

September
2026

NUCA NORTH FLORIDA, INC



THE FLOW

NUCA of Florida Presiden't Cup Golf Tournament
September 24th-25th
Omni Orlando Resort @
Championsgate



Upcoming Events

Sept 15-18 - NUCA Safety Damage Prevention
Conference

Sept 24-25 - NUCA FL President's Cup

Oct 8 - General Membership Meeting

Oct 21 - Young Professional Networking Event

Nov 3 - Clay Shoot

Nov 19 - Top Golf Benefit for Seamark Ranch

Nov 12-14 - NUCA FL Bass Tournament

March 9-12 - NUCA National Convention

April 12 - NUCA NF Golf Tournament

Presidents Message

Pg 3

The Law and Your Business

Pg 7

NUCA News

Pg 8-10

Safety News

Pg 11

Commercial Insurance Insights

Pg 12

New Members

Pg 13 - 15

NUCA NF Annual Fishing Tournament

Pg 16 - 18

NUCA NF Legislative Committee

Pg 19

NUCA NF General Membership Meeting

Pg 20

NUCA Safety & Damage Prevention Conference

Pg 21

NUCA FL Presidents Cup

Pg 22

NUCA FL Bass Tournament

Pg 23

Dear NUCA Members and Friends,

Raise your hand if you've melted a time or two this summer! Boy, oh boy—the heat is on! As we look toward the 4th quarter, it's a great opportunity to find some shade, take a minute to catch our breath, and prepare for what's ahead.

We had a great turnout for the Fishing Tournament. A special thank you to Kim Bryan and Emily, Joe Geiger, Ryan Pugh, Rick Parker, Ashton Milam, Valinda Krynicky, Tanner Brewer and Jennifer Puff for their time and effort in making the event a success. We truly appreciate everything you did to make it a great day.

Looking ahead, we have some outstanding events planned over the next few months. These include the Young Professionals Meeting, the Clay Shoot, and our October 8th General Membership Meeting, where Congressman John Rutherford and Representative Dean Black are scheduled to speak. If you're interested in attending any of these events, please reach out to Jennifer for more information.

As we look to keep our days busy with work and family, remember: Intentions are useless without action. It's not how you start, but how you finish.

Thank you for your continued support of NUCA, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alvaro A. Rios". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alvaro A Rios

Vice President

T.G. Utility Company, Inc.

nucanf@gmail.com

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2026 NUCA of North Florida Monthly Meeting Sponsors

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The Law and Your Business- Unsigned Settlement Agreement- Enforceable
Tony Zebouni, Lindell & Zebouni, P.A.

The Furshmans hired a general contractor to perform construction. The general contractor then hired A.C. as a subcontractor. The Furshmans were not satisfied with A.C.'s work and did not pay. In response, A.C. recorded a lien for \$16,937.26. A.C. confirmed negotiations with a phone call in which the Furshmans agreed to pay \$16,937.26, plus attorneys' fees. A.C. advised that it "will prepare and record the .lien release" and "prepare a mutual general release." At the end of this email, it requested: "If this email does not correctly outline our conversation, please immediately contact me by email explaining your understanding of those portions of our conversation discussed in this email."

The Furshmans did not object or contest the content of the email. Rather, they sent a check for that amount and wrote: "For Driveway Final Payment." The next day, they provided the tracking number and wrote "Please send me the proposed lien release, general release, and any other paperwork for my review. After I have time to review, I will let you know if they are agreeable, and if I have any edits, comments, or concerns".

Upon receipt, A.C. deposited the check. It then emailed the Furshmans a draft proposed settlement agreement and mutual release and requested them to "provide us any changes that need to be made." Mr. Furshman responded: "ok, thanks, will have to you tomorrow". A.C. signed the mutual general release. But the Furshmans never did. Instead, the Furshmans claimed the lien was paid in full and they were no longer obligated to pay attorneys' fees.

The making of a contract (settlement) depends not on the agreement of two minds in one intention, but on the agreement of two sets of external signs -not on the parties having meant the same thing but on their having said the same thing. There must therefore be an objective manifestation by both parties of assent to the same terms

The court found that a valid and enforceable settlement existed between the parties because there was "an objective manifestation by both parties of assent to the same terms. The parties "said the same thing" and agreed to all essential elements -- which includes use of a mutual general release. . The Furshmans objectively demonstrated their assent in several ways: not objecting to the settlement confirmation email, sending the check in the negotiated amount, and replying "ok, thanks, will have to you tomorrow" to the email with the proposed release. Randy Furshman's testimony on his subjective intent and state of mind does not overcome these objective, external signs

The Furshmans point to the unsigned mutual general release as proof that no settlement agreement was reached. But the fact that one was not executed or finalized does not prevent formation of a contract or destroy the agreement of the parties ("Even though all the details are not definitely fixed, an agreement may be binding if the parties agree on the essential terms and seriously understand and intend the agreement to be binding on them."). The release simply memorialized the parties' agreement.

ADONEL CONCRETE CORP., Appellant, v. RANDY FURSHMAN and SINDEE FURSHMAN

NUCA News Summary – August 2026

Industry News and Advocacy

Surface Transportation Bill Update

Congress entered its month-long summer recess in early August without taking final votes on the surface transportation bill. Legislation to reauthorize the programs or provide a short-term extension must be enacted by October 1, 2026, to avoid a shutdown of the Federal-aid highway and Federal Transit programs. The five-year BUILD America Act includes \$474.4 billion in contract authority from the Highway Trust Fund for federal highway and bridge, public transportation, and roadway safety programs.

The House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee advanced the NUCA-supported BUILD America 250 Act (H.R. 8850) on May 21, but the full House did not act before its August recess. Senate Environment and Public Works Chair Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) wants full reauthorization by September 30 but has acknowledged that a short-term extension may be needed. She plans to release legislative text and hold a committee markup in September. NUCA and other organizations have urged Congress to maintain full funding to avoid project delays.

Workforce Pell Grants Launched July 1

Effective July 1, the new Workforce Pell Grants program, championed by NUCA for a decade, expands federal Pell eligibility to high-quality, short-term construction training programs for the first time. Enabled by the NUCA-supported 2025 "Working Families Tax Cuts Act," students in trade school programs can now use Pell Grants for 8- to 15-week certificate programs in welding, heavy equipment operation, pipeline construction, carpentry, and other skilled trades. This program will help utility contractors address the industry's persistent workforce shortage. Our members' advocacy efforts over several Washington Summits helped make this law become a reality.

SRF Reauthorizations Awaiting Fall Action In Congress

As of August 10, reauthorization of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) was included in the Senate's Water Resources Development Act of 2026 (WRDA) (S. 4949).

The bipartisan bill, supported by NUCA, was introduced July 13 and unanimously ordered reported by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on July 15. It reauthorizes the programs for four years (FY2027–2030) at elevated levels: CWSRF at \$3.5 billion annually (\$14 billion total) and DWSRF starting at \$3.75 billion in FY2027 and rising to \$4.5 billion by FY2030 (\$16.5 billion total). It also reauthorizes WIFIA and adds provisions addressing PFAS, lead, cybersecurity, and resilience. The House advanced its companion WRDA (H.R. 9497), also supported by NUCA, unanimously from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on July 14. That version focuses on Army Corps projects and does not include the EPA SRF reauthorizations.

Both bills await floor consideration after the August recess. Differences in the legislation, particularly the Senate's EPA provisions, would need reconciliation in conference before final passage, expected before the year runs out in December.

Association News

**Your NUCA membership delivers business benefits that will help your bottom line.
Are you or your employees taking advantage of them?**



NUCA Safety & Damage Prevention Conference: **Sept. 15-18**

Don't miss your chance to join the industry's top safety professionals at the NUCA Safety & Damage Prevention Conference, September 15-18, 2026, at the iconic Brown Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. Immerse yourself in three powerful days of timely discussions designed to tackle the real challenges facing utility construction today. The agenda features critical sessions on transportation accidents, risk management, mental health in the workplace, the latest OSHA updates, emergency preparedness, rethinking trench safety (presented with NUCA National Partner United Rentals), a compelling panel on drugs in the industry, and a fresh 811 update.

This year's conference shines a spotlight on the most pressing safety and damage prevention issues impacting our industry. Connect and recharge during two dynamic networking events, including the prestigious STAR Award presentation. Register today at nuca.com/safety-damage-prevention-conference/ and secure your spot in Louisville!

Dig Into Savings This Summer with NUCA's Mid-Year Membership Offer

New and returning utility construction and excavation contractors can join NUCA for the remainder of 2026 at up to 50% off standard national dues. As the leading national voice for the underground excavation industry, NUCA delivers powerful advocacy, safety leadership, workforce development resources, damage-prevention programs, and nationwide networking that strengthen operations and keep your company ahead of regulatory and market changes.

NUCA members gain access to training, expert consultation, timely insights, cost-saving discounts, and connections with industry leaders. Whether you're reconnecting or exploring membership for the first time, this limited-time rate is an excellent opportunity to invest in your company's success at a significantly reduced cost. Ready to join? Contact membership@nuca.com or visit www.nuca.com/membership today.

Association News

NUCA Annual Awards Nominations Open

NUCA Annual Awards submissions are awaiting your nominations! Make a submission to recognize the most outstanding work of our industry, recognizing exemplary work and leadership in our space. Don't miss the chance to earn the recognition of your peers for the great work you've done in 2026.

Award Categories Include:

- Ditch Digger of the Year
- Associate of the Year
- Several Chapter Excellence Awards
- William H. Feather Safety Awards
- Top Job Project Awards

Awards will be presented at the NUCA National Convention Awards Gala taking place at Miramar Beach, Florida, March 9-12, 2027. All nomination materials must be submitted no later than January 15, 2027, for consideration. Award rules and submission forms are available at www.nuca.com/awards.





By Khalifa Barr, Chair, NUCA Safety Directors

Forum.

Strong Habits Build Safe Crews

As we move into September, it is a good time to refocus on the basics. Busy schedules and repetitive tasks can lead to complacency. Staying focused, recognizing hazards, communicating with your crew, and following safe work practices can prevent incidents.

Start Every Task the Right Way

- Complete your pre-operation equipment inspection.
- Inspect your work area for changing hazards.
- Wear all required PPE.
- Make sure everyone understands the task.
- Verify proper traffic control, trench protection, and other safety measures are in place.

A few extra minutes spent preparing can prevent an accident.

Stay Aware Around Heavy Equipment

Construction sites are constantly changing. Never assume an operator sees you. Stay out of blind spots, maintain communication, use spotters when required, and never place yourself between moving equipment and a fixed object.

Complacency Has No Place on the Jobsite

Experience should never cause us to become too comfortable. If conditions change or something does not look right, stop, reassess the task, and speak up.

Safety Reminder A strong safety culture is built through the decisions we make every day. Look out for your coworkers, communicate, follow the plan, and never put production ahead of safety.

Safety Quote of the Month

"The basics only work when we choose to follow them every single time."



Commercial Insurance Insights

Tanner Brewer, Commercial Insurance Advisor

Gallagher

(904) 881-9317

Hired & Non-Owned Auto: The Coverage Often Overlook

Protecting the business when employees or rented vehicles are used for company business

Many companies understand the need for commercial auto coverage on company-owned vehicles, but exposure can also exist when the business does not own the vehicle being used. Hired & Non-Owned Auto (HNOA) coverage is designed to address two common situations:

- vehicles rented or leased by the business
- Employees using their personal vehicles for company business.

Consider an employee who uses a personal pickup to visit a jobsite, pick up materials, or meet a customer and causes an accident. The employee's personal auto policy may respond first, but it may not fully protect the business from a liability claim. HNOA can provide liability protection for the company when a covered vehicle is being used on its behalf.

HNOA does not replace a commercial auto policy, and it generally does not cover physical damage to a rented or borrowed vehicle. Contractors should review whether the coverage is included, what limits apply, and whether employees regularly use personal vehicles for business purposes.

Key Takeaways

- Identify employees who regularly drive personal vehicles for work.
- Review hired auto needs when renting or borrowing vehicles.
- Confirm HNOA liability limits are appropriate for the contractor's exposure.
- Remember: HNOA is primarily liability coverage, not coverage for damage to the vehicle.

Welcome New NUCA NF Members

US PIPE

FLUID MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, INC

ROADSAFE TRAFFIC SYSTEMS, INC

PATRIOT PIPELINE

BADGER INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS

**MERRILL LYNCH WEALTH
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Sewer Bypasses

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 **904-916-2012**

Experienced Crews

ALWAYS MOVING FORWARD >>>>>>>>> www.fluidmgmt.com

At Fluid Management Systems (FMS), we understand that water management can quickly become a critical- path issue on a construction project. Our team provides professional dewatering solutions, well point systems, vacuum truck services, and sediment tank solutions designed to help contractors maintain safe, productive jobsites and keep their schedules moving forward. From initial planning through field execution, FMS combines experienced crews, modern equipment, and practical solutions tailored to the conditions of each project.

Our capabilities allow us to support contractors through multiple phases of construction. Whether controlling groundwater for deep excavations and underground utilities, designing and installing well point systems, providing vacuum services for demanding site conditions, or managing water and sediment before discharge, FMS focuses on responsiveness, safety, and reliable execution. When conditions change in the field, our goal is simple: respond quickly, solve the problem, and minimize disruption to your operation.

As FMS continues expanding its presence throughout Jacksonville, Savannah, and surrounding markets, we are looking to build long-term relationships with general contractors, civil contractors, utility contractors, municipalities, and infrastructure partners. We want to be more than another vendor on your list—we want to become the team you call when your project needs a dependable fluid-management solution. Connect with FMS before your next project begins and let us help keep your jobsite dry, productive, and moving forward.



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2026 NUCA NF Fishing Tournament Sponsors



A.J. Johns, Inc.



UP TIME MATTERS



2026 Fishing Tournament Winners

Fishing Diva

1. **JosieSimmons-Vallencourt Construction**

Red Fish Most Spots

1. **AlleNipper-United Rentals Fluid Solutions**

Spotted Sea Trout

1. **Troy Halloway - Company Wrench**
2. **Awsten Yonn - United Rentals Fluid Solutions**
3. **Tony Kraus - Petticoat Schmitt**

Red Fish

1. **Awsten Yonn - United Rentals Fluid Solutions**
2. **Hunter Paholsky - Opifex-Synergy**
3. **Chris Allen - Opifex Synergy**

Flounder

1. **Justin Siler - Ferguson**
2. **Josh Moncrief - Alta**
3. **3.TrinaMoncrief - Alta**

King Fish

1. **JosieSimmons - Vallencourt Construction**

All Other Species

1. **Black Drum - Lauren Atwell - Petticoat Schmitt**
2. **Black Drum Tony Kraus - Petticoat Schmitt**
3. **Black Drum - Mason Higgonbotham - FL Pumping Sol**

Heaviest Legal Fish

- 13 & Under - **JosieSimmons - Vallencourt Construction**

Grand Prizes

13 & Under

1. **Hunter Paholsky - Opifex-Synergy**

Adult

1. **Lauren Atwell - Petticoat Schmitt**

NUCA NF 2026 Fishing Tournament



Tony Zebouni, vice-chair of the NUCANF legislative Committee met with Gubenatorial candidate Byron Donalds. Mr. Donalds is aware of infrastructure issues facing Florida and has been a friend of NUCA throught the years, as has his runniung mate Sen. Bryan Avila. Their past support for NUCA issues warrants our support.



NUCA
NORTH FLORIDA
GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP

MEETING

Join NUCA NF for an exciting evening!

Guest Speakers:

Congressman Rutherford

Representative Black

Enjoy the opportunity to hear from North Florida
Representatives

&

Network with Fellow NUCA North Florida
Members!!!

OCT 8, 2026

**6PM-
8PM**

MAGGIANO'S LITTLE ITALY,
10367 MIDTOWN PARKWAY, JACKSONVILLE,
FL 32246

RSVP BY OCT 1 - No Charge for This Event

To Register Click **Here** or
email nucanfgmail.com



September 15th — 18th

Putting safety and damage prevention in the spotlight! Join us at our annual gathering, where safety and damage prevention professionals from diverse sectors will unite at the Safety Damage Prevention Conference in Louisville, KY. The conference will highlight various safety and damage prevention challenges impacting the utility construction industry.

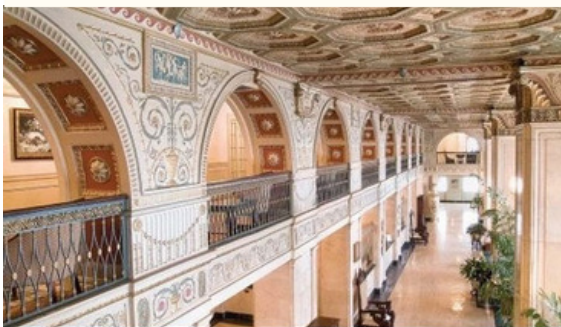
Attendees will have opportunities to network and engage in discussions to develop strategies aimed at improving safety practices and tackling damage prevention issues.

REGISTRATION FEES

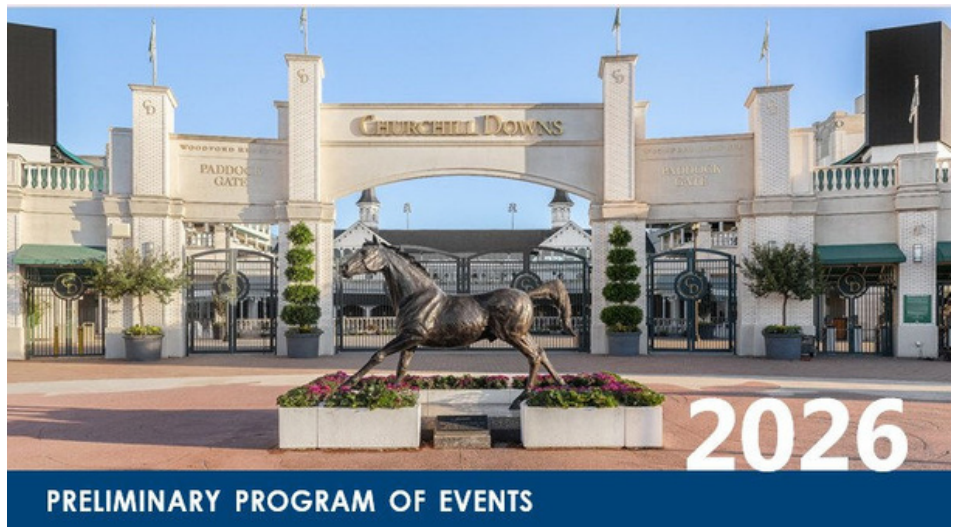
MEMBER: \$495
NON-MEMBER: \$595

HOTEL INFORMATION

The Historic Brown Hotel
335 W Broadway
Louisville, KY 40202



For more information & to register:
WWW.NUCA.COM/SDPC



SEPTEMBER 15th (Tuesday)

2:00pm - 3:00pm Registration & Safety Committee Meeting
3:00pm - 4:00pm Registration & Damage Prevention Committee Meeting
4:00pm - 6:00pm FREE TIME
6:00pm - 8:00pm Kentucky Chapter Welcome Reception - Rooftop of the Brown Hotel with Bourbon Tasting

SEPTEMBER 16th (Wednesday)

7:30am - 8:30am Registration & Networking Breakfast
8:30am - 9:30am Keynote Address: **Matt Compher**, Senior Vice President of Safety, Health, & Environmental of Quanta Services
9:30am - 10:30am Session 1: KY Highway Patrol - Mock DOT Roadside Inspection
10:30am - 10:50am Morning Break
10:50am - 11:50am Session 2: TENNA & Houchens Insurance Group - Transportation Accidents and Telematics (Real Life Scenarios)
11:50am - 12:50pm Session 3: Ogletree Deakins - Michael Rubin - Five (5) Defenses for an OSHA Citation
12:50pm - 1:50pm Lunch
1:50pm - 2:50pm Session 4: Milwaukee Tools - Session TBD
2:50pm - 3:10pm Afternoon Break
3:10pm - 4:10pm Session 5: **Brandon Anderson**, Vice President of Safety AGC of Missouri - Mental Health
4:10pm - 4:20pm Closing Remarks & Wrap-up
5:00pm - 7:00pm Networking Reception (Speed Dating)

SEPTEMBER 17th (Thursday)

7:30am - 8:30am Registration & Networking Breakfast
8:30am - 9:30am Session 1: Federal OSHA - OSHA updates
9:30am - 10:30am Morning Break - National Partner Exhibit Hall
10:30am - 11:30am Session 2: Mike Wallingford, Safety Director, Flynn Brothers Contracting Preparedness and Partnerships for Successful Emergencies
11:30am - 12:30pm Lunch
12:30pm - 1:30pm Session 3: United Rental - Rethinking Trench Safety
1:30pm - 2:30pm Afternoon Break - National Partner Exhibit Hall
2:30pm - 3:30pm Session 4: CAT Safety Services
3:30pm - 3:45pm Closing Remarks & Wrap-up
4:00pm - 4:30pm Load those Buses !!!
5:00pm - Off Site to Churchill Hill Downs Horse Racing!!!

SEPTEMBER 18th (Friday)

7:30am - 8:30am Registration & Networking Breakfast
8:30am - 9:30am Session 1: KY Task Team / 811
9:30am - 10:30am Session 2: Panel Discussion - Drugs in Construction
10:30am - 10:50am Morning Break
10:50am - 11:50am Session 3: Erika Lee, Executive Vice President, Common Ground Alliance
11:50am - 12:00pm Conference Closing Remarks
12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch

We Thank You and Hope to See You in Louisville!!!

NUCA 2026
INTERNATIONAL UTILITY & EDUCATION CONTRACTORS
OF FLORIDA

PRESIDENT'S CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT

BOARD MEETINGS/ COMMITTEE MEETINGS/ SOCIAL



**24-25
SEPTEMBER**

THURSDAY & FRIDAY

OMNI ORLANDO
RESORT @
CHAMPIONSGATE

Kick off the event by building connections with fellow industry leaders, meet and mix with NUCA of Florida's board and leadership during committee sessions and a lively reception—then gear up for some friendly competition at the President's Cup Golf Tournament!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- CHAPTER DIRECTORS:
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
- ADVOCACY: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
- CONFERENCE COMMITTEE:
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
- BOARD MEETING:
3:15 PM - 5:00 PM
- RECEPTION: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- 7:30 AM TOURNAMENT
REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST
- 8:30 GOLF START
- 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM AWARDS
LUNCHEON



REGISTER NOW!
\$1400.00 TEAM

Register
NOW

**ROOM BLOCK
CLICK HERE**





26TH ANNUAL ANDREW SCOTT JOHNSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION BASS TOURNAMENT

SAVE THE DATE



HEADWATERSLAKE

16955 Fellsmere Grade Rd.,
Fellsmere, FL 32948



NOVEMBER 12 - 14, 2026



HOTEL RESERVATIONS

CaptainHiram's Resort

Call 772-388-8588 to
make reservation with
group code ASJMST



CONTACT US



727-600-7158



theresa@nucaflorida.org