

Dream Big

“What do you want to be when you grow up?”

Do you remember that question being posed to you as a child? Over the course of my childhood, I had several answers to that question. I started out wanting to be a firefighter, next a doctor, then a contractor and finally a professional ballplayer. While I did not achieve the ultimate as a ballplayer, I did become a contractor, so the act of dreaming and believing the dream attainable had validity.

If you know what you want, you can start preparing to do or be what you've dreamed. If you change your mind along the way, or circumstances change, that's okay. I've heard people my age jokingly (or not) say that they were still trying to decide what they wanted to be when they grew up. I say more power to those people. They are still open to new possibilities.

Back in 1964, when NUCA was born, the dream of its founders was to make it the unified voice of underground utility contractors. In the intervening years, we've become that and much more. We have the pieces in place — members, chapters, staff, structure. We have a solid mission that encompasses legislative/regulatory advocacy, safety promotion, and professional training. I think that now is the time for us to take up dreaming again.

What are some of the things you would like to see our association do and accomplish both now and in the future? What new member services and benefits would best serve you and your company? In short, what do you want NUCA to be when it grows up? I ask those questions seriously. As you ponder the future and dare to dream, please share your vision with us. Allow us all to see the future you imagine and help us achieve it.

Being a practical man, I want to close with a reminder of how such dreams become a reality. First of all, you do the “stand up and be counted” thing — you join us. Then, when your help is needed, you show up and lend a hand. This past year, as I've traveled around the country visiting NUCA chapters, I've been heartened to see so many doing just that. And, the results are tangible. Our ranks are swelling. Bills favorable to our industry are being advanced and passed. The cadre of NUCA safety instructors is growing, as is the number of workers trained. The NUCA Foundation for Education & Research is continually bringing out new resources to help your company's bottom line.

And just think — all this started with a really big dream shared by five men some 43 years ago!

Regards,



James King



BENJAMIN MEDIA Publishing Team

Publisher
Bernard P. Krzys — bkzys@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
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Circulation Manager
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NUCA Staff

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Chief Operating Officer
Linda Holtz — linda@nuca.com

Director of Communications
Susan Williams — susan@nuca.com

November 2007 Volume 31, Number 11 *Utility Contractor* (ISSN 1098-0342) is published monthly for the National Utility Contractors Association by Benjamin Media Inc., 1770 Main Street, PO Box 190, Peninsula, OH 44264. Periodicals postage paid at Peninsula, OH and additional office. Subscription price: \$1.50 per issue, \$15 per year. Foreign subscriptions: \$3 additional per year. Subscription rate for members is \$15, which is included in the dues. ©2007 NUCA. All rights reserved by the National Utility Contractors Association for articles contained herein except where otherwise noted. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted by any means without written permission from the publisher. Printed in the U.S.A.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Benjamin Media PO Box 190 Peninsula, OH 44264-0190 USA.