



NUCA's commitment to providing the best membership benefits to our members continued throughout 2023, with the introduction of NUCA Assurance and NUCA Choice. Both business insurance benefit programs deliver value and efficiency, and can even provide financial rewards to members in good standing.

## Accomplishments 2023

### **Streamlined Permitting Reforms Signed Into Law.**

NUCA worked with Congress to pass the first steps of permitting reform, including streamlining the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental review process. The new law designates a single lead federal agency to coordinate with other federal agencies and supervise the preparation of a single environmental permitting document. And it streamlines environmental documentation by revising the "One Federal Decision" approach to NEPA review, helping to simplify an already complex process.

### **New Safety Education Programs Introduced.**

Under safety director Mike Flowers, NUCA developed the Advanced Crew Leader Course for senior company leadership, holding its first class in April with NUCA of Colorado. Flowers also developed the first-ever Damage Prevention Train-the-Trainer course. Our Train-the-Trainer and Crew Leader programs continue to expand under safety director Mike Flowers, surpassing the previous two years for number of courses and attendees.

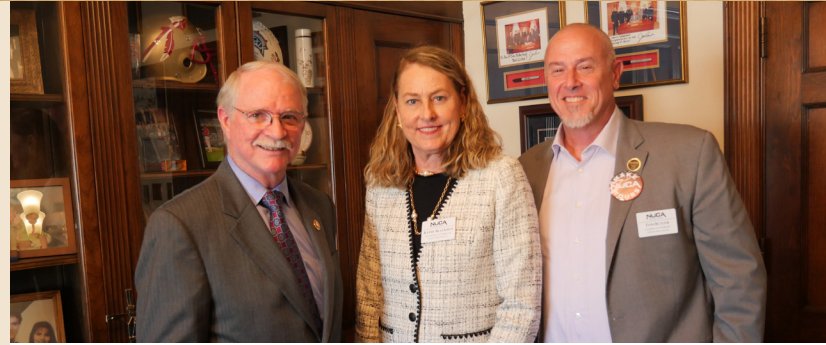
### **NUCA Joins Alliance to Prevent Excavation Hazards.**

In June, NUCA partnered with OSHA and other construction trade associations to form an alliance to reduce the number of trench and excavation hazards. Training resources in several languages are being developed by partners and will focus on trenching and excavation hazards.

### **NUCA Push Back On Unfavorable Administration Regulations.**

NUCA pushed back against several harmful and over-reaching Biden Administration policies, including Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) regulations that ultimately were overturned by the courts. Utility construction projects need predictability to make project deadlines and contain costs, so the rollback of confusing WOTUS rules was welcomed by NUCA members.

***Thanks to our 2023 National Partners for their generous support throughout the year!***



*NUCA Chairman Tom Butler (r.) and NUCA of North Florida's Kathy Blackman discussed water infrastructure funding with Rep. John Rutherford (R-FL) at the May 2023 Washington Summit.*

### **Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA)**

**Changes.** NUCA fought for contractors and associate members to ensure that BABAA regulations are administered fairly while ensuring material availability. NUCA was successful in clarifying or explicitly removing several material categories from the law's scope, such as excluding temporary items like equipment, as well as removing from BABAA rules paint/stains/coatings and certain aggregates.

### **NUCA's Chapter Network Continues To Grow.**

NUCA continued in 2023 a recent trend of chartering multiple new NUCA Chapters charter each year. The new NUCA Austin and NUCA of Oklahoma chapters are now delivering to the success of their members. NUCA's chapter growth outlook is just as strong for 2024, with new chapter formations in varying stages in New York, Boise/Southern Idaho, and Utah.

### **Washington Summit Advocacy Program.**

The 2023 Summit brought 110 attendees and Chapter leadership to Washington on May 15-17. In the 106 meetings held with legislators and their staff, NUCA members urged lawmakers to implement IIJA broadband funding, permitting reforms, and support legislation on increasing the use of private activity bonds. A virtual Summit will be held Nov. 8 to discuss with lawmakers FY2024 water infrastructure funding and the critical functions our projects provide to every American community.

**NUCA Membership Growth.** Around the utility construction industry, it is now seen to be a poor business decision not to be a NUCA member. Over 83% of NUCA members renewed their membership in 2023, resulting in almost 2,000 companies strengthening the American utility construction industry.

**NUCA Benefits Program Continues To Grow.** Our association member benefits program expanded again in 2023 with two new major benefits. NUCA Assurance is a construction-focused group captive insurance program, offering members workers' compensation, general and auto liability, and auto physical damage, plus surplus distribution eligibility. NUCA Choice offers general business insurance policies covering auto, crime, general liability, surety, umbrella, and other products.

**2023 Trench Safety Stand Down (TSSD) Week.** Safety never takes a rest, so the results of the 2023 TSSD Week, June 19-23, sponsored by NUCA and the Safety Ambassadors Club, remained encouraging as this popular NUCA program continues to emphasize our industry's message of safety. More than 25,800 workers on 2,487 jobsites from 455 organizations participated this year, a significant increase over 2022.

**NUCA-STAR Company Safety Program Grows.** Launched in 2022, the NUCA-STAR program continues to emphasize safety is NUCA and the utility construction industry's first priority. The NUCA Safety, Training, Awareness and Recognition (NUCA-STAR) Program helps evaluate, update, and recognize a member company's safety program and practices. The number of NUCA-STAR participants doubled from last year, with six companies achieving the top Platinum status.

**Webinars & Podcasts On Latest Industry Topics.** NUCA continued holding webinars on breaking industry topics throughout the year, including a September webinar on Davis-Bacon Act changes affecting NUCA members working as federal contractors. NUCA's popular podcast "Dig This!" continues to explore industry newsmakers, personalities, and the world of NUCA and utility construction, with 12 episodes released this year.

**Scholarships.** NUCA awarded four scholarships in 2023 to students of industry members through its Foundation for Education and Research.

**NUCA Pledges Open Industry Discussions To Prevent Suicide.** Pledging to deliver a welcoming environment to its member's employees, executives of the U.S. utility construction industry and NUCA in February signed a joint proclamation to reduce construction industry suicides. The proclamation was signed by NUCA CEO Doug Carlson, two NUCA Chapter executive directors, and 16 other construction associations.

**NUCA 2023 Convention & Exhibit.** This year's convention was split into two events, opening with the one-day March Las Vegas event coinciding with the industry trade show CONEXPO/CON-AGG. NUCA's new leadership was sworn into office and our new chapter was formally inducted. Members traveled to the fall Convention & Exhibit in Naples, Florida, on Oct. 25-28, with 300 NUCA members relaxing and participating in National Partner-sponsored social events while building their business through educational sessions and speakers.

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



*Caption: NUCA Austin's Robert Farrow was welcomed as NUCA's newest Chapter leader at the March 13 Annual Meeting in Las Vegas.*

As a NUCA member, you have access to a vast amount of industry news and information. Please visit our Website, [www.nuca.com](http://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 Lauren Hensley, [lauren@nuca.com](mailto:lauren@nuca.com). We want to make sure you get the most out of your NUCA National and Chapter membership in 2023 and the years beyond.