel bridging through the punchouts is not needed. The reason for channel bridging through the punchouts is to restrain the studs: from both rotation and lateral weak-axis bending. When the sheathing is attached to both flanges of the stud, all the way from the bottom to the top of the stud, it provides restraint to the stud: for both rotation and lateral bending. Adding the cold-rolled channel would be redundant, and not add any strength or stiffness to the wall.

The American Iron and Steel Institute "Standard for Cold-Formed Steel Framing - Wall Stud Design" provides a design methodology for sheathing braced design of studs carrying both lateral and axial loads. There are some limits to the axial capacity of the stud based on the strength of the sheathing, but since your example is for 27 mil framing, this is a non-structural member and therefore not carrying loads from the structure above. The design methodology also provides an additional load combination to be checked when sheathing braced design is used, but this is typically not necessary on interior partitions carrying the 5 psf interior lateral load.

I bought "Steel Frame House Construction" by Timothy J. Waite. I'm finishing my basement with steel and am required to float walls 1.5". The only problem is I can't find any reference to floating walls in this book. Can you suggest another book, Web site or other reference mate-

rial for information on how to float steel walls?

I do not know of any written material on "floating walls" in basement applications using steel. However, I did find information on floating steel walls in basements at this Web site:

<http://www.asktooltalk.com/home/qanda/faq/foundations/floating-walls/index.html>

The information there applies to wood. However, the principles are the same and it is possible to do this using steel framing. To make it easier, you may want to use wood as your bottom plates. There is also another book on "Hybrid Wood and Steel Details - Builder's Guide" you can download for free, which should give you some help or information about connecting steel to wood. Here is the link to download that book:

http://www.huduser.org/publications/DESTech/HybridWood_Steel.html

I also found an interesting discussion thread about your topic on the Journal of Light Construction online remodelers forum. The JLC is a reliable publication. Their forum is simply an informal discussion between professional remodelers on various topics, so keep that in mind. I hope this is hopeful - I wanted to get you as much information as possible on the topic. Here is the thread:

<http://forums.jlconline.com/forums/showthread.php?t=27118>

**Don Allen P.E.,
Steel Framing Alliance
director of engineering and
LEED 2.0 accredited
professional.**



ASK YOUR QUESTION!

LOG ON ONTO THE FORUM AT
www.steel framingalliance.com
OR CALL THE STEEL HOTLINE
AT (800) 79-STEEL.

CASFA HELPS "MAKE GREEN-GREENER"

Green Building is the fastest growing environmental movement in the building industry. The California Steel Framing Alliance (CASFA) helped make "Green-Greener" with its participation in the inaugural Residential Building Conference & Expo, West Coast Green. The event, the largest residentially-focused green building event in the country, anticipated an attendance of 6,000 but debuted with more than 8,000 at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium in San Francisco September 28-30, 2006. CASFA was there to promote the use of cold-formed steel (CFS) as an environmentally responsible, recyclable, and sound material choice for residential building.



Our mission? To make "Green-Greener," said CASFA President Lou Zylstra. "Let's make LEED certification with steel the normal green building systems. With CFS green will be even greener, a lot greener!" In addition to architects, designers, builders and contractors, attendees included developers, engineers, facility managers, public agencies, building inspectors, educational institutions, green business programs, business owners, green financing institutions, real estate professionals, and homeowners.

According to Sim VanderRyn in Green Homes: Coast to Coast (March 3, 2006), an estimated \$15 billion worth of green buildings were under construction or design at the beginning of 2004, representing approximately 12-15 percent of total public construction and about 2 percent of private-sector construction. Sophisticated homeowners and home buyers now expect their builders to be up-to-speed on the latest materials, technology, and practices to build a modern green home, most of which exceeded federal energy efficiency standards by 40 percent or more.

In a report conducted by the National Association of Home Builders, 2,500 green homes were built in 2000. That number jumped to 14,600 in 2004. And with \$60+ a barrel for oil and high natural gas prices, these are two more compelling incentives for the rise in green home construction.

CASFA agrees that a "healthier" home, homes that use new, environmentally-safe building materials as well as CFS will make a significant contribution to sustainable and environmentally sensitive construction. "The CFS industry is working hard to educate and inform the building industry and code officials about the benefits of CFS, and the Steel Framing Alliance is the leader in providing that education," Mr. Zylstra said. The industry's efforts are making cold-formed steel housing the preferred affordable building material.

The CASFA booth was organized by Tom and Lil Moore, who chaired the CASFA Trade Show Outreach Program. "The CASFA booth was visited by hundreds of people who have an interest in sustainable building," Mr. Moore said. Many who stopped by the CASFA booth had various inquiries about the use of CFS, and there were those who were genuinely interested in what membership with the CASFA has to offer.

MHD

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

AS STEELDOING IT RIGHT NEARS ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY, SFA IS GRATEFUL FOR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF PARTNERS AND SPONSORS



BY MARIBETH RIZZUTO, DIRECTOR OF
TRAINING AND EDUCATION,
STEEL FRAMING ALLIANCE

SINCE THE STEEL FRAMING ALLIANCE LAUNCHED STEELDOING IT RIGHT LAST YEAR, THE PROGRAM HAS ATTRACTED NEARLY 200 STUDENTS EAGER TO LEARN HOW TO BUILD WITH STEEL. ORGANIZED JOINTLY BY THE ALLIANCE AND THE ASSOCIATION OF WALL AND CEILING INDUSTRY (AWCI), THE SEMINAR COVERS THE ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNIQUES FOR THE CORRECT INSTALLATION OF COLD-FORMED STEEL FOR MOST LOAD-BEARING AND NON-LOAD BEARING PROJECTS. IT ALSO COVERS THE LATEST ADVANCEMENTS TO SPEED INSTALLATION.

According to Maribeth Rizzuto, SFA's Director of Training and Education, STEELDoing It Right consistently draws from a wide spectrum of students - from those who have been involved in the steel framing industry for a while, to others looking to expand their repertoire with more structural applications.

"It's been refreshing to learn that so many of the students are open to learning that there is a right way to build with steel and that they can always learn new and exciting methods," she said. "Certainly from our perspective, we want to make sure structures are being built in accordance with the latest codes and standards. It will save us in the long run of unfortunate instances of building failures and other frustrations."

Like several other SFA training programs, STEELDoing It Right would not be possible without the support of generous sponsors like Aerosmith Fastening Systems, Inc. The Indianapolis company



has eagerly provided tools and fasteners along with hands-on demonstrations since the program began last year, saying their participation has allowed them to reach contractors, engineers and architects from all over the world.

"The programs the Steel Framing Alliance puts together are top notch programs. They do a great job of educating all facets of the industry," said Lisa Beally, a marketing and international sales manager of Aerosmith.

Students also have the opportunity to speak one-on-one with Aerosmith's representatives to learn first-hand how pin fastening technology can save them time and money. "Today many contractors pay for performance. We can offer them the opportunity to come in ahead of schedule and under budget on many of their projects," Ms. Beally said. "Even though pin fastening has been around for over 40 years, many people are still not familiar with how it works. The SFA provides a forum for us to help educate the industry."

For the past three years, Aerosmith has also provided tools, fasteners and training support to the Alliance's STUD University,

an intensive three-day steel-framing program held each year at METALCON. With the total value of their donations coming in at several thousand dollars, Ms. Beally is passionate about continuing to support the SFA's training programs. "Attendees are at these events because they want to know how to build with steel. We already have a targeted audience who is eager and willing to learn - the rest is up to us."

**STEEL - DOING IT RIGHT
REGISTER NOW
FOR THE NEXT SESSION!**

**February 22-24, 2007
St. Louis, MO**

Space is limited. Register early as applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. A confirmation notice with the seminar schedule, meeting location specifics and other relevant information will be sent prior to meeting date. To register, contact Rose Kuria at (202) 785-2022, ext. 10 or rkuria@steel framing.org.



Consisting of three days of classroom instruction, STEELDoing It Right allows participants to interact with the professional engineer instructors. In addition to instruction, students also learn the theory behind the process, gain contacts and information from networking, and discuss recent trends and the latest products. In addition to the classroom format, the Alliance hopes to provide the seminar in a self-study format so that it is accessible to more participants and they can go at their own pace. Visit www.steel framing.org to learn more about STEELDoing It Right.

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STEEL FRAMING ALLIANCE INVITES ALL MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN STEEL CENTRAL IN NEW ORLEANS THIS SPRING!

FABULOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR STEEL INDUSTRY, EXHIBITORS TO GAIN NATIONAL EXPOSURE

The Steel Framing Alliance has another excellent opportunity for our members to join us as exhibitors in Steel Central at the 52nd annual New Orleans Home and Garden Show March 29 to April 1 at the newly renovated Louisiana Superdome. By demonstrating steel's superior performance together, Alliance members who exhibit in Steel Central can expect to benefit from significantly heightened visibility and increased foot traffic to their booths.

Sponsored by the Homebuilders Association of Greater New Orleans, "The Big One at the Dome" is the largest consumer home show of its kind offered throughout the entire southeast region of the U.S. and draws more than 51,000 consumers each year. Of the attendees, 89 percent are homeowners, 58 percent have a combined annual income of more than \$75,000 (40 percent at more than \$100,000), and 78 percent expect to purchase from an exhibitor within six months of the show!

The Greater New Orleans area is currently the largest construction project in the world, a project that the Alliance and the steel industry continue to be deeply involved. And the timing of this show couldn't be more beneficial since the New Orleans Plan, the city's plan for neighborhoods to start rebuilding, is expected to be released early this winter. Not only will the show be a much needed source of information for the consumer and contractor, it will also mean national exposure for exhibitors.

The top reasons that keep exhibitors returning to the New Orleans Home and Garden Show include:

Reach a year's worth of customers in just four days • Generate thousands of leads
Create product awareness • Speak to customers face-to-face
Generate immediate sales • Introduce new products • Stand out from competition

Exhibit space is filling up fast and several SFA members have already signed on to participate in Steel Central - so don't miss out! To learn more and to speak with a New Orleans Home & Garden Show sales representative, call (800) 469-0990 or visit www.neworleanshideshow.com today. And be sure to mention Steel Central!

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LOUISIANA'S NUNEZ COMMUNITY COLLEGE NOW OFFERING FIRST STEEL FRAMING COURSE IN THE STATE

Last October, Nunez Community College's Sydney Dobson and Doyle Williams signed up for the Steel Framing Alliance's Stud University program so that they could help start a steel framing class at their St. Bernard Parish, La., school. Focused on doing what they could to help their community take some important steps toward rebuilding, the two Stud U. graduates served as instructors to the more than 20 students who eagerly signed up for the free five-week class that began in mid-November. The class is being offered again this winter.

The steel framing course is now part of the construction training curriculum available at Nunez Community College through the Louisiana Community and Technical College System's (LCTCS) Construction Centers of Excellence. Jim Henderson, LCTCS senior vice president for Workforce Training and Development, sees the steel framing course as an important step forward.

"This training program presents a great opportunity for Louisiana citizens," Mr. Henderson said. "The training is essential and it will assist in developing a skilled workforce and ensure a healthy economic future for the state."

The Construction Centers of Excellence were formed to train some 10,000 workers to help rebuild the Gulf Coast and fill the needed demand for construction workers across the state. "Before the hurricanes hit our state last year (2005), construction was already a high-growth, high-demand industry in Louisiana," Mr. Henderson said.

Nunez's Chancellor, Dr. Thomas Warner, also believes this addition to the school's construction training is a plus for the region, adding that it's the only steel framing course in the state of Louisiana. "This is an excellent opportunity for people in our service area to receive skilled training that will lead to employment in our community," Dr. Warner said. "It helps to keep our friends and family home by providing job opportunities with local businesses and industries."

Thanks to a special grant provided by the Louisiana State Department of Education, Nunez is able to offer the noncredit course for free with no tuition assessed or fees charged.

Nunez is providing the necessary tools. Through its Career Services Department, the school already has a system in place to assist successful graduates with job placement. The SFA is currently reaching out to its members in the region to determine their interest in becoming part of Nunez's career services database.

For more information about the free steel framing course, call (504) 278-7421.

Career Services Department at Nunez already has a system in place for successful graduates to tap into. SFA is planning to contact its members in the area to see if they are interested in becoming part of the career services database.

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