

THE FLOW

JANUARY 2025

Upcoming Events



Jan. 16th
**Officer Installation &
Annual Meeting**
6:00 pm
Maggiano's

Feb. 28th
Jacksonville Icemen
Game starts at 7pm
Flyer on page 11

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends and NUCA Members,

As we close out 2024 and look forward to the excitement of a new year it is only natural to reflect on our successes of the past year. Our organization has continued to grow stronger with the addition of several new members and the hard work and cooperation of all our existing members. We thank you all and a special thank you to our monthly sponsors, without you all we could not be the successful organization that we are.

This past year saw the creation of the young professional's organization. We held several events with them and are creating an opportunity for the next generation of utility contractors to get involved in NUCA and prepare for taking on the future leadership roles within our organization.

We had another year with successful Top Golf event with the proceeds being donated to help fund the Seamark Ranch. The year was also filled out with fun and fellowship at the golf tournament, clay shoot, Jumbo Shrimp game and Icemen Events as well as the Equipment training and first ever introduction to finance class. Finally, the legislative team continued to monitor the ongoing in Tallahassee and with the recent election results we will continue to watch for legislative changes that will impact our member companies.

I would be remiss if I forgot one of the biggest changes that will affect our organization as we move forward. On behalf of all our members I want to thank Kathy for her years of service to our organization and wish her all the best as she transitions into retirement. We welcome Jennifer Puff-Blomgren as the new Executive director and know that she has big shoes to fill but we are certain she is up to the task.

I look forward to a new year serving as the president of your organization and look forward to seeing you all at our Officer Installation at Maggiano's Little Italy at the town Center on January 16. I hope to build on the strong foundation set by all the past leadership of this organization and would like to especially thank Caleb for his leadership over the past year. Please know if there is ever anything that NUCA of North Florida can do to help you, please reach out to me and let me know.

Respectfully,
Paul Gilsdorf

Paul Gilsdorf
Senior Project Manager, Haskell
M: 904-210-9477, paul.gilsdorf@haskell.com

20245 NUCA of North Florida

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Upcoming Events

Jan. 14th

Executive Committee
3:30 pm

Jan. 16th

Officer Installation &
Annual Meeting
Maggiano's
6:00 pm

Jan. 23th & 24th

NUCA National Safety &
Damage Prevention
Conference
San Antonio, TX

Feb 11th

Executive Committee
3:30 pm

Feb. 28th.

Jacksonville Icemen

March 6th

Damage Prevention/
Sunshine 811
Aloft Tapestry Park

The Law and Your Business

The Law and Your Business – 2025 Florida Legislative Session Tony Zebouni, Lindell, Farson & Zebouni, P.A.

The 2025 Florida Legislative session is upon us. As you may know, the legislature has been busy in Committee meetings which is a prelude to the actual General Session. The deadline to file all requests for drafts of general bills is January 24, 2025. All drafts of general bills must be approved and in final form by February 28, 2025. The regular session convenes on March 4, 2025, for 60 days (May 2, 2025). The only legislation mandated is the passage of a balanced budget during the regular session but there are generally thousands of bills filed each year with only a few hundred that ever get approved and sent to the Governor's desk for consideration. There are already bills filed for consideration in advance of the Regular Session and here are a few "proposed" bills that you may find interesting, though it is not likely that many if any will be approved in their current form and content.

HB 31 among other things will provide for open carry of firearms in Florida. HB 33 proposes an Agreement Among States to elect president by Popular Vote (an effort to bypass the electoral college). SB 44 Increasing the penalty for having red or red & blue lights on the front of a vehicle (unless you're a first responder) to a third-degree felony. SB 53 would regulate the sale of ammunition and would require a background check to transfer/purchase ammunition under certain circumstances. HB 25 would remove the prohibition on the limitation on parents and children's recovery for wrongful death due to medical malpractice.

These are just a few of the already filed bills that will be considered in the 2025 Regular Session.

I encourage all NUCAS members to be active and aware in the legislative process and if you have any questions or concerns should contact Tony Zebouni or Mike Kivlin. You should also consider joining the NUCA team when it attends the annual "Walk the Halls" in Tallahassee early in the Session.



TOPGOLF EVENT RAISED \$14,600 FOR SEAMARK RANCH

Thanks to the generous support of our members, we raised a total of \$14,600 at our recent event at Topgolf. We had over 90 members and guests registered for this event. It's always a big hit with our members who look forward to it every year and Seamark Ranch is grateful for our support.

Thank you to our Bay Sponsors for their support. Please see the list of our bay sponsors on page 6.



TOPGOLF®





2024 TOP GOLF BAY SPONSORS

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Vallencourt Construction Co., Inc.

Walthall Oil Company



House Passes Final NUCA Supported WRDA Legislation

The House passed on Dec. 10 the final version of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA, and labeled for this vote as S. 4367). NUCA strongly supported this bill, writing in our media statement, "This bipartisan bill will deliver water infrastructure resources to many critical projects around the nation." The Senate has agreed to the House bill's framework and policies, and is expected to vote on the bill before Congress recesses later this month, sending it to the President for his signature.

Federal Court Strikes Down New Overtime Rules

A Texas federal court struck down on Nov. 15 all of USDOL's 2024 changes to the overtime rules. This decision invalidates the rule nationwide for all employers. This means that employers may revert to the 2019 salary threshold of \$684 per week (\$43,888 per year) to determine whether employees are exempt or non-exempt. The court found that USDOL had exceeded its authority, since Congress had intended for an employee's job duties to determine exemption status, not salary level. This decision may be appealed, but the new Trump Administration may decide to halt any appeal after taking office on Jan. 20.

Industry Safety Has New NUCA Advocate: Ed DeNeale, CHST

NUCA announced Dec. 10 that it hired its new director of safety, Edward DeNeale, CHST, to lead the association's safety programs. "Safety for our industry's employees is a core value at NUCA," said NUCA CEO Doug Carlson. "Ed's extensive background in industry safety programs will allow NUCA to take our existing safety and training programs and expand them for our membership." Ed's 20 years of safety director and construction project management experience will deliver a wealth of jobsite safety knowledge to the position. Ed can be reached via email at edward@nuca.com or via 703-358-9300.

Safety Directors: The NUCA Safety Damage Prevention Conference, Jan. 24-25, 2025

NUCA's annual Safety Damage Prevention Conference (SDPC) offers the unique opportunity for NUCA members involved in safety and damage prevention to hear from experts on a wide variety of topics that impact the industry and network with others from across the country. This conference also provides an opportunity to address and strategize how members can better navigate complex damage prevention issues. If you're an industry safety professional, mark your calendars for January 23-24, 2025, and plan to attend the SDPC held at the Westin Riverwalk San Antonio, in San Antonio, Texas. Conference registration is now open at nuca.com/events/sdp-com.

Join NUCA's National Equipment Operator Championship At The 2025 Convention

New in 2025, NUCA is hosting a National Equipment Operator Championship on March 20, 2025, in conjunction with NUCA 2025 National Convention in Orlando, Florida! Does your crew have what it takes to be crowned the first-ever NUCA National Champion. A special thanks to our National Equipment Operator Championship sponsor U.S. Pipe. Convention registration includes a free shuttle to Walt Disney World & Universal theme parks. For more details, go to nucadigs.com.

In 2025, Share The Details About Trenchless Tech Efficiency

Are you seeking to know more about horizontal direction drilling, or auger boring, or wish your city's administrators did, too? NUCA's "Trenchless Construction and New Installation Methods" manual can help your estimators, engineers, and project managers recognize that trenchless technology could deliver large cost savings to your excavation projects. The 148-page, full-color illustrated manual carefully addresses and explains the most common trenchless installation methods. This year, buy a copy for your local planning department as a professional gift to introduce their staff to these cost-efficient subsurface construction methods. The manual is available exclusively from NUCA and can be ordered online at www.nuca.com/trenchlessmanual.

SAFETY NEWS

By Jeff Blomgren
Chair, NUCA Safety Director's Forum

New Year Home Safety Tips

Recently, we were talking about, what would be a good time to do a safety check in our home? Suggestions were holidays, birthdays, annual events, or anything that would help us remember to check those things that we need to keep an eye on. Have you ever had a battery-operated device corroded and unusable because the batteries have exploded and the green residue inside has dissolved the workings? Why does that happen? We lose track of when we installed the batteries. We don't get much of a warning when it happens except when we go to use it. By then its to late. Other devices are subject to the same failure possibility. Smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, carbon monoxide detectors (carbon monoxide is a tasteless odorless gas that will kill you undetected). How about fire extinguishers? Do you have enough of them? Are they in the right place? Do you know where the right place is? Some people don't realize that the laundry room is a prime location. We had a house near us that burned due to a dryer fire. How often do you check the dryer for lint accumulation? Did you know that a fire extinguisher has an expiration date? It's usually five years. Have you inspected your fire extinguisher to see if it workable? It should be inspected every 30 days or at the very least annually. Do you have a fire escape plan? How about functioning windows. Can you open a window and escape if you need to? Many older homes have windows that are painted shut. Making a list of things to check and designating a specific time to make those safety checks is essential for the safety of our homes and those we care about. The New Year is a perfect time for accomplishing these things. We can't forget that it's a new year. We might forget a birthday or an anniversary (which is another kind of safety hazard) but it's not easy to forget it's a new year. Take time to develop and do your safety checks and have a safety and happy 2025.

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When you're negotiating contracts, ensure you understand the scope and limitations of these endorsements. Failing to properly name additional insureds or clarify your role in the project can lead to coverage gaps, leaving you or your partners exposed.

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By properly managing additional insured endorsements, you're not only fulfilling contractual obligations but also safeguarding your reputation and relationships with key stakeholders in the construction industry.



NUCA

REPRESENTING UTILITY & EXCAVATION CONTRACTORS
NORTH FLORIDA

Join the Jacksonville Icemen for our annual Military Appreciation Weekend, Friday, February 28th!

Grab your tickets now and don't delay as this will be a sold-out game!

Be sure to get there early; doors open at 6 and the game starts at 7.

Scan or use the link below to get your tickets now!



TO PURCHASE TICKETS, PLEASE VISIT:

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Number of Joints
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2025 MEMBERSHIP DUES INVOICES

Your company should receive your invoice for your 2025 NUCA of North Florida Membership Dues either by email or via USPS in early December. Payment is due January 31st. If you don't receive an invoice, please email me at nucanf@gmail.com.



Register Today



NUCA

2025 National Convention
Orlando, FL

March 18-21, 2025 | Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress

Where Contractors Meet!

NUCA's annual member extravaganza is your gateway to unlocking new business opportunities, expanding your professional network, and gaining cutting-edge industry insights.

Our 2025 National Convention is built to be the utility contractor's best-in-class business and networking experience. Stay ahead of the curve with sessions and meetings featuring industry experts who'll share the latest products, trends, technologies, and regulatory updates. Our popular industry social events return, and we'll cheer on the winner of the first-ever National Equipment Operator Championship!

Enjoy the perfect blend of business and pleasure at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress. With its world-class amenities and proximity to Orlando's top family attractions, this venue offers a unique experience for both you and your guests.

Register today and join us in Orlando in March 2025 to imagine the possibilities ahead for your construction business.



Join Us For NUCA's Premier Event!

- National Partner Networking Events
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LEGISLATIVE DAYS 2025



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Platinum.....	\$2500
Diamond.....	\$2000
Gold	\$1500
Silver.....	\$1000
Bronze.....	\$500
Copper.....	\$250
Advocacy Friend.....	\$150

The 2025 Legislative Session kicks off this next year on March 4th. NUCA of Florida is hosting Legislative Days April 1-2, 2025, at A/C Marriott. On April 1st, attendees will gather for a Breakfast Legislative Briefing from 8 a.m. -10 a.m. Members will then “walk the halls” and meet one-on-one with legislators at the Capitol. Industry- specific bills covering fire suppression, development, construction practices, crane regulations, & licensure are all on the table. In the evening, we’ll gather with lawmakers for a cocktail reception. On April 2nd, the Executive Committee begins at 8:30 a.m. and the Board of Directors convenes at 10:30 a.m. Join us in Tallahassee to advocate for the underground utility industry!

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Our company was started in June 2020 with the belief that quality over quantity is paramount. The need for the quality and services of our company was what was lacking in the industry. Florida Pumping Solutions was created to fill the void in the industry of quality, service, communication and customer appreciation. Once this was established, our loyal customers saw the difference between us and the rest of the industries companies. We decided to invest in the model we developed and continue our vision to always be the best. We always strive to provide the best work environment, equipment, customer service, knowledge and solutions in the industry with alism and pride.



SAVE THE DATE

Annual Golf Tournament
Monday, April 7th
St. Johns Golf & Country Club
12:30 pm Shotgun Start

JANUARY FEATURED SPONSOR

United Rentals Trench Safety
5955 Philips Hwy
Jacksonville, FL 32216
904-786-3100



When you need an outside the box approach

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