

Vegas Baby, Vegas!

Utility Construction EXPO '07 Raises the Stakes

BY NICK ZUBKO,
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

For decades, Las Vegas has been a benchmark for success in entertainment. Especially back in the 1960s and '70s, some of the biggest names in music and comedy were springboarded to stardom after having the chance to play on a Vegas stage.



Today Las Vegas is still known as the "Entertainment Capital of the World" and is a regularly featured backdrop for several films and television programs. But Vegas is also much different than it was 30 years ago. Throughout the 1990s, the city saw massive redevelopment that moved the bulk of the city's hustle and bustle from downtown to the famous Las Vegas Strip.

In addition, the city's wealth of entertainment options has made it one of the most popular locations for conventions and trade shows in the country. Just about every week, thousands of people invade Las Vegas to attend conventions. This year, NUCA brings its Utility Construction EXPO '07 to Las Vegas to give attendees the high-

est quality educational program and exhibits, plus a taste of the Vegas lifestyle.

Utility construction professionals are expected to flock to Caesars Palace from Feb. 11-14 for this year's EXPO, which will feature more than 100 manufacturers and suppliers slated to give attendees a firsthand look at the latest technologies, products and services available for today's utility contractor. Known as one of the most famous and prestigious resorts in the world, Caesars Palace offers impeccable service, luxury and all the little details that can transform a routine visit into a spectacular experience.

Guests will get their first taste of what EXPO '07 has to offer at the welcome reception on Sunday

evening. Sponsored by Caterpillar Inc., the reception will feature a beginner's course giving novice gamblers a rundown of the rules and a few "tricks of the table" to prepare for a game of poker or blackjack, or a spin of the roulette wheel.

The week is officially kicked off on Monday morning, when construction comic Carmen Ciricillo entertains guests at the opening breakfast with his unique routine about life as a contractor. Ciricillo has performed at clubs nationally and was cast on the television game show "Hold Everything." He was a regular at the Santa Monica Improv and wrote a unique and entertaining routine about his family's construction business. Sponsored by Case Construction Equipment, the



EXPO '07

Schedule of Events



Sunday, Feb. 11, 2007

NUCA Golf Tournament	7:30 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.
Exhibitor Registration Open	7:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.
EXPO Registration Open	12:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.
Welcome Reception	5:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 12, 2007

Opening Breakfast with Carmen Ciricillo	8:00 a.m. — 9:30 a.m.
Exhibit Hall Grand Opening	9:30 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.
Committee Meetings	10:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
NUCA Auction	5:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2007

Exhibit Hall Open	8:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.
General Session on Leadership, Integrity, and Resilience, featuring Scott Waddle, USN (Ret.)	1:00 a.m. — 1:50 p.m.

Education Break-out Sessions

How to Manage an OSHA Inspection Effectively	2:00 p.m. — 2:50 p.m.
Industry Economic Forecast	2:00 p.m. — 2:50 p.m.
ID Theft Prevention and Survival	2:00 p.m. — 2:50 p.m.
How to Manage an OSHA Hearing Effectively	3:00 p.m. — 3:50 p.m.
Handling Price Escalation Clauses	3:00 p.m. — 3:50 p.m.
New Technology Showcase	3:00 p.m. — 3:50 p.m.
A Taste of NUCA's Crew Leader Development Program	4:00 p.m. — 4:50 p.m.
The Real Deal on I-9 Verification and Enforcement	4:00 p.m. — 4:50 p.m.
The Great Fleet Management Shootout	4:00 p.m. — 4:50 p.m.
Elvis Lives! — Party in the Exhibit Hall	5:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.
President's Club Dinner (by invitation only)	7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Keynote Breakfast "A Morning with Phil Simms"	8:00 a.m. — 9:30 a.m.
Exhibit Hall Open	9:30 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.
Executive Committee Meeting	9:45 a.m. — 11:15 a.m.
General Session on Workforce Retention, featuring Carol Ann Caccioppoli	1:00 p.m. — 2:15pm

Education Break-out Sessions

Multi-Employer Safety	2:20 p.m. — 3:20 p.m.
Concerns for Contractors in 2007	2:20 p.m. — 3:20 p.m.
COOP: What it is and Why You Should Care	2:20 p.m. — 3:20 p.m.
Board of Directors and Annual Membership Meeting	3:30 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.
President's Banquet and Valentine's Dance	7:00 p.m. — 11:00 p.m.

breakfast will also feature the presentation of the 2006 NUCA Associate of the Year Award and several exciting door prizes.

Once the exhibit hall opens after the opening breakfast, NUCA committees will convene, including education, damage prevention, government relations, member and chapter relations, trenchless technology and political action. But to keep the action alive on Monday night, NUCA will present its annual auction, featuring the theme of a Caesar & Cleopatra toga party. Co-sponsored by Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers and CNA Commercial Insurance, all of the auction's proceeds will be dedicated to programs that directly benefit the utility construction industry.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Phil Simms

Phil Simms, the 15-year NFL veteran, Super Bowl XXI MVP, lead game analyst on "The NFL on CBS" and father of Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Chris Simms will deliver the keynote address at Utility Construction EXPO '07 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. Scheduled for the final day of the EXPO, "A Morning with Phil Simms" will be sponsored by John Deere Construction & Forestry Division/Hitachi.



NFL great Phil Simms will deliver the keynote address.

Drafted out of Morehead State University in the first round of the 1979 draft by the New York Giants, Simms showed promise as a rookie but his potential seemed unlikely to be fulfilled as injuries forced him to sit out at least part of four successive seasons. Ultimately, it was his tenacity, disciplined work habits, and fearless composure that not only earned him the respect of his teammates and head coach Bill Parcells, but also enabled him to emerge as the team's offensive leader.

Many consider Simms' performance in Super Bowl XXI (1987), when the Giants defeated the Denver Broncos 39-20, to be the best ever played by a quarterback. Although the Giants had a legendary defense, their offense was matched by John Elway and the Broncos. Despite that, Simms finished the game completing 22 of 25 passes (10 in a row in the second half) for 268 yards and three touchdowns. His 88 percent completion percentage not only set a Super Bowl record, but also an NFL postseason record.

Simms was again leading New York to the playoffs when, in 1990, a broken foot forced him to the sidelines. From there, he watched as his substitute Jeff Hostetler guided the Giants to their second Super Bowl win in five seasons. Simms and Hostetler competed for the starting job in 1991 and 1992, a period of disarray during which the Giants compiled a two-season record of 14 and 18 under the tutelage of Parcells' successor Ray Handley. In 1993, new head coach Dan Reeves returned the offense to Simms, who took the team to the playoffs with a Pro Bowl season.

After his retirement as a player in 1994, Simms went on to join NBC's lead broadcast crew, teaming with Dick Enberg and Paul Maguire on that network's coverage of Super Bowl XXX and Super Bowl XXXII. In 1998, he moved to CBS, teaming first with Greg Gumbel and currently with Jim Nantz on the lead broadcast team. Simms, who owns virtually all major New York Giants passing records, remains a legend in the minds of Giants fans.

Simms will deliver the Keynote Address at the final breakfast on Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 8 a.m.

Following a continental breakfast in the exhibit hall Tuesday morning, attendees are free to roam the exhibit hall and meet some of the industry's premier suppliers, enjoy a variety of fun-filled games and win valuable door prizes. A special general session kicks off the afternoon, with former naval officer and leadership expert Scott Waddle, who was handpicked in 1998 to command the nuclear submarine USS Greeneville and its 140-man crew.

Facing low morale and high turnover, Waddle turned things around for the USS Greeneville, which became regarded as the finest submarine in the Pacific Fleet. But he faced his ultimate test after a tragic accident, in which an emergency surface maneuver ended in a collision that sunk a 500-ton Japanese fishing training vessel and killed nine onboard. Waddle's presentation, "Failure Is Not Final," tells his inspirational story.

For the rest of the afternoon, attendees are invited back into the classroom to sit in on a few of NUCA's new educational sessions. Tuesday's sessions cover topics including, "How to Effectively Manage an OSHA Inspection," "Industry Economic Forecast," "Don't Let Someone Steal Your Good Name," "Handling Price Escalation Clauses," "New Technology Showcase," "A Taste of NUCA's Crew Leader Development Program," "I-9 Verification and Enforcement," and "The Great Fleet Management Shootout."

For a chance to unwind, attendees are invited to the "Elvis Lives!" party in the exhibit hall later that night. You'll feel like part of the Rat Pack as you rub elbows with Sammy Davis Jr. and Marilyn Monroe at this old-time Vegas extravaganza. Hit one of the retro martini bars and bop the night away to the coolest of tunes. And no Vegas party is complete without an appearance by the King ... or several Kings. And if you get a photo, don't forget to say, "Thank you very much."

On Wednesday morning, the keynote breakfast will feature none other than NFL legend Phil Simms. Sponsored by John Deere Construction and Forestry Division/Hitachi, "A Morning with Phil Simms," features New York Giant legend and Super Bowl MVP, who brings his down-home wisdom, hard-work message and bevy of stories from the pro football trenches to this year's Keynote Breakfast. NUCA will also present its 2006 Ditchdigger of the Year Award at the breakfast.

Following the executive committee meeting, general sessions will start up again, covering important issues in utility construction including "Workforce Retention: The Employee Turnover Epidemic in Construction and How to Stop It," "Multi-Employer Safety," "Concerns for Contractors in 2007," and "COOP: What It Is and Why You Should Care."

At the closing President's Banquet and Valentine's Dance, red roses and romance are the headliners at a formal black-and-gold themed event. Guests will enjoy an elegant dinner followed by dancing to a wonderful band. The evening's festivities also include the swearing in of NUCA's 2007-2008 officers. **UC**

EXPO '07 Educational Sessions

How to Effectively Manage an OSHA Inspection

This interactive session employs a simulated construction site scenario to demonstrate how an actual OSHA inspection should be handled in the field to limit citations and penalties. You gain insights about what to expect from an inspection and better understand your rights as an employer during the inspection.

Presented by George Kennedy, CSP, NUCA Vice President of Safety and special guests.

Industry Economic Forecast

This annual session is an excellent business planning tool for the next 12 to 18 months and beyond. Gain insights and find answers to the key economic issues affecting the industry and your business.

Presented by Jim Haughey, chief economist, Reed Construction Data.

Don't Let Someone Steal Your Good Name

Identity theft simply cannot be stopped. Fortunately, experienced detectives Bruce Peterson and Nick Sabetta tell you how to greatly reduce your chances of becoming an identity-theft victim through seven important action steps.

Presented by Detectives Bruce Peterson, Fairfield Police Department, Fairfield, Conn., and Nick Sabetta, Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police

How to Effectively Manage an OSHA Hearing

Using the construction site scenario from the simulated OSHA inspection immediately preceding this session, experienced members of the Construction Attorneys Forum will take over and demonstrate how to effectively handle both informal and administrative OSHA hearings. You will learn how to get fines and penalties reduced and even withdrawn.

Presented by the NUCA Construction Attorneys Forum

Handling Price Escalation Clauses

Contractors are getting hammered by price escalation clauses covering construction materials and fuels. A panel of experts discusses how you can prepare bids to minimize your risk and effectively pursue claims in the current business environment.

Presented by the NUCA Construction Attorneys Forum

New Technology Showcase

Selected presenters make brief presentations about promising new and innovative technologies that can be applied in the utility construction industry. Handouts and demonstrations accompany each presentation. Speakers will be available for additional individual discussions.

Moderated by Scott Lee, Komatsu America International Co.

A Taste of NUCA's Crew Leader Development Program

A one-hour version of the NUCA Foundation's two-day Leadership Skills for Crew Leaders course currently offered across the country. Owners and managers will get a feel for the course's content — people management skills, basics of safety management, and effective project control — so they can evaluate the potential benefits of offering it to their employees.

Presented by Greg Strudwick, NUCA Foundation Crew Leader Instructor

I-9 Verification and Enforcement

A recognized expert on immigration issues explores the legal and practical steps employers should take to comply with the relevant laws and regulations and properly document that compliance. Audience members will have the opportunity to ask questions and share their experiences.

Presented by Daniel L. Palmquist of Leonard, Street and Deinhard, Minneapolis, Minn.

The Great Fleet Management Shootout

Great breakthroughs have been made in fleet management and practice. Learn from a panel of competitors how contractors, big and small, can use new technologies to manage the location, maintenance and costs of varied and complex fleets.

Moderated by Bernie Krzys, Publisher, Benjamin Media.

The Employee Turnover Epidemic in Construction and How to Stop It

Topical employee turnover trends and retention insights tailored to mid-sized utility construction firms are the focus of this session, which is designed to help you turn the tables on turnover.

Presented by Carol Ann Caccioppoli, Retensa

Multi-Employer Safety

An OSHA representative details the best policies and practices contractors should follow to ensure compliance with the relevant laws and regulations regarding multi-employer jobsites.

Presented by Camille Villanova, Construction Specialist, OSHA

Concerns for Contractors in 2007

In this lively and interactive session, members of NUCA's Construction Attorneys Forum will update attendees about the latest laws and legal decisions that impact the utility construction industry.

Presented by the NUCA Construction Attorneys Forum

COOP: What It Is and Why You Should Care

Following a disaster, a Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) plan can identify exactly how to take immediate action. Learn from an expert with hands-on experience how to develop the elements of a plan for your unique business.

Presented by Tim Gallagher, retired Phoenix Fire Department Division Chief and former Urban Search and Rescue Team Leader

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