

With a Tap on the Shoulder



When I was in high school, I remember sitting in assemblies while “tapping” ceremonies were going on. Students would work their way up and down and from side to side through the bleachers, all the while trying to deceive the new inductees of honor clubs. Eventually they would ease behind and tap unsuspecting classmates on the shoulder. That was the way membership in the Key and Beta Clubs was built in my school. There was not much students could do to ensure their membership other than being good citizens and waiting for that little tap on the shoulder. I remember well the feelings of elation and relief when I received that tap. It meant I was included. I was officially a “member.”

This issue of the *Utility Contractor* contains a directory of all the members of the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA). It is a proverbial who's who of our industry. So how and why did all those people become members of NUCA? Unlike the high school clubs mentioned above, NUCA's membership is not built through a tapping ceremony. It requires a decision. As you thumb through the directory, you will see the names of contractors, associates and institutional members who as long ago as 1964 and as recently as a few weeks ago, decided that NUCA was and will continue to be the association that best represents their industry's interests in the advocacy, safety and professional education arenas.

One of the dictionary definitions of “member” is “a distinct part of a whole.” I like that definition. And, I think it accurately reflects NUCA's membership. Each one of us is different in the type of work we do, the part of the nation in which we do it and the size of our company in terms of employees and volume. As a result, we all bring a little something different to the organization. I believe that it is the distinctiveness of each part of the whole that makes our association great. It's also what makes this annual membership directory such a valuable resource. You can use it to find industry partners who will help you solve your problems and make your business thrive.

While this issue includes many great names, it is also missing many great names. There are contractors, associates and institutions out there that have not yet gotten the message that NUCA can do for them what they cannot always do for themselves acting alone. They are missing out on everything the association offers and we are missing out on what they can offer us.

So, if you are reading this and are not yet a member of NUCA, please imagine that I am behind you, gently tapping your shoulder. Will you accept the invitation?

Regards,

James King

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