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NUCA OF NM NEWS

August 2007

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President's Message



Summer is in full force, but before we know it, Fall will be here and we'll be heading into cooler weather. Right now though, make use of NUCA's ToolBox Talks series to keep your workers smart about working in the hot New Mexico Sun. [Click here for "Protecting Yourself From the Sun"](#) and in Spanish [Los Rayos del Sol](#)

There are a few Association events that you can sign up for now: August 16, 2007 is the next **NUCA of NM Membership Meeting**. The guest speaker, Steve Sink is the Senior Crime Prevention Specialist with APD; Vice President, NM Crime Prevention Association Board Member; and a member of the Albuquerque Block Captains Association. His presentation includes information on job- site security and equipment theft. Most speakers for Membership meetings come from member suggestions. If you have an idea for a speaker for the association's membership meetings, contact Jane at 888-0752.

Last Ditch Open is just right around the corner and the players spots and sponsorships are filling up fast! You can still register and sponsor online at www.nucanm.org/ldoreg2007

Thank you Last Ditch Open Sponsors :

Corporate Sponsors:
Highway Supply
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Shirt Sponsor - **Tom Growney Equipment**

Post Tournament Reception: **RMCI Inc.**

On Course Beverage - **Golden Equipment**

Boxed Lunch - **Wagner Equipment**

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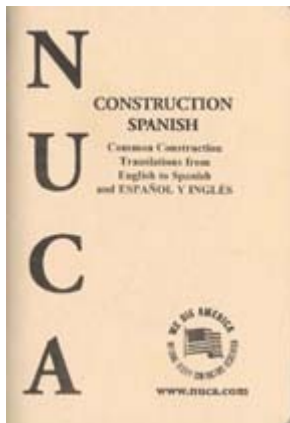
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Raffle and Door Prize Sponsors:

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NUCA Fall Board Meeting
2007 FALL BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS
October 3 - 5, 2007
Westin Buckhead Atlanta
Atlanta, GA
For more information, visit the registration page at
www.nuca.com

Featured Product



ENGLISH/SPANISH TRANSLATION GUIDE

A must-have for all construction companies that employ a bi-lingual workforce. An easy-to-read and follow translation guide of commonly used construction terms

Only \$6 for NUCA Members!

Order Here

Eye on New Mexico



The Business Caucus of the Business Labor Coalition
Work Continues during the Interim
By Carla J. Sonntag

There were many successes during the last legislative session, but we were definitely challenged by the opposition to the Workers Compensation Bills supported by the Business Labor Coalition. After more than two years and a solid agreement between the Business and Labor groups, most of the bills died due to the involvement of the Trial Attorneys and what appeared to be a conflict within the building trades groups. Although unfortunate, we are determined to continue work on this law because it has such a tremendous impact on the construction community.

The New Mexico Workers Compensation Law has been weakened and eroded over time due to court rulings; the goal of the Business Labor Coalition is to improve the law by correcting for these

decisions. As a NUCA-NM member, your interests are represented in this coalition and your feedback on its initiatives is important. Below are the current initiatives being considered by the Business Caucus of the Business and Labor Coalition:

- | The need to stop or control Lump Sum settlements for use by the injured worker on personal debt or desired purchases;
- | More vigorous "back to work" program with real rewards and penalties included in the system;
- | Ability to use the Health Policy Commission to track WCA medical charges in relation to the rest of the medical payers in New Mexico;
- | Develop substantive improvements in the WC system
 1. Control costs for the Employer;
 2. Provide adequate benefits for the injured worker while out of work;
 3. Provide retraining and placement for the injured worker to allow accelerated return to work programs;
 4. Allow employers to get substantial credits for encouraging and employing the injured worker in his original environment, if possible.

- | Post-accident drug screens - refusal by injured worker should bar benefits
- | Prior legislative issues that need to stay on the radar
 1. No benefits during incarceration;
 2. Loss of use based on American Medical Association (AMA) guides, not subjective court determinations;
 3. Modifiers paid pro-rata based on Return To Work wages;
 4. No court orders to pay modifiers in a lump sum;
 5. Return to Work communication - repeal "Church's" decision

- | Address lifetime medical with consideration for parameters needed to address an aging population and the increase in diseases such as arthritis and diabetes.

Please tell us which of these initiatives you feel should be pursued. If there are issues that you feel are important but are not on this list, please provide details outlining the problem and suggested solution. You can provide comments to Jane at the NUCA-NM office and I'll be happy to take them to the Business Caucus for consideration.

New Members

Please welcome new members:

PYTHON CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

PO Box 67945
Albuquerque, NM 87193
Phone: (505) 899-5923 Fax: (505) 899- 5928

Contact Person:
Rick Coe

SUNSTATE EQUIPMENT CO.

221 Rio Rancho Dr. NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87124-1411
Phone: (505) 896-6820 Fax: (505) 896- 3778

Contact Persons:
Frank Smith

AUI 2007 Platinum Sponsor



Thank you AUI Inc. for your 2007 Platinum Sponsorship.

2007 Sponsors

2007 Sponsors:

- | Cone Construction
- | Hydro-Systems Inc.
- | New Concepts
- | Tom Growney Equipment
- | Western Summit of NM
- | AMEC
- | Albuquerque Asphalt
- | HD Supply
- | PCL Construction of NM
- | Wagner Equipment

August Dates

- | 08/08/07 - Safety Committee 8am
- | 08/09/07 - Planning Committee 8:30am
- | 08/09/07 - Last Ditch Open Planning 8am
- | 08/09/07 - Education Committee 11:30am
- | 08/14/07 - Hard Hats Committee 9am.
- | 08/16/07 - Membership Meeting [Register](#)
- | 08/24/07 -Next Step Training in Hobbs, NM

If you would like more information on the Committees please call the Association office at 505 888 0752 or email nucanm@nucanm.org

Visit the NUCA of NM Quick View Calendar

WRDA BILL DRAWS VETO THREAT



Although for weeks the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007 seemed to be heading to the president's desk before the August recess, the White House Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wrote a letter to key leaders of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee on Wednesday to warn them that the bill as currently written would be vetoed by President Bush. The WRDA bill would authorize over \$20 billion for more than 800 water projects addressing problems with navigation, flood control,

environmental restoration, estuary and shoreline protection, as well as projects dealing with water and wastewater infrastructure.

Although the White House has objected to the cost of WRDA legislation, no threat of a veto surfaced until the August 1 letter, which states that "it seems a \$14 billion Senate bill went into a conference with the House's \$15 billion bill and somehow a bill emerged costing approximately \$20 billion." The letter went on to oppose several provisions that the Administration considers outside of the mission of the Corps of Engineers, including "authorizations for wastewater, drinking water and combined sewer overflow infrastructure, waterfront development, surface transportation, and abandoned mine reclamation." Despite the veto threat, the House passed the WRDA bill by an overwhelming vote of 381-40 on Wednesday night, and leading Republicans in both the House and Senate vowed to oppose the White House veto. "If the president does indeed veto this bill, I am committed to working to override the president's veto," said Sen. James Inhofe, the Ranking Republican on the Senate EPW Committee and a known fiscal conservative. At press time, the Senate was scheduled to consider the bill, but the outcome is uncertain. NUCA continues to fully support the WRDA legislation and will do our part to override a veto if that occurs over the next few weeks.

Article courtesy of the National Utility Contractors Association

[Click here to read the Portman-Woodley WRDA veto letter](#)

July Committees

NUCA of NM July 2007 Committee Summary

Planning:

- | Committee discussed pricing for raffle and mulligan tickets for Last Ditch Open
- | An online registration form should be available by July 18, 2007
- | A three fold brochure with sponsorship form will also be mailed for LDO registration.
- | Discussed door prizes
- | Committee members will continue working on sponsors for LDO
- | Discussion regarding a photographer at the tournament.
- | Committee discussed Winterfest and alternative options for an annual event.
- | Committee discussed another fundraising event for the association.

Safety

- | The Bilingual OSHA 10 Hour training is set for July 13, 2007. There will be 51 students in the class. The Committee reviewed the Training Details Summary.
- | There is only one person registered for the Hobbs Next Step Program, but Woody and Jane will continue marketing efforts to get the word out. An update will be available next month.
- | There has been no contact from Las Cruces Companies as of yet, again, Jane will keep the marketing efforts going and try to attract some interest.
- | Dino Franco will be teaching NUCA Certified Competent Person training for ERS in Colorado on August 24, 2007. He may also teach a class for them here in Albuquerque in September.
- | Jane has been unable to reach Margo Maher regarding the Hazmat training, but will try to get one scheduled for September.
- | At the next Safety Committee meeting, a name will be drawn to pay for the registration fee for the NUCA Safety Director's forum in December.
- | The Committee reviewed the changes to the OSHA Alliance. There were no other suggestions or corrections, so the contract will be submitted as is to NM OSHA, and date will be set for an official signing.
- | The Committee and NUCA of NM thanked RMCI for donating a lap top computer to the association for training purposes.
- | The Committee discussed a suggestion from the Board to have an Association 'Safety Van' program. The members will submit written comments.

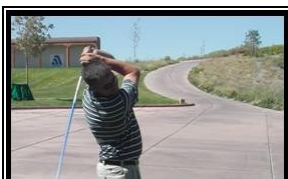
Membership

- | Committee is reviewing the current membership packages.
- | Committee is working on a master potential member list and membership campaign.

Hard Hats for Heroes Task Force

- | Committee is determining scope of Hard Hats program
- | The New Mexico Veteran's Integration Center will be the recipient of fundraising money this year.

Last Ditch Open



Thank you Last Ditch Open Sponsors:

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New Concepts

Triad Builders of New Mexico

Western Summit of New Mexico

Zia Concrete and Supply

Raffle and Door Prize Sponsors:

HD Supply

Franks Supply

Last Ditch Open 2007

September 21, 2007

Isleta Eagle Golf Course

Sponsorship Opportunities

Hat Sponsor \$2500 --

- | Company logo on hat with association logo
- | Recognition at post tournament reception.
- | Recognition in newsletter, web-page, and program

Hole Sponsor \$500

- | Name on one of 18 holes on professionally designed sign.
- | Recognition at post tournament reception
- | Recognition in newsletter, web-page, and program

Door Prize --Value of \$250 and above no logos please but will receive recognition of donation.

Training

Thank you to **RMCI Inc.** for the donation of a laptop computer for NUCA of NM Instructors to use.

If you need AV Equipment for training, you may use NUCA of NM's Laptop and Projector. Please call for availability in advance.

Next Step - Hobbs, NM August 24, 2007

49 CFR Hazmat Handlers DOT Certification

Certified Highway Watch program - this program will follow the Hazmat 49 CFR Training and gives you a certification from Homeland Security

CFMA's Construction Accounting 101 Class starting September 6, 2007 ** call 888- 0752 for more information.

New Mexico is proud to have three NUCA Certified Trainers! If you are interested in NUCA Certified Training such as Excavation or Confined Space training, call the Association at 888-0752.

Register or Request More Information Here

UTILITY CONSTRUCTION EXPO '08



UTILITY CONSTRUCTION EXPO '08 JANUARY 15-19, 2008 KAUAI, HAWAII

Utility construction professionals looking to escape the winter grind on the mainland next January will be heading for the sun and sand of the amazing Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa on the island of Kauai for Utility Construction EXPO '08.

Owned and operated by the National Utility Contractors Association, Utility Construction EXPO is where construction professionals convene each year for the industry's most valuable convention, and EXPO '08 promises to be no exception.

Aside from the beautiful surroundings, another draw of the 2008 event is the Executive Experience format, which is designed to facilitate the creation of real partnerships between utility contractors and the industry's manufacturers and suppliers. The EXPO '08 general education sessions, which everyone attends together, have been condensed to maximize the time spent outdoors and designed to address the needs of both groups. As always, the lineup of speakers is impressive: political pundit Norman Ornstein, best-selling author and television host Larry Winget, and Flags of Our Fathers author James Bradley.

Opportunities for networking abound: the Aloha NUCA Welcome Reception, Trade Winds Route Auction, NUCA Build-Your-Own- Race Car 500, and President's Luau. For the athletically competitive, there are both golf and tennis tournaments, and for the romantically inclined, an optional sunset cruise along the famous southern shore of the Napali Coast.

Check your mailbox this week for more information, or pick up a registration packet at the NUCA of NM Membership Meeting on August 16, 2007.

Click here for registration forms



NUCA of NM

email: nucanm@nucanm.org

phone: 505 888 0752

web: <http://www.nucanm.org>

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