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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How Time Flies

When I was a young man, my father used to tell me that the years fly by much more quickly as one gets older. I'm sure I probably looked at him as if he were from another planet. Trouble is, as I have aged, I've come to realize that he was right. It seems like just last week we were gathering in San Diego for EXPO '06 and now, in just a few months, we'll be heading off to Las Vegas for EXPO '07. Don't shut your eyes too long around here. You might miss something!



One way to retard the onrush of time is to pause for a moment and look back. Like most years, 2006 brought us challenges and rewards, disappointments and celebrations, victories and, yes, a few defeats. It was quite a ride, but thanks to the hard work of the NUCA membership and staff, we managed to get some great work done, not only for the advancement of our members and their companies, but also for the betterment of the industry. While space prevents me from mentioning each and every accomplishment, I want to hit the highlights.

On the legislative front, the NUCA staff worked tirelessly to protect our interests on Capitol Hill. We kicked off the "Americans for Pure Water" campaign, including a new Web site, which brings home the message that our water and sewer infrastructure is in dire need of repair and that increased federal funding is vital. We worked with numerous coalitions on a variety of important issues, including immigration reform, transportation funding, estate tax repeal and small business health plans. Over the summer months, the Government Relations staff worked to ensure that the bill to reauthorize the Pipeline Safety Act will not include unfair enforcement measures against the excavation community.

In the area of safety, we trained personnel across the United States through OSHA 10-Hour, Excavation & Competent Person, Train-the-Trainer and refresher courses. We also held an extremely successful Safety Directors Forum emphasizing risk management in Dallas. Additionally, more than 300 construction supervisors in six states were trained in the NUCA Foundation's Leadership Skills for Crew Leaders program. The Foundation also widely distributed a new Excavation Safety Orientation Program DVD, awarded five college scholarships and grants to seven NUCA Chapters for eight projects.

Finally, in furthering our plan to grow the organization, we twice exceeded our membership recruitment goals, and we have also solidified our budget position to operate effectively and expand. To better understand the scope of services and programs that NUCA staff and members accomplished for our industry this year, visit the NUCA Web site and look at "What Has NUCA Done for You Lately?" It is truly remarkable.

I encourage you to become involved with NUCA in 2007. Finalize those plans to be with us at EXPO '07 in Las Vegas (February), the Spring Meetings/Washington Summit (May) and the Fall Board Meeting (October). The year will fly, so try not to miss a thing.