

"The Pipeline"

NUCA OF THE CAROLINAS

PRESIDENTS REPORT

February, 2019

You wake in the morning, take for granted that you have been given another day to go about your business, complete a good days work, and then return to your family that evening. You have clothes on your back, a good wage, and warm meal. It's a routine, you do it every day, it becomes easy, you become lackadaisical, you might even unintentionally cut a corner here and there. During fall conference 2018 I asked a simple question "What's Next?" After you begin your day and routine, do you ask "What's Next?" What could possibly happen? It's just another day, right? Maybe it isn't that easy.....

Over the last year, nearly **FORTY** young men and women have gone to work with maybe the same attitude. However, unfortunately, they have not had the chance to return home for the warm meal that was waiting for them, for that young son or daughter that was waiting for them to tell them about their day, or to just hug them. No, they potentially took something for granted and had an unfortunate accident on a job site. FORTY individuals did not returned home. Nearly FORTY individuals died on a construction job site in 2018. Why do I point this out you ask? Well, I am glad you asked. Guess **WHAT IS NEXT?** Upcoming April 11th thru 14th is our spring conference in Myrtle Beach where each participant will have the opportunity to evaluate their own safety program and overall business. We have time set aside for safety award finalists to share about their programs, legislative and business updates, 811 updates, and a time with Eric Giguere who will share with us his story of "The Buried Truth Uncovered." **YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS THIS CONFERENCE**

A special thanks to Sullivan Eastern and Razorback Boring for hosting our recent S&RM meeting at Triangle Shooting Academy. On Tuesday, February 12, we had 18 individuals in our meeting during the day (great job again by Wes Sells), 13 folks that took advantage of the opportunity to fire off a few rounds of amo (no worries, I have all my fingers left), and approximately 45 members that attended our social to hear from Cherie Berry. It was a great day of learning and fellowship. I look forward to expanding these events during 2019.

And last, but certainly not least, I would like to welcome our six new members so far in 2019, Palmetto Rock, SR&R Environmental, Directional Services, Inc., American Shoring, Ledwell & Son, and Public Works Equipment & Supply. I personally set a goal of 15 new contractor members and 5 associate members for 2019. We are off to a good start so far, but must not rest. Will you invite someone to join you in Myrtle Beach? Spread the word, it could save a life.

Chris Sellman, Smith Kesler and Company

NUCA of the Carolinas President

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NUCA CLAY SHOOT

Thanks to everyone that sponsored and participated in the first annual NUCA of the Carolinas Clay Shoot at Drake Landing!



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S&RM Meeting/Social

THANKS TO SULLIVAN EASTERN AND RAZORBACK BORING FOR SPONSORING AND HOSTING OUR FEBRUARY S&RM MEETING AND SOCIAL AT THE TRIANGLE SHOOTING ACADEMY IN RALEIGH!



CHERIE BERRY, NC Commissioner of Labor visits with NUCA!



Safety & Risk Management Report

The Safety and Risk Management Committee meetings have started and we are off to the races. We held our first meeting of 2019 on February 12th at the Triangle Shooting Academy in Raleigh. We had great attendance with a room full of knowledge. We discussed the upcoming events NUCA of the Carolinas. The lineup of Speakers for the Spring Conference looks to be a success in the making. The Safety Awards applications have been turned in and are currently with the Judges. The Judges will narrow the applications to the top 2 companies in each category of man hours. These companies will give a 15 minute presentation at the Spring Conference to determine the Safety Awards winner. Louis Panzer with NC811 gave us an update about "Locating" issues. Louis explained just how busy everyone must be by the number of locate tickets that are being called in. Justus Everette continues to work tirelessly for our industry to update and improve the laws/guidelines for locating existing utilities. Thanks to Louis and Justus for their attendance and information. We also appreciate Cory Dunphy from NCDOL, who updated us on many topics from the Department of Labor. He talked to us about a recent trenching fatality that occurred in Raleigh. We also discussed our Alliance Agreement between NCDOL and NUCA of the Carolinas. Thanks Cory for your attendance and updates from NCDOL.

So about the Alliance Agreement with NCDOL. I met with Marcy Collyer with NCDOL and Cory in the Raleigh NCDOL office before our Safety and Risk Management Committee meeting. Marcy is the Training Supervisor for NCDOL and she is also over the Alliance Agreements within North Carolina. Marcy is planning two Construction Forums that will be held on May 7th in Concord and May 9th in Raleigh. The details will come out soon. The Forums will be free and anyone can attend. NUCA of the Carolinas will be speaking on Trenching/Excavation at these Forums. This will be part of our Alliance Agreement. The Partnership between NCDOL and NUCA of the Carolinas has been formed to help our members. NCDOL uses this Partnership to help educate and train our NUCA members. NUCA members have also allowed NCDOL to use our jobsites to help educate and train their Compliance Officers. This is a great partnership, but it's not about NCDOL or NUCA of the Carolinas. It's about the safety of the workforce in Carolinas. So when this partnership is working together, Safety wins and that means our employee's will win. This partnership is a win/win for all who are involved. If you would like participate or experience the partnership in some form or fashion, please feel free to contact me.

After the Safety and Risk meeting on February 12th, we had a Membership Social. We had an outstanding venue at the Triangle Shooting Academy with a great turnout, but the highlight of the night and my day came at 6pm. We had Cherie Berry, the Commissioner of Labor for North Carolina, as our guest speaker. It is always a pleasure to hear her speak but it is inspiring to see how compassionate she is about the safety and well-being of the workforce in North Carolina. The Commissioner spoke about our Alliance Agreement with NCDOL and that she is proud of our Association. So a huge thanks goes out to the Commissioner and all at NCDOL.

So see, if you miss one NUCA event, you miss out. Make plans now, the next Safety and Risk Management Committee meeting will be at the NC811 office in Greensboro, N.C. on May 14th. I hope to see you at the Spring Conference in April. Meanwhile, continue to train and educate your employee's because "you don't know what you don't know".

From the Trenches,

Wes Sells
Safety And Risk Committee Chairman



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c/o Tracie Sells
40749 Ridenhour Rd
Richfield, NC 28137

Submission Deadline—March 31, 2019

NUCA Carolinas Past Recipient News!!

Curt Carr—recipient of the Simon Everett Community Service Scholarship in 2017

Curt has set the indoor track 60 yard dash record! Curt runs in the 6.8 second range and won the event in the Big South Conference meet in Lynchburg, VA this past weekend!

CONGRATULATIONS TO CURT!!

NUCA National Scholarship Opportunities!

<https://www.nuca.com/nucafoundationsscholarship>

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Submission Deadline is April 15, 2019

SPRING CONFERENCE

Marriott Grand Dunes, Myrtle Beach, S.C.



April 11 - 13, 2019

The DEADLINE for Group Rates is March 8th, 2019!! Please call the Marriott at 843-449-8880 and ask for the "NUCA" group rate.

Conference Registration—www.nucacarolinas.org

DON'T MISS OUR SPECIAL SPEAKER – ERIC GIGUERE!

"The Buried Truth Uncovered"

Life for Eric Giguere only looked up. A capable worker with a good job and pay, he married on September 28, 2002. Within a week, the newlyweds would be on their honeymoon. Six days after the wedding Eric went to work and looked forward to leaving for his honeymoon after his shift was over. That joy never came to be.

Eric had 5 years' experience as a union laborer, and was two months into his first trenching project. The crew was installing a 12-inch water main. Eric got down into the 6.5 foot trench to inspect the pipe, and the trench walls collapsed. He was buried under several feet of soil. Eric panicked. He was unable to breath under the crushing weight. His fear began to subside and a feeling of warmth and comfort overcame him. Eric was dying.

He regained consciousness in the hospital where he learned of the quick action of his team to dig him out. The doctors told Eric he suffered permanent brain damage from the lack of oxygen. Despite the odds against any life other than one of permanent disability, Eric never stopped fighting to overcome what he was told was now impossible.

Eric is an average guy who had the typical attitude toward safety: "Accidents happen, but not to me". Until the one that nearly took his life. Now Eric's mission in life is to make sure the arrogance he had toward safety doesn't become yours. His message is simple and serious, "This can happen to you."

Eric lectures about his experience and his focus on safety – your safety. He has consulted for many companies, such as National Grid, Thomas & Betts, NRG and Nucor Steel. He has spoke at many safety seminars including the Dival Safety Summit and the Eight Safety Seminars for Dig Safely New York. Eric has a great relates with the average "working man" and tells audiences about his personal story from the heart.

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Before You Make the Call To 811

Let me start by thanking NUCA for the hospitality at the Triangle Shooting Academy Social. Not only did I get to fire off some rounds, it afforded me the opportunity to speak briefly with Cherie Berry, NC Commissioner of Labor. I knew I only had her ear for about 5-10 minutes, so how does one wrap up what we do at NC 811 in that time? I focused on what we are really about in a language she would understand: it's about safety.

With incoming ticket volume set to rise 15-20% in North Carolina in 2019, the attention to safety could not be more critical. The volume partially reflects the race to bring fiber to our citizens in an already crowded underground space.

NC 811 is highly aware of damages and we are uniquely positioned to see all sides of the problem. Yes, the locate community is challenged with hiring and training people to perform the important heads up service to excavators as required by law. Delays create frustration and very real financial costs as well. In response, it is natural that excavators would try to figure out ways to keep their crews working.

Sometimes this results in tickets being created for work that may or may not be done in that 15 working day window. This, in addition to updates more than twice for work with a duration of one day or less, also contributes to a process breakdown. At NC 811 we are watching as updates, in general, have risen from 20% of the total tickets in 2012 to now 30% in 2019.

But at the end of the day we are all a part of the solution: by taking our shared responsibility seriously, responding to this growth sensibly and communicating through this process to minimize any misunderstandings.

What is interesting from this vantage point is seeing some areas in which the flow and cooperation work the way they are intended. And then coming across situations where people have broken trust and fail to communicate in a productive way.

My commitment to this process is that NC 811 will continue to help educate all stakeholders about their role in the process while providing clear, transparent tools to help facilitate communication. Come to your local UCC as often as you can. Build your network of contacts so that you can reach out when needed and others can reach you. Be aware that how you communicate with others is as important as what you say.

Let's work together to keep everyone safe while keeping production flowing in our Great State

Louis Panzer

Executive Director—NC811 / Cell: 336-707-1736



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