

IN THE PIPELINE

NUCA OF NM NEWS

May 2008

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Get the most from your association:
GET INVOLVED!



~President's Message

by **Boyd Dunham**

We have started down the path with an OSHA Partnership. A sub committee has been formed to help write the Plan for NUCA of NM. The goal is to have it in place by the end of the year. The Alliance program will remain in place and the OSHA Partnership will be a voluntary program for NUCA of NM Members. Update on the southern district - On April 23rd we met in Anthony, TX for a lunch. We had a two new contractors showing interest. It is just going to take time to nurture this to success. We will plan another get together in June. Jane, John Taylor and myself were in attendance along with our Associate member Wagner Equipment. Thank you for your support of this effort, I really appreciate it. The Washington DC Summit is just 3 weeks away. May 21st to the 23rd.

Congratulations to RMCI for the National William H. Feather award in Safety.

A reminder to all members: The Safety Committee and Trainers need some new blood. If you have a safety representative within your organization, please get them involved.

Boyd

Your Voice, Our Voice, the NUCA Voice



A Message from NUCA President Terry Dillon

As the year 2008 unfolds, my term as President of the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA) is about "voice." Your voice. Our voice. The NUCA voice. It is time for us to stand up and begin to take control of the direction in which our work environment is going.

The spreading chaos leads to greater risks as we attempt to meet our obligations and complete the work. Poor construction drawings, existing subsurface utility issues, ambiguous specifications, misinterpretation of general conditions, unfriendly owners and increased litigation are only a few of the contributing factors. Changing laws and regulations affecting our industry—such as new OSHA proposed rules, the lack of sufficient clean water and wastewater funding, 3% withholding on federal contracts, the death tax—only further confuse the situation.

So where and how can you lend a hand and voice? What can you do to help us fix the industry we work in and rely on for our living? You can join NUCA!

Legislative and regulatory issues can be handled not only by our lobbyists and safety staff who meet regularly with federal lawmakers and regulators, but also by NUCA members involved at the local level and even on the federal level during the Washington Summit. Other important fields of action are the various NUCA committees which do most of the association's work on behalf of the members. I ask for your involvement.

Having a clear understanding of what is going on and getting involved is more important today than it ever has been. I need your help, your industry needs your help, and you owe it to yourself and your business to be one of our voices. Sitting on the sidelines just won't cut it anymore. There are too few of us fighting this battle. The time to "army up" is now.

Reprinted in part from the President's Message that appears in the March 2008 issue of Utility Contractor magazine, the monthly publication of the National Utility Contractors Association.

Let your voice be heard. Join NUCA

~Eye on New Mexico



By Carla Sonntag

While it appears to be the "off season" for state politics, it is actually busier than ever. All state senate and house seats will be on the ballot in November and while the majority of the seats are unopposed, there are some hotly contested seats. Unfortunately, some of our best business advocates, Senator Rawson (R) of Las Cruces and Senator Harden (R) of Clovis, are being targeted. It would definitely hurt NUCA-NM's support base to lose either one of these senators. Not only do they understand the needs of business, they're willing to 'go to the mat' for us.

I would encourage you to get involved where you can. Election time is a critical time to have your voice heard. In particular, please tune in to the Public Regulation Commission races. The District 3 race, which incorporates mostly the northeast quadrant of the state being vacated by Ben R. Lujan, will be decided in the June primary. There are several Democrats running with no other party represented for a general election race. The District 1 PRC race will feature a June primary between two republicans. The winner in that race will face the incumbent, Jason Marks (D) in November.

With only five (5) PRC Commissioners, the District 1 and 3 races are critical to New Mexico's businesses. These Commissioners regulate insurance, utilities (gas, water, electric and telephone), motor carriers, pipeline safety, the State Fire Marshall's office and the registration of all corporations doing business in New Mexico. The Commissioners have individually and collectively been involved in the passage of legislation for increased renewable energy requirements and energy efficiency legislation, all of which raise the costs of utility bills.

You can find your district for most races at: voterview.state.nm.us If I can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me at govrelations@msn.com Workshops for "socialized utility rates" and other low income utility initiatives will begin in May. I'll provide an update in your next newsletter.

Until then, please tune in to the political issues around you and never miss an opportunity to vote. Your opinion matters and your vote counts.

June Membership Meeting

Don't miss the next Membership Meeting scheduled for June 19, 2008 at the Albuquerque Country Club from 11:30am to 1:00pm.

Margo Maher will have a presentation on the Delgado Case in NM including updates that you need to know to protect your business.

June 19, 2008

11:30am - 1:00pm

601 Laguna Blvd. SW

[Click Here to Register Online](#)

~Safety

With summer right around the corner, and the warm weather on it's way, perhaps it's time for a reminder on how to stay safe in the sun.

NUCA of NM has ToolBox Talks available on CD in English and Spanish, or, if you are a NUCA Member, you can download them right from the NUCA web page at www.nuca.com

Be Careful Of The Sun

Workers who wear tank tops or no tops at all risk major sunburn, pain, blisters, and skin tissue damage. To some workers, sunburn is just part of working out in the sun all day, and many workers are looking for a tan.

But everything has its limits. Sunburn often leads to sun poisoning and, in some cases, can require long- term recuperation.

Modern medical science has shown that excessive exposure to sun can cause skin cancer. Construction workers can inadvertently expose themselves to excessive sun by failing to wear proper clothing and/or sunscreen. And don't let your guard down in the winter. You can get a fierce burn from the sun's rays reflecting off of ice and snow. After you get burned, it takes three to six months for your skin to return to normal. When you get a sunburn and the top layer of skin peels off, the newly exposed skin is more sensitive than ever. That means you will burn even faster than you did before. A severe burn can cause nausea, chills, fever, faintness, extensive blistering, general weakness, patches of purple discoloration, or intense itching. Be aware that if the burn seems to be spreading, you could have an infection.

Some helpful sun tips:

- Apply sunscreen about 30 minutes before going out, even if it's overcast. Don't forget to protect your lips, hands, ears, and the back of your neck. Re-apply as necessary when perspiring heavily.
- Take extra care between the hours of 10 am and 3 pm, when the sun is at its hottest.
- Protect yourself on the job by wearing protective clothing with tightly woven fabrics and long sleeves to keep the sun off your skin.
- Cover your head. Wear your hard hat-it will shade your head and help keep you cool in addition to protecting your head if you are struck by a machine or object.
- Drink plenty of water. It's a good idea to drink lots of water to help counteract the drying effect of the sun. There is nothing like being outside on a nice sunny day but the sun can cause short-term and long-term skin problems. Don't expose your skin to the sun for long periods of time. Work in the shade when possible and wear sunscreen to protect your skin from sun damage.

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If you come across a safety issue that you think should be shared with other NUCA of NM members, please forward it to the NUCA of NM Office and it will be distributed to all members.

Email nucanm@nucanm.org

Next Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2008 at 8am at the Association office - 104 Sin Nombre Ct. NE

~NMRCGA



The Third Annual New Mexico Regional Common Ground Alliance (NMRCGA) Conference and Expo will take place September 24 - 26, 2008 at the Albuquerque Convention Center, and it promises to be bigger and better than ever!

Our classes have been so popular that we've added another day and included more certification classes!

Here are some of the classes we have scheduled for this coming conference:

- | APWA Marking Standards
- | Competent Person Trench & Excavation**
- | Crisis Management
- | Excavator's Certification All-Day Class, presented by Staking University**
- | Gas Valve Maintenance
- | Highway Watch
- | Master Meters
- | NMOC Excavator's Class
- | NTSB class, presented by Wayne St. Germain
- | The Next Step, presented by NUCA of NM
- | Ticket Management Systems
- | Trench Rescue
- | Weapons of Mass Destruction Awareness
- | What to do if you hit a line
- | Wide Area Locates

If you have any questions call Gwen at 505.254.7399 or 866.264.0027.

We're looking forward to seeing you in September!

*Classes subject to change without notice

**All-day certification class, extra charge

Pillar Sponsors include:

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Exhibitor and Participant Registration Forms now Available. [Click here to Register](#)

Individual Early-Bird registration (before June 15) is only \$125 per person and includes name badge, all conference classes (except where additional fees are noted) and all meals including the Meet & Greet Fiesta

Exhibitor BASIC: \$575 includes one (1) 10'x10' booth w/pipe & drape; demo space; table & chairs; one (1) name badge and entry to all Conference Classes* offered on Sept. 25 and 26, 2008 (except classes that require additional fees); all meals offered at Conference, including Grand Opening Fiesta.

Learn More...

~TLC Plumbing and Utility Platinum Sponsor



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~2008 Sponsors

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~May Dates

- | 05/09/08 NMRCGA Planning Meeting
- | 05/14/08 Safety Committee
- | 05/15/08 Last Ditch Open Planning 8:00am
- | 05/15/08 Planning Committee 8:30 am
- | 05/15/08 Education Committee 10:00am
- | NMOC Annual Meeting
- | 05/19/08 Board Meeting
- | 05/20/08-05/23/08 NUCA Washington Summit
- | May 26 Memorial Day Observed
- | 05/31/08 Hard Hats Charity Golf Tournament [Click to Register](#)
- | June 2008
- | 06/03/08 NM Primary VOTE!
- | 06/19/08 Membership Meeting [Click to Register online](#)

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

~A New Delegation for NM



YOU CAN HELP PUT A UTILITY CONTRACTOR IN CONGRESS!

As previously reported, NUCA Senior Vice President Dan East (Cone Construction, Albuquerque) is on the ballot for the June 3 New Mexico primary. A Republican, he is seeking the seat of US Rep. Tom Udall, a Democrat from New

Mexico's 3rd congressional district, who is running for the US Senate. "Having a utility contractor in the Congress would be a boom for the construction industry," said NUCA CEO Bill Hillman. "Dan understands the importance of building and refurbishing America's infrastructure, and he has a working knowledge of how government can impact the operations of small businesses, including those of construction companies. He would be a champion in the United States House of Representatives on a number of very important issues."

Since, as Dan says, "winning an election is a team effort," we want to let you know how you can help. First of all, visit the [Dan East for Congress website](#), where you can find out everything you need to know about his stand on the issues and watch a 30-second campaign ad. If you decide you want to assist Dan in competing with opponents who are well funded professional politicians, you can make a donation online or send a check payable to Dan East for Congress to 1380 Rio Rancho Blvd. SE #296, Rio Rancho, NM 87124. Please call (505) 414-1789 for credit card processing. (NOTE: The FEC limits individual donations to \$2,300 per person for each of the primary and general elections. Corporate donations cannot be accepted.)

NUCA and NUCA of NM have both endorsed Dan East for Congress.

Don't forget to VOTE on JUNE 3, 2008!

~Western Summit of NM 2008 Platinum Sponsor



Thank you Western Summit of NM for your Platinum Sponsorship.

Visit the Western Summit Web Page

~Governor Signs Proclamation

NEW MEXICO - Providing and maintaining a safe, well-protected infrastructure throughout the state is of utmost importance to the citizens of New Mexico. On April 22, 2008, Governor Bill Richardson signed a document proclaiming September 2008 "Damage Prevention Month" to emphasize this fact.

September was chosen to coincide with the third annual New Mexico Regional Common Ground Alliance (NMRCGA) Expo and Conference, an event dedicated to all aspects of excavation throughout the state. The conference brings together water, gas, electricity and telecommunications - and one-call professionals - to discuss best practices and the latest technology to improve the protection of underground facilities.

The NMRCGA was established in 2005 to promote public safety, environmental protection and the integrity of underground infrastructure and facilities by promoting effective damage prevention as a shared responsibility.

NUCA Award

It is my pleasure to inform you that NUCA of New Mexico was selected as a recipient of the NUCA Chapter Award of Excellence for Special Events honoring the chapter's involvement and effort to plan the New Mexico Regional Common Ground Alliance Trade Show and Conference in 2007.

The NUCA Chapter Awards of Excellence will be presented at the Fifth Annual National Awards Dinner at on Wednesday, May 21, 2008 during the NUCA Washington Summit.

This year, the NMRCGA Expo is scheduled for September 24-26, 2008. For more information, or to register online, visit www.nmrcga.org

~Hard Hats For Heroes

The Hard Hats for Heroes Committee has come up with a way for you to have some fun while supporting veteran's right here in New Mexico.

On May 31, 2008, you can participate in a fundraising golf tournament for NM Veterans at the beautiful Santa Ana Golf Club - shotgun start at 8am.

Registration fee is only \$100 and includes green fees, cart, range balls, giveaways and lunch. [Register online](#) or call the Association office today to register your team!

Thanks to **HIGHWAY SUPPLY LLC** as Tournament Title Sponsor

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TLC Plumbing & Utility - Air Force Eagle Sponsor

Mueller Company - Hole Sponsor

Star Pipe Products - Putting Green Sponsor

New Mexico Veteran's Integration Center

It is estimated that there are nearly 200,000 homeless veterans nationwide. There is no consensus on the numbers here in New Mexico and estimates range from 660 to 7,000. With the support of the Governor and NM Legislature, the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services is working with the New Mexico Veterans Integration Center (NMVIC) to fund a 2 year transitional program assisting homeless veterans to integrate back into community life. In addition to funding beds at the facility, the department has set up a field office on the premises to assist veterans in filing for state and federal benefits and services. There is also an on-site nurse, employment counseling provided by the New Mexico Department of Labor's veterans outreach team, and case managers committed to providing a continuum of services to make the transition successful. Values such as trust, dignity, honor, self worth and respect for other people are emphasized in the program.

To be eligible for this program, veterans must have been honorably discharged from any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. Other requirements are that they must have been clean and sober for at least 28 days prior to acceptance and may be required to submit to a pre-placement drug test.

100% of profit from this golf tournament will go to the NM Veteran's Integration Center in Albuquerque. No administrative costs!

~Utility Contractor Issues

Contractor Withholding

Are you aware that in a few years, all federal, state, and local government agencies will be required to withhold three-percent of all payments to organizations that provide products and services to the government? If you do any public construction work, this means you! Think of what a 3% withholding on top of any existing retainage would do for your profit margins. NUCA is fighting for repeal of this harmful provision.

OSHA "Reform" Do you have concerns with OSHA? There is legislation out there being considered at the federal level that would:

- Increase penalties considerably and establish a \$50,000 minimum fine if a worker's death was found to be caused by a 'willful' violation;
- Raise the criminal penalty from a misdemeanor to a felony for a willful violation that results in a death or 'serious bodily injury'; and
- Restrict an employer's ability to dismiss an employee for refusing to perform duties he/she considers dangerous.

NUCA is also fighting this legislation.



NUCA of NM

email: nucanm@nucanm.org

phone: 505 888 0752

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

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