

"The Pipeline" NUCA OF THE CAROLINAS

PRESIDENTS REPORT

January, 2021



I hope all our NUCA members and families are doing well throughout these tumultuous times in our country's history. Since our last newsletter we have had a strenuous election resulting in a new administration coming into office. I am sure many people are disappointed in the outcome of the election, about 74,222,958, yet we will have to recognize we are dealing with a new administration for the foreseeable future. I hope they will reinforce the need for investment in infrastructure and support for small business across the nation. No matter who holds the reigns in Washington, NUCA of the Carolinas and NUCA

National will continue to work with the members of congress as well as the current administration on furthering infrastructure improvements to our state and nation. With the support of our national, state and local administrations, along with contractors across the country, we will be able to meet the current demand the future requires of all of us, for our families, children and nation.

It appears there is light at the end of the tunnel on the COVID front. Although the rollout has been slower than initially predicted, hopefully we will see major improvements by spring and summer. Despite opposition from some, we as an industry should support our staff and families getting vaccinated as soon as they are able. Some companies are subsidizing the cost of the vaccine while others are mandating their employees being vaccinated. No matter how your company decides to tackle this issue GET VACCINATED. With new COVID variants popping up, as well as OSHA stepping in on the regulation front, it is more important than ever to stay safe while at work and in our personal lives.

On a lighter note, NUCA of the Carolinas would like to welcome Greg Foley with Gregory Pool Equipment and Michael Sturgill with Xylem, Inc. to the board of directors. Based on the recommendations of their predecessors they will be a great addition to the board. We are also welcoming Greg Maready with TA Loving in a new position as co-chair to the S&RM Committee. Wes Sells has done a great job for NUCA on the safety front. I am sure Greg will be a great addition as well. We are currently moving forward with the Spring Conference at the Marriott Grand Dunes in Myrtle Beach. Based on member reservations and COVID we will make the decision to have it or not closer to the event. The Marriott has given us additional space for social distancing during our meetings, as well as an outdoor venue for dining on the property on Friday night. Some stipulations at the resort are currently in effect. Linda will update the members with the requirements as we get closer. The spring conference go/no go will be based on the number of members who register for the event. If you are planning to attend make sure to book your room as soon as possible. I hope we can safely have the spring conference with many members in attendance. Registration will be out soon. The NUCA National Annual Convention is coming up soon. I am glad to hear we have several members attending. I hope Naples is warm and sunny throughout the convention.

As always, we need new members. Please reach out to fellow contractors/vendors and tell them about our great organization and the benefits membership brings. If Linda, myself or any other members can do anything to assist let us know. Spring is around the corner and there is light at the end of the tunnel. I hope everyone has continued success and a busy spring and summer.

Brian Wilkerson

J.F. Wilkerson Cont. Co. Inc.

2021 Officers and Board of Directors

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2021

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Brian Wilkerson—JF Wilkerson Construction

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safety & Risk Management Message from the Chairman

Happy New Year!! It's time to turn the page and I mean "turn the page" on a lot of things. The 2020 election, Covid 19, division in America and the ever-changing ways that we do business. We have faced many obstacles this year that has changed our Industry. When it comes to Safety Training, the Safety Professionals in the world have been scratching their heads and saying, "How do we meet our training needs?" As an Association and, as Companies that make up this great Association, we continue to train and educate our employees and share ideas with our membership.

The Safety and Risk Management Committee hasn't met since February of 2020 but we are all still here. If our Committee was meeting today, I would remind the Attendee's of a few items of business. The OSHA 300A log must be posted by February 1st. OSHA also requires certain entities to file an Electronic 300A log by March 2nd. The NUCA of the Carolina's Safety Award Applications are due by February 12th. Please complete the application and send to Linda. The Spring Conference is always a great meeting especially when we get to hear the safety award presentations. The USDOT is looking for Compliance with the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse Program that is a little over a year old now. The checking Companies through Audits and with Roadside inspections. The Company and drivers are both being put Out-of-Service if not in compliance. The fines are also attached with the violations.



I want to encourage everyone who reads the Pipeline to take care of their families, their employees, and anyone that you may come in contact with. These have been trying times for people whether its financially, physically or mentally. We must encourage each other on a daily basis because that may be the only ray of hope that some folks may have that day. We live in the greatest Nation on earth and we should all be proud of that, no matter who we are. This is the Home of the Brave and the Land of the Free and we should give thanks to the ones that made it that way.

2021 is here and most all construction companies are booming. I hope everyone has a great new year. Let's stay safe and I hope to see everyone soon.



From the trenches,

**Wes Sells
Chairman, Safety and Risk Management Committee**

Happy New Year to Everyone! We hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas and Holiday Season. As we all get back to work, the winter months present a challenge for those of us in Construction. We experienced a very wet year in 2020, with conditions remaining the same as we start the new year. Slips, Trips, and Falls can occur during these wet conditions, especially during the cold months. Be careful where and how you move around on job sites at all times. Walking on uneven surfaces, climbing and descending ladders and stairways, and working in muddy areas can result in injuries. Pay attention to these slippery areas and surfaces while you are working. Way too many times we all take for granted the simple things on our work sites that can cause injury. Something we think of as simple as walking and moving around our sites can prove at times to be as dangerous as anything we do. Watch your step during these wet cold months. Always remind your crews and employees about these unfortunate injuries that can result from these wet slippery conditions. Wishing all of you a Great Year in 2021! Stay healthy! Stay focused! Stay SAFE!

Greg Maready – NUCA Safety Committee Co-Chair



SAFETY AWARDS

Deadline is February 12th

The NUCA of the Carolinas Safety Awards are for contractor members who want to document their commitment to safety and gain statewide recognition for outstanding performance. NUCA of the Carolinas aims to honor and properly recognize those of you who work diligently to provide a safe work environment for your personnel. The Safety Award is recognition from your own peers and for that reason the NUCA of the Carolinas Safety and Risk Management Committee encourages all Contractor Members to apply for this special award.

Your company will be competing against companies of like size. Two categories will be recognized this year: **The S&RM Committee will determine the two categories by man hours.** Entering the awards program is easy and the potential is great for employee morale, for insurance purposes and for your personal sense of achievement, enter today!

For application form go [HERE](#)



Greetings from NC 811. 2020 was a year like no other. While we are pleased to have it behind us and there are still challenges in 2021 to be faced, I would like to focus on the accomplishments of last year. During 2020, NC 811 was able to send the entire workforce home in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. We maintained this throughout the year, allowing those who chose to work from home to do so even after we technically opened the office back up July 15th. Today there are only a handful of people choosing to work in the office and thankfully, NC 811 has been able to continue to operate as if this were a normal year. It wasn't though, as any of our education liaisons would attest. They were mostly grounded and all UCC and LRPC committee meetings have been held virtually. They did still manage to appear at some Lowe's openings and other outdoor events.

Our fourth consecutive virtual board meeting takes place on Friday the 22nd. Our expectation is that this will continue through July with all hopes being placed to resume live meetings by October. Of course we are hopeful that the vaccine will get deployed quickly and perhaps we will be happily surprised this summer. From a volume perspective we finished 2020 at 2,146,810 tickets created. This was an overall decrease of 3.4% over 2019. We averaged 67% electronic for the year but in the final quarter saw numbers pushing us toward 74%. This is being made possible by our pass through SAT application that was fully "touch free" in August. We will introducing more ticket types to the application by end of Q2 this year.

As we start up 2021 NC 811 is already seeing an uptick in volume and expect this to continue with many fiber build projects happening around the state.

I greatly look forward to being able to see you all in person soon! Meantime, stay safe!

Louis Panzer - Executive Director
North Carolina 811
Cell: 336-707-1736
Louis@NC811.org



**NUCA of the Carolinas
Educational Foundation
Scholarships**

Application is available

[HERE](#)

Deadline is March 31, 2021



NUCA National Scholarships

D.A. Foster Memorial Scholarship
\$8,000 award (\$2,000/year over four years)

NUCA \$4,000 Scholarship
\$4,000 award (\$1,000/year over four years)

William & Shirley Burgett Scholarship
\$2,000 one-time award

NUCA \$1,000 Scholarship
\$1,000 award (\$500/year over two years for those enrolling in two-year programs)

Apply [HERE](#)

Deadline is May 1, 2020





NUCA

NAPLES FLORIDA

Annual Convention and Exhibit
February 4-6, 2021

Let's Go Back To The Beach

Naples Grande Beach Resort
475 Seagate Drive | Naples, Florida

Generously Sponsored By Our National Partners

NUCA is heading back to the Naples Grande Beach Resort in Naples, Florida, for our 2021 Annual Meeting & Convention. After a year without travel, heading to the beautiful Naples Grande Beach Resort in Florida to reconnect, learn, talk business, and having a little fun makes a lot of sense.

- Engaging committee meetings
- Meeting new industry colleagues and old friends
- Colleague recognition awards & Top Jobs
- Thought-provoking educational and roundtable sessions
- Exhibits with our National Partners
- Memorable team building & live auction events
- 2nd Annual CEO Bobble Head Golf Tournament
- Inspiring speakers, fun social events, and so much more!

Come to Florida & Enjoy Your NUCA Membership!

WWW.NUCA.COM/CONVENTION






Registration is Now Open!
Early-bird registration ends
November 30, 2020.



NUCA's quick lobbying in 2020 to obtain official federal government designation of our industry as "essential" kept our member's businesses open during a very tough economic year.

Accomplishments 2020

"Essential To Continued Critical Infrastructure Viability." NUCA's lobbying and outreach to the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) was essential in obtaining this official relief for our members and their communities. Early in the pandemic flu crisis, NUCA was at the forefront of insuring that the American utility construction industry remained identified as an "essential" component of our national infrastructure sector, keeping the industry in the trenches and our employees working.

NUCA Advocacy For Industry Economic Relief. Once President Trump declared a national emergency on March 13, NUCA immediately began lobbying Congress seeking relief and help for our businesses and their employees. Congress listened, passing in the last week of March a massive \$2 trillion package assisting American businesses towards economic recovery. NUCA continued to lobby Congress throughout the year in three more rounds of economic relief legislation, securing Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans for our members.

Membership Growth. NUCA's compelling value to the industry reflected in a 3% growth in membership in 2020. NUCA's many safety, education, social, advocacy, and Chapter programs continue to offer the utility construction industry a significant return on their NUCA membership investment.

NUCA Chapters Step Up Efforts. NUCA's 31 state/regional Chapters stepped up to help their members navigate the uncertainty of an escalating viral pandemic. Along with providing members with a steady stream of vital resources, they fought to keep their "essential" utility construction businesses operating. Virtual events and webinars emerged as favorite methods for member networking opportunities.



Utility contractors in Knoxville came together to start NUCA of East Tennessee in early 2020, growing to 40 member companies by the end of the year.

NUCA Pandemic Resource Center. NUCA created several webpages on how members could mitigate the emerging pandemic crisis, first releasing on February 5 a sample company pandemic flu policy for members to use to protect their employees. Throughout 2020, NUCA regularly posted the latest business recovery tools and information on its www.nuca.com/panflu website.

Webinars On Latest Industry News. NUCA conducted a number of webinars from industry experts and our government affairs department to keep members informed about the latest economic relief plans from Washington. These webinars evolved into our continuing monthly Webinar Wednesday series on industry topics.

NUCA's Growing Chapter Network. NUCA welcomed new chapters in New Jersey and East Tennessee, with Kentucky's budding chapter forming its leadership cadre and petitioning NUCA National for full Chapter status.

Thanks to our 2020 National Partners for their generous support throughout the year!



NUCA WINS App. NUCA introduced NUCA WINS, a new incident recording app that employees can easily operate on their smartphones to document utility strikes and safety information at the point-of-occurrence. The NUCA WINS app (nucawins.com) can eliminate the inaccuracy of completing incident reports at the end of the day or week when memories have faded.

First-Ever “Virtual” Washington Summit.

In response to the continuing need to advocate for infrastructure resources and relief funds, NUCA rescheduled its spring Washington Summit to September 23—and held it online. And this novel approach worked: over 140 attendees met with almost 80 Congressional offices, discussing their local infrastructure needs with lawmakers and their staffs.

NUCA 2020 Convention & Exhibit. Held in February at the beautiful Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson, Arizona, this event turned out to be the last regularly held event for NUCA members before the full force of the pandemic hit in March.

2020 Trench Safety Stand Down (TSSD) Week.

While the results of the 2020 TSSD Week, June 15-19, sponsored by NUCA and the Safety Ambassadors Club, were lower than the previous year due to the pandemic, the number of people who took part was still remarkable. More than 32,000 workers on more than 3,500 jobsites from 238 organizations participated this year.

Scholarships. NUCA awarded \$15,000 in three new scholarships and prior award commitments to students of industry members through its Foundation for Education and Research.

NUCA Staff. NUCA's new CEO Doug Carlson joined the association in January, taking the association across this year's rough waters to a safer harbor. Carl Vasquez, ASP was hired as the new director of safety and education to replace retired industry safety legend George Kennedy.

We're glad you're part of America's premier utility contractor industry association!



The 2020 Convention welcomed new leadership to NUCA.

As a NUCA member, you have access to a vast amount of industry news and information. Please visit our Website, www.nuca.com. We're also on Twitter (@NUCA_National), Facebook (NUCA1964), LinkedIn (NUCA National), Instagram (NUCA_National), and YouTube (NUCA National).

NUCA's membership department can be reached via 703-358-9300, or by e-mail to Meredith Leutbecker, meredith@nuca.com. We want to make sure you get the most out of your NUCA National and Chapter membership in 2021 and the years beyond.

NUCA News

New Congress Opens: House Priorities Are Infrastructure

The new 117th Congress opened for business on Jan. 3, with the re-elections of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY). NUCA's legislative outreach to lawmakers in the last few weeks emphasized the industry's optimism that the long-awaited infrastructure bills sought by the U.S. economy will have top priority in the House during the first half of 2021. We will keep you informed on the latest Congressional action via this newsletter, our NUCA social media accounts, and our Muster advocacy alerts.

Biden Administration To Be Sworn In Jan. 20th, Mayor Buttigieg as USDOT Secretary

President-elect Joe Biden and Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris are expected to be sworn into office on the West Side of the U.S. Capitol Building on Inauguration Day, Jan. 20th, at noon Eastern. Biden has chosen former South Bend, Ind. Mayor Pete Buttigieg as his new U.S. Secretary of Transportation. Buttigieg was a top contender of the Democratic Party 2020 presidential campaign and spoke often of the need for a comprehensive plan for America's crumbling infrastructure. [Read the Biden infrastructure plan.](#)

NUCA's Perspective On Biden Admin. Infrastructure Policies

NUCA sent a letter on January 4th to the Biden transition team offering our industry's perspective on the many issues and policies related to underground utility construction. These issues begin with financing programs for water and wastewater infrastructure improvement, including increasing funds for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF) and Clean Water SRF. NUCA is also seeking changes to federal laws that invite more private investment such as tax-exempt facility bonds, known as "private activity bonds." NUCA also addressed job creation, essential workers receiving COVID-19 vaccines, natural gas systems, damage prevention, and fiber optic/broadband infrastructure requirements. Our government affairs team will begin working with the new USDOT officials as soon as they take office later this month. [Read NUCA's entire letter here.](#)

U.S. Chamber Opens "Build By the Fourth of July" Campaign

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce greeted Congress with its new infrastructure advocacy campaign. "Investing in America's infrastructure is critical to our economic recovery, prosperity, and quality of life. The longer our elected leaders wait to pass legislation, the more our roads, highways and bridges will deteriorate," opened its website. NUCA is a Chamber member and agrees that the new 117th Congress needs to move this critical national issue to the top of its to-do list. [Read more here.](#)

NUCA WINS: A Best Practice in Your Reporting

NUCA's Workplace Incident Notification System (NUCA WINS) is a damage incident recording app that employees' can easily operate on their mobile device to document the situation at the point-of-occurrence. In a matter of a few minutes' incidents can be easily and completely documented, including: injuries and illnesses; property, liability, and utility strikes; near misses; safety observations; and more. Learn more [here](#).

Trench Safety Stand Down: June 14-18, 2021

NUCA leadership released the dates for the next TSSD, schedule for June 14-18, 2021. NUCA's member-wide safety stand down presents the opportunity for employers to talk directly to employees and others about safety around excavations and protecting employees from trenching hazards. This will be NUCA's eighth TSSD event (and our second June Trench Safety Month), so please mark those dates on your 2021 training calendars and plan to participate.

NUCA's Washington Summit has been tentatively scheduled for May 25-27, 2021, subject to Congress's public availability.

Losing key business personnel can be costly.
Smart utility construction executives manage that risk.



Does your company have in place a strategy
that protects your corporate interests?

Learn more about NUCA Advantage's "Keyman" and
"Golden Handcuffs" insurance programs at
nuca.com/nucaadvantage.



NUCA Advantage is a member-benefit program run by Compass Risk Management,
a NUCA National Partner and preferred broker. NUCA does not manage or
broker these insurance options. Policy prices depend on underwriting and age.

NUCA

We Dig America

- ▶ **We Advocate for the Rebuilding of Our Nation's Infrastructure**
- ▶ **We Champion World-Class Safety**
- ▶ **We Connect Our Industry to Tomorrow's Workforce**
- ▶ **We Promote and Defend Our Members' Business Interests**
- ▶ **We Link Our Chapters & Communities**
- ▶ **We Fight For Clean Water**
- ▶ **We Promote Innovative Technology**

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Our New Grassroots Outreach Software Partnership

Organize. Mobilize. Muster.



Grassroots Tools To Drive Action

Muster's advocacy tools not only make it easy for you to build powerful campaigns, but simple for your advocates to click and take action via email, patch-through phone calls, social media, and more.



Advocacy At Every Level

Whether you have a local, state, or national issue to conquer, Muster's advocacy software gives you the power to target policy-makers at every level of government along with committees and custom targets.



Unparalleled District Matching

All of your contacts are geocoded, meaning we go beyond just zip-to-district matching to ensure your advocates are matched with their correct elected official by creating a coordinate for each address.



Data For Better Advocacy Campaigns

With real-time engagement analytics and the ability to export campaign and contact data — your organization can measure ROI, discover new supporters, and benchmark member engagement.

What Muster Does for NUCA Members

Muster – our new grassroots campaign platform – will allow NUCA to mobilize its membership for grassroots messaging campaigns, conduct geotargeted member surveys, and easily communicate with NUCA members on state and national issues. Our new convenient platform gives you a direct line to your Members of Congress and the Administration, and makes it easy to join other NUCA members in making your voice heard about the issues that matter to you and your business.

Muster messages will consist of email broadcasts and targeted online messaging campaigns which allow you to send letters to your state and federal lawmakers with only a few clicks, helping you to contact your representatives on issues that matter while only taking a few minutes out of your busy day. At a time when everything is virtual, your participation in our grassroots campaigns will be more effective than ever in pushing for positive change on NUCA issues.

What We Need from NUCA Members

Your contact information – name, email address, mailing address (for geotargeting purposes), and phone number – please ensure that your Chapter has your latest information, as Chapters will serve as our database

NUCA will be using an OPT-OUT system –

Please contact your ED as soon as possible if you do not wish to be contacted with NUCA grassroots communications. If you wish to opt-out in the future, please email zack@wymanassociates.net with your name and NUCA Chapter.

Note: this option will also remove you from member surveys and news broadcasts sent out through Muster