

Publisher
Bernard P. Krzys — bkrzys@benjaminmedia.com

Associate Publisher
Robert D. Krzys — robk@benjaminmedia.com

Editor
James W. Rush — jrush@benjaminmedia.com

Associate Editor
Nick Zubko — nzubko@benjaminmedia.com

Assistant Editor
Jason Morgan — jmorgan@benjaminmedia.com

Creative Director
W.M. Conley — mconley@benjaminmedia.com

Graphic Designer
Elizabeth C. Stull — estull@benjaminmedia.com

Marketing Manager
Pete McNeil — pmcneil@benjaminmedia.com

Regional Sales Representative
Ryan Snelitzer — rsnelitzer@benjaminmedia.com

Circulation Coordinator
Alexis R. Tarbet — atarbet@benjaminmedia.com

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Chief Operating Officer
Linda Holtz — linda@nuca.com

Director of Communications
Susan Williams — susan@nuca.com

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Benjamin Media PO Box 190 Peninsula, OH 44264-0190 USA.

A Great Season



I suppose it's true of most business pursuits, but I know that in the utility contracting industry we tend to measure ourselves in terms of seasons. Since a lot of us have a little more downtime in the winter, it's the ideal time to take stock of our last "season" or business year and look forward to the next one. As we gather this month at EXPO '07 in Las Vegas, you will probably overhear conversations that include the following questions: "How was your year? What do you expect for the rest of 2007?" The answers will be as varied and complex as the nation itself.

As an association, NUCA members can be very proud of the "season" that we are closing out this month. Facing the challenges of chapter standardization and a new dues structure, we buckled up and got on with the business of being the best representative body for the utility contracting industry. We exceeded our new member projections for the year, and we surpassed our budget projections by a large margin. Our education, safety and training programs remain the best in the business, with new products both unveiled and in process. Overcoming congressional apathy and opposition, our NUCA legislative team remained the leaders on the Hill for our issues and successfully battled balance into the Pipeline Safety Bill.

It was my great privilege to travel around this country this year and visit with many members. I discovered that while we are all different in what we do and how we do it, we all share a passion for this business. It is also very clear that by coming through our recent challenges, NUCA is a revitalized organization and that there is a new shared enthusiasm for our purpose and mission.

I encourage all of you to get involved with the National Utility Contractors Association. Make sure you are taking advantage of all that NUCA has to offer you and your business in order to better your chance of success. Help us promote our association to others while we continue to improve, protect and advance our industry.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your NUCA President for 2006. The great staff and volunteer leadership of this organization have made my job an easy one. I just got to be the lucky one up front for a time.

It was a great season.

Regards,

Jim A. Stutler

