Fall Meeting
Annual Convention
Workforce
CONTENTS

04  Fall Meeting

08  Committee News

11  Safety Congress

12  Annual Convention

16  Workforce News

21  Industry News

22  Insights

25  Calendar

26  Member News
The mood was light despite the dreary weather as DCA members descended on the Big Apple for the annual Fall Meeting. Trickling in to New York City throughout the day on Monday, October 28, members made their way to the Westin New York at Times Square for a few days of association business, networking, theater, and culture among the big city lights.

The event began Monday evening with the networking reception at the One World Trade Center Observation Deck. A short subway journey took guests from the hotel to the tip of Manhattan where the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere offered a spectacular elevator ride to the top. As night fell over the city, the lights of New York glittered in every direction. Guests gathered to take in the view from the panoramic window walls. Cruise ships, tugs, and pleasure boats drifted by on the Hudson River, and the Statue of Liberty shined her light on the darkness of the bay. Food and drink flowed from the bar in the subdued light of the observation desk as a couple hundred members (along with their spouses) mingled and laughed. The DCA staff received many compliments on the incredible setting that night, and no one seemed in any hurry to return to the hotel.

Business began bright and early Tuesday morning with the Government Relations Committee meeting. Eben Wyman of Wyman Associates opened the meeting with a review of proposed pipeline safety legislation in the House and Senate from the Massachusetts delegation in both chambers. The D.C. fly-in group continues to protest ill-advised provisions in the bills such as requiring professional engineer (PE) stamps – a requirement also under consideration in the state houses of Connecticut and Rhode Island. Committee chairman Mark Albert noted that this requirement has already caused work delays in Massachusetts. Wyman described some recent improvement in the language of the bills on criminal protesting, but said he would continue to lobby for changing PE to “Subject Matter Expert” and other clarifications. A short discussion of Enhanced Positive Response from One Call came next, followed by an update on the Operator Qualification (OQ) program, the ongoing OQ pilot program in New Mexico, and SMS implementation efforts. The committee focused significant attention on hours of service limitations for construction drivers versus long-haul truckers. They also discussed the expanding problem of location failures and its associated costs in fines and work delays before wrapping up with a note on monitoring the effects of silica dust rules at job sites.

The HDD Committee began its meeting by announcing that the new HDD brochure has been printed. It is
available for members to distribute to educate the public that “we’re not fracking.” The committee also completed the rewriting of the Wikipedia entry for directional boring, which had been convoluted and difficult to understand, and noted that the Trenchlesspedia website is in fact still active. Wyman provided an update on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) guidance document for HDD plans and environmental review, which he said totally avoided anything prescriptive and adopted almost no changes that had been suggested by the DCA. The meeting ended with Jon Heinen of Right Turn Supply reminding everyone that the DCA will have a panel at the upcoming Underground Construction Technology (UCT) conference in January 2020 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Next came the Operator & Contractor Collaboration Panel, emceed by Dave Wisniewski of Vermeer Corp. The panel consisted of Anya Schoss and Ray Brumley, NiSource; DCA Vice President Ben Nelson, Michels Pacific Energy; and John Tully of NPL Construction. The panel began by announcing that the DCA had added well-known political strategist James Carville as a government lobbyist to appeal more to the liberal side of the aisle and balance the DCA’s conservative leanings. Discussion then turned to how utility provider NiSource addressed changing regulations in Pennsylvania by bringing in contractors as part of a team to develop better drilling plans. This approach helped reduce inadvertent returns (IRs) by 90 percent in the first year of implementation. Schoss noted that this level of collaboration with contractors is not typical, but it made a big difference and didn’t take a lot of work up front to initiate.

Next, the panel opened up a conversation regarding educating people in government and organizations about HDD. Panel members concluded that it would be most productive to focus education on more confrontational lawmakers and organizations like the EPA, as opposed to sympathetic ones who just nod their heads and agree. The panel said local officials deserved greater attention as well. Answering a question about how to create an atmosphere of trust, they recommended focusing on small victories — getting customers more involved in planning, quickly and carefully addressing customers’ and contractors’ concerns, and avoiding excessive starting and stopping of work where possible. Nelson recommended that the DCA hold this panel again at the next American Gas Association (AGA) meeting, prompting some talk on how to better get contractors to participate at AGA and encourage other utilities to do what NiSource is doing. The NiSource representatives concluded with their plans to develop a system to educate contractors on 100 percent environmental compliance.

The Safety/Risk Management Committee meeting featured speaker Ashley Smith from Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT). She began with a definition: Smuggling is a crime against a border, while trafficking is a crime against a person. There are more than 40 million victims of human trafficking worldwide — more enslaved than at any time in history. Trafficking is a $150 billion industry, second only to the drug trade, and can take the form of labor trafficking (for example, field, construction, and hotel workers) as well as sex trafficking. Because truck drivers frequent the same places where victims are often found — motels, truck stops, work sites, etc. — they are in a unique position to be the eyes and ears of law enforcement on the road. TAT offers video training for truckers to recognize the signs of trafficking and provides a hotline they can call to report suspicious activity. Smith provided wallet cards for everyone in attendance and described case studies from relevant companies such as Precision Pipeline and Whiting Petroleum. She also described TAT’s Shipping Partner Program, which is an opportunity for business owners who don’t employ drivers directly to offer training to their contractors. Smith ended her presentation by noting that TAT has trained almost 800,000 drivers to date, and the hotline has led to the recovery of 1,186 victims and counting. The meeting ended with a few notes about the upcoming Safety Congress and the new Safe Excavator app from Sander Resources, which collects confidential information to
provide safety data for better damage prevention efforts.

After lunch, DCA Executive Vice President Rob Darden opened the Town Hall & Business Session with the treasurer’s report, membership update, and schedule of upcoming events before turning the podium over to DCA President Mike Hickey of The Hallen Construction Co., Inc. The Networking Reception at One World Trade Center was particularly poignant for Hickey because he and The Hallen Construction Company had responded to the devastation of 9/11, and he had not returned to the site in the nearly 18 years since. He gave a moving presentation with a slideshow of his own photographs from the wreckage describing Hallen’s response to the disaster in the immediate aftermath, beginning the very same day of the attack. Hickey described their efforts to mobilize forces to restore electricity as quickly as possible. The lost generator capacity was enough to power the entire city of Buffalo, and the city’s immediate priority was to get the stock market back up and running as a symbol that they would not be defeated. The natural gas restoration work began the next day, requiring Hallen to train extra men for hazmat work and navigate three levels of security to access the site. Despite the desperate need, all workers had to pass a physical, and some were turned away. Hickey noted that Hallen employees were among the very few site workers wearing Tyvek suits and extensive protection. He discussed how they established communication protocols with Con Ed and handled scheduling and logistics operations, both vital elements in keeping site workers safe and coordinated. Hickey also thanked Hallen’s major client at that time, Keyspan, who allowed Hallen to shut down all of their New York operations for Keyspan in order to deploy personnel to the World Trade Center site. The room was silent during the slideshow of photos from Ground Zero, applauding Hickey and his team at the end for their bravery and dedication.

The final meeting of the day was the Workforce Development Committee. They announced that the long-awaited workforce development playbook had been introduced at September’s Dallas Workforce Summit. The playbook, previously tested by companies in a beta group, is 85 pages printed and also available electronically on the DCA website under Workforce Resources. The committee recommended sending it to members’ HR and marketing departments to begin putting its elements to work in recruiting. The Workforce Summit also included a panel with the Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD) and SkillsUSA. The main takeaway from the panel was that the best way to recruit young workers is to befriend local skills instructors, who know which students work hard and are willing to move for a job, in addition to other useful intel. After a brief discussion of DCA’s relations with SkillsUSA, the committee concluded business for the day.

For the evening, members were free to explore New York on their own. An early evening reception at the hotel gave everyone one last chance to mingle before heading off to the many theater productions nearby, to watch the World Series at a bar, or to one of the endless other possibilities that make New York a magnet for the world.

The next meeting will be the DCA 2020 Convention at the Boca Raton Resort & Club in Boca Raton, Florida, February 24-29. ▲
2019 Fall Meeting Networking Reception Sponsored by:

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Vacuworx
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Committee News

October 28 – 30, 2019 Meetings

2019 Board of Directors

The 2019 DCA Board of Directors met Wednesday, October 30, at the Westin New York at Times Square in New York City. Board members approved the 2020 Board of Directors ballot:

- President – Ben Nelson, Michels Pacific Energy Inc.
- Vice President – Ray Swerdfeger, K.R. Swerdfeger Construction Inc.
- Treasurer – Kevin Parker, Mears Group
- Immediate Past President – Mike Hickey, The Hallen Construction Co. Inc.
- Past President Director – Shepard Poole, The Hallen Construction Co. Inc.

Director nominees (three to be elected to a two-year term and one to be elected for a one-year term):

- Mark Albert, AGI Construction
- Dan Carson, Carson Corporation
- Bill Colson, Pre Tec Directional Drilling LLC
- Steve Dockendorf, NPL Construction
- Jim Lagios, Atlas Trenchless
- Jaeson Osborn, Primoris Services Corp.

Directors (one year remaining on a two-year term):

- Doug Anderson, Miller Pipeline
- Jeff Green, InfraSource
- Senior Associate Member Director – Woody Ferrell, Cross Country Infrastructure
- Director at Large (One year appointment) – Doug Reeves, Q3 Contracting Inc.

Junior Associate Member Director nominees (one to be elected for two-year term):

- Scott Cooper, Caterpillar Inc.
- Randy Rupp, Subsite/HammerHead

Complete information about the 2020 Board of Director nominees will appear in the Jan/Feb 2020 DCA News.
Elections will take place February 26, 2020, in conjunction with the 59th DCA Annual Convention in Boca Raton, Florida.

The board announced that the amounts for 2020-21 DCA-Dale R. Michels Scholarship and DCA-Curtis Allen Scholarship will total $135,000 based on the current allocation formula. The Board of Directors also approved $3,000 for the Upton Scholarship and received updates on the revenue initiative and the 2020 convention.

Government Relations Committee
The Government Relations Committee received updates on several pertinent topics. For more details about the following topics, please see the DCA Insights section of the DCA News.

- **Pending Pipeline Safety Act reauthorization** – The debate over the pipeline safety bill continues and will likely go into 2020. The House and Senate measures introduced by Senators Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren and House Representatives Lori Trahan and Seth Moulton, all Massachusetts Democrats, set the tone for the pipeline debate earlier this year. Other pipeline safety bills under consideration include legislation offered by the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Senate Commerce Committee, and a “clean” bill offered by Rep. Fred Upton (R-Mich.), which would merely authorize funding for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and provide “direct hire” authority for PHMSA to hire new pipeline inspectors.

- **OQ Integrity Program (OQIP) update** – Five DCA contractors are participating in the OQ Integrity Program (OQIP), which strives to increase the integrity of operator qualification programs maintained by both operators and contractors. The OQIP continues to be pilot tested in New Mexico, and pilot programs are being planned in other states.

- **Pipeline Safety Management Systems (SMS) template** – The SMS template is being finalized by the contractor associations that will sign on to the final product. At the same time, the template is also being reviewed by several associations representing pipeline operators. DCA plans to finalize the template by the end of the year and present it to PHMSA representatives as well as the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (pipeline inspectors) and other interested industry organizations.

The charge of the Government Relations Committee is to target specific regulatory and legislative items and report their findings through the following publications: DCA Insights, DCA News, and the DCA website. The current chairmen of the committee are Mark Albert of AGI Construction and John Lamerton of Wyo-Ben.

Safety/Risk Management Committee
The Safety/Risk Management Committee met Tuesday, October 29. Ashley Smith of Truckers Against Trafficking gave a very informative presentation on human trafficking and how companies can prevent and combat the issue. The committee reviewed the 2019 Arthur T. Everham Safety Award questionnaire and encouraged all contractors to submit their completed questionnaires no later than the January 7, 2020, deadline. The results and the number of entries per category will be reviewed at the February 25, 2020, Safety/Risk Management committee meeting. The awards will be presented at the February 26, 2020, Town Hall in conjunction with the DCA convention.

The 2020 Safety Congress will be March 30 – April 1 at the Hyatt Hotel in Austin, Texas. The vice chairmen for the event are Ken Crook of ARB and Caleb Scheve of Price Gregory Int’l. The committee encouraged attendees to send their safety personnel to the event. A complete schedule for the Safety Congress will be available at the February Safety/Risk Management Committee meeting, and registration will open in February 2020. The 2019 Safety Director of the Year and Person of the Year awards will be announced at the Safety Congress. The 2019 Benchmarking Survey will be sent to all contractors in March 2020 and the results will be presented at the July Safety/Risk Management committee meeting.

The charge of the Safety/Risk Management committee is to review all information concerning safety in the industry and safe jobsite practices. The committee also has oversight for the Arthur T. Everham Safety Award and the Annual Safety Congress. Dana Heieie of Southeast Directional Drilling and Bill Colson of Pre Tec Directional Drilling are the committee vice chairmen.

HDD Committee
Attendees of the HDD Committee received an update on past business items.

- **HDD flyer** – Attendees received a final tri-fold version of the HDD flyer. The flyer can be given to homeowners and government entities to demonstrate what HDD is. The most recent version of the flyer is available for download in the HDD Forums section of the DCA website, www.dcaweb.org, and the password protected HDD committee page.

(continued on pg. 10)
• **Wikipedia HDD update** – DCA members presented a summary of the changes to the updated directional boring page on Wikipedia. The page is located at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Directional_boring](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Directional_boring). The page can also be accessed by typing “Directional Boring Wikipedia” in any search engine. The revised page was completed by Dustin Kraft, Vermeer Corp., Grady Bell, JT Miller, and Dan Sharpe, Sharewell HDD.

• **HDD/ Government Relations Update** – Eben Wyman, Wyman Associates, gave a brief HDD legislative update on the final release of the “guidance” document by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The document addresses HDD monitoring, operations, and response to inadvertent returns (IRs). This document did not include most of the recommendations made by DCA members.

The charge of the HDD Committee is to support safety, training, technical developments, and voluntary operational guides that sustain professional practices and contractors in HDD. The vice-chairmen of the committee are Jeff Green of InfraSource and Randy Peterson of Wyo-Ben.

**Workforce Development Committee**

The Workforce Development Committee meeting updated attendees on efforts since the July Mid Year meeting.

The 2nd DCA Workforce Summit was September 18-20 at the Four Seasons in Las Colinas, Texas, with about 50 attendees. The event was once again led by Jason Dorsey and the Center for Generational Kinetics (CGK). Four hours of the summit focused on the newly released Playbook and ways to implement it into the attendees’ companies. The Playbook has been uploaded to a password protected section of the DCA website at [https://dcaweb.org/page/WorkforceFindings](https://dcaweb.org/page/WorkforceFindings). Post-event comments from the delegates were very positive.

The DCA website, [www.dcaweb.org](http://www.dcaweb.org), has new sections for the construction workforce and students. Students can now upload their resumes to be distributed to member companies. Workforce and student resource pages have also been added.

The charge of the Workforce Development Committee is to develop, coordinate, and implement strategies to support the growth of the expanding work force within the industry. The committee accomplishes this through the promotion of the industry as a career by using the vast knowledge and leadership of the DCA membership and promoting the coordination with other industry professionals and national organizations. Vivek Arora of Mears Group and Randy Rupp of Subsite/HammerHead are the vice-chairmen of the committee.

**Membership Committee**

Due to time constraints, the Membership Committee did not meet during the DCA Fall Meeting, but will meet Tuesday, February 25, in conjunction with the DCA convention. The charge of the Membership Committee is to actively solicit and evaluate potential DCA members and make recommendations on member programs and awards to help recruit and retain members in the association. Scott Cooper of Caterpillar and Dustin Mykyte of Pe Ben USA serve as vice-chairmen of the committee.

The next board of directors and committee meetings will be in conjunction with the 2020 DCA Convention, February 25-29, Boca Raton Resort & Club, Boca Raton, Florida.
Don’t Miss the 25th Annual DCA Safety Congress

Don’t miss the 25th Annual Safety Congress, March 30 – April 1, 2020, at the Hyatt Regency, Austin, Texas. We are featuring an internationally recognized expert in Organizational Culture and Behavior and Human Performance, Dr. Todd Conklin. Todd will be speaking on Human Performance and Building Capacity for Failure Into our Work Practices. In addition, the presentation of the DCA Safety Director and Safety Person of the Year awards and a Capital Cruise to see the famous Austin bats are on the agenda.

Co-chairs of the 2020 Safety Congress are Ken Crook, ARB and Caleb Scheve, Price Gregory. Registration and housing information will be available mid-January.
Each year, the DCA Annual Convention brings together hundreds of contractors and associate members in a relaxed, yet business-oriented, environment to hear from a variety of leaders of industry and other speakers. The major governance meeting of the year, it includes the full spectrum of committee meetings to plan the future direction of DCA and discuss new programs. During the convention, DCA announces its scholarship recipients, presents company safety awards, and recognizes members for their longtime support and service to the association.

The DCA 2020 Annual Convention will take place February 24-29 at Boca Raton Resort & Club, a Waldorf Astoria Resort in Boca Raton, Florida – often known simply as Boca.

The Boca Raton Resort was the brain child of Addison Mizner, a resort architect who heavily influenced the city’s early development in the 1920s. In 1925, Mizner announced his plan for “the foremost resort city on the North American continent, a new exclusive social capital in America.” Today, the massive luxury property is part of the Waldorf Astoria empire. Set within a backdrop of casual elegance, Boca’s amenities include two eighteen-hole championship golf courses, tennis courts, several pools, state-of-the-art fitness centers, a half-mile stretch of private beach, and world class spa. In addition, the Resort and Club features an outstanding selection of dining options. The hotel has welcomed guests from all over the world including royalty, heads of state, and celebrities.

The convention planning team – headed by DCA president Mike and Alice Hickey of The Hallen Construction Co., Island Park, New York, and Dale and Debbie Mykyte, Pe Ben USA, Houston – has put together an excellent lineup of business, off-site activities, and social events. They include the annual DCA golf tournament, snorkeling sail, deep sea fishing, catamaran sail, Everglades airboat tour, and Gulfstream Park horse racing.

According to the planners, this year’s live and silent auctions will be bigger and better than ever, packed with great items from drill bits to diamond earrings, and for the first time, the silent auction will be open to the entire DCA membership. The 2020 annual auction catalog will be available on the DCA website at www.dcaweb.org in February.

The annual convention also includes an exceptional list of speakers:

- Opening Keynote Breakfast - former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani.
- Group Breakfast - 2019 America’s Got Talent breakout stars Voices of Service.
- Closing Keynote Breakfast - political data expert and author Chris Stirewalt.
- Business Session - business expert and CPA Gene Marks.

The convention will wrap up with the President’s Reception and Dinner, USO through the Decades. For more than 80 years, live entertainment has been the mainstay of every USO show, with hundreds of celebrities answering the call. Music and dancing will go on long into the night (or wee hours of the morning). Come dressed in military attire or as your favorite USO entertainer from the past eight decades.

For registration and Boca Raton Resort & Club housing details, visit www.dcaweb.org. Don’t delay: Registration closes January 29, 2020. After that, housing is on a space available basis only.
Join these members and be a Convention Sponsor!

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Augers, Inc.</td>
<td>Golf Tournament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caterpillar, Inc.</td>
<td>Welcome Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Century Products, Inc.</td>
<td>First Timer’s Luncheon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Control, Inc.</td>
<td>Audio Visual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditch Witch</td>
<td>Group Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Express 4x4 Truck Rental</td>
<td>Silent Auction &amp; App</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting Trenchless</td>
<td>Closing Keynote Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Deere Construction &amp; Forestry Division</td>
<td>Opening Keynote Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Komatsu America Corporation</td>
<td>Closing Keynote Speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McElroy Manufacturing Inc.</td>
<td>Opening Keynote Speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newman Tractor</td>
<td>Group Breakfast Speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCE Equipment Solutions</td>
<td>Convention Schedule App</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers, Inc.</td>
<td>Live Auction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharewell HDD LLC</td>
<td>Board of Directors &amp; Leadership Council Luncheon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T T Technologies, Inc.</td>
<td>Past Presidents’ Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacuworx LLC</td>
<td>Registration Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermeer Corporation</td>
<td>President’s Dinner</td>
</tr>
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<td>Vermeer MV Solutions</td>
<td>President’s Reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volvo Construction Equipment</td>
<td>Auction Pre-Buffet</td>
</tr>
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### Gold Sponsors

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Convention Signs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandt Industries</td>
<td>Auction Desserts &amp; Drinks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridgewell Mats</td>
<td>Photography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Construction Equipment, Inc.</td>
<td>Photography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland Brothers Equipment Co. Inc.</td>
<td>Welcome Reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darby Equipment Co.</td>
<td>Final Night Gifts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCA Industry Advancement</td>
<td>Finishing touches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doosan Bobcat</td>
<td>Auction Desserts &amp; Drinks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabick CAT</td>
<td>Welcome Reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groebner</td>
<td>Wednesday Night Gifts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois Truck &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>Auction Desserts &amp; Drinks</td>
</tr>
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<td>ISCO Inc.</td>
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</tr>
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<td>International Union of Operating Engineers</td>
<td>Farewell Breakfast</td>
</tr>
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<td>LaValley Industries</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIUNA - DCA Trust</td>
<td>Farewell Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipeline Machinery International</td>
<td>Welcome Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pipe View America</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Right Turn Supply</td>
<td>Refreshment Breaks</td>
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<td>Ring-O-Matic</td>
<td>Tuesday Night Gifts</td>
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<td>Auction Desserts &amp; Drinks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subsite Electronics/ HammerHead</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>UA - DCA Trust</td>
<td>Finishing Touches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf Publishing</td>
<td>Morning Fun Run/Walk &amp; Shirts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underground Magnetics</td>
<td>Business Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Association</td>
<td>Farewell Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Rentals Trench Safety</td>
<td>Business Session</td>
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### Silver Sponsors

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<td>Auction Desserts &amp; Drinks</td>
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<td>Auction Desserts &amp; Drinks</td>
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<td>President’s Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Business Session</td>
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<td>Farewell Breakfast</td>
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<td>United Rentals Trench Safety</td>
<td>Business Session</td>
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<td>Morning Fun Run/Walk &amp; Shirts</td>
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<td>Business Session</td>
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<td>Business Session</td>
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### Bronze Sponsors

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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derrick Equipment</td>
<td>After Hours Nightcaps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditch Witch Mid-Sates</td>
<td>Group Breakfast</td>
</tr>
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<td>Group Breakfast</td>
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<td>Group Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
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<td>After Hours Nightcaps</td>
</tr>
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As of December 16, 2019

November/December 2019 15
DCA’s Response to the Workforce Challenge, Part 2
In the September/October issue of DCA News, we discussed how students, teachers, and guidance career counselors don’t seem to recognize that the pipeline construction industry exists, or the opportunity it presents.

Let’s pick up where we left off.

With infrastructure development forecasts in the U.S. and Canada requiring 725,000 skilled labor workers annually between now and 2035, the natural gas industry has a wide array of future career opportunities at all levels. Training is the key to seizing those opportunities, and DCA members have a great deal to offer:

- Free paid technical and skills training
- On the job mentoring
- Leadership/management programs
- Computer/mobile based learning
- A rewarding lifelong career
- Potential for rapid career advancement
- Widespread opportunities in every state

Over the past couple of years, DCA has made a concerted effort to cultivate partnerships with organizations that focus on different aspects of the workforce challenge:

- SkillsUSA
- The Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD)
- The Center for Generational Kinetics (CGK)
- The mikeroweWORKS Foundation

Each of these organizations has been a strong partner in DCA’s efforts to raise awareness of our industry.

In this issue we will focus on two organizations: SkillsUSA and mikeroweWORKS Foundation.

SkillsUSA

Overview
SkillsUSA is a national membership association serving high school, college, and middle school students who are preparing for careers or further education in trade, technical, and skilled service occupations. It is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce and helps each student excel.

Membership
More than 335,000 students and advisors join SkillsUSA each year, organized into more than 18,000 local chapters in 25,000 classrooms and 53 state and territorial associations. In 2017, 19,500 teachers served as professional members and SkillsUSA advisors. Combining alumni membership, the total number reached annually is over 400,000. SkillsUSA has served more than 12.5 million members since its founding in 1965.

Mission
SkillsUSA empowers its members to become world-class workers, leaders, and responsible American citizens. The
organization improves the quality of our nation’s future skilled workforce through the development of the SkillsUSA Framework that includes personal, workplace, and technical skills grounded in academics.

**Vision**
SkillsUSA produces the most highly skilled workforce in the world, providing every member the opportunity for career success.

**Partners**
More than 600 business, industry, and labor organizations actively support SkillsUSA at the national level through financial aid, in-kind contributions, and involvement of their people in SkillsUSA activities. Many more work directly with state associations and local chapters. The industry’s commitment to the annual national SkillsUSA Championships is valued at more than $36 million.

**Programs**
Local chapters conduct a full program of work and many students also attend a district or state conference. At the SkillsUSA Championships, more than 6,000 students compete in 100 occupational and leadership skill areas each June. These national technical competitions help establish industry standards for job skill training and entry-level workers. SkillsUSA is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a successful model of employer-driven youth development training.

**Resources**
SkillsUSA offers many resources for educators and students.

- The Chapter Excellence Program honors local chapter achievement around the SkillsUSA Framework.
- The SkillsUSA Career Essentials suite is a solution to industry and education needs in preparing career-ready students who are productive and promotable. Including *Foundations, Experiences, and Assessments*, the suite helps students develop the skills, attitudes, and values that allow them stand out from other applicants in the skilled labor marketplace.
- **Jump into STEM!** provides tools and activities for SkillsUSA members to help both elementary and middle school students take part in interactive career experiences.
- Student2Student Mentoring gives high school students opportunities to mentor younger students around career exploration.
- CareerSafe is a 10-hour online OSHA safety training program that provides students with a workplace credential.
- The SkillsUSA Championships Technical Standards is the official competition guide, with a full list of competencies as well as embedded academic skills.
- For more information: www.skillsusa.org.
The following is a blog post from the NCCER website, describing SkillsUSA. 9/28/2017, by Jennifer Wilkerson, Director of Marketing, Public Relations & Build Your Future @ NCCER.

The Talent is There, You Just Need to Get Involved

Talent and leadership are alive and well in America’s youth! Last summer, I attended the SkillsUSA National Championships in Louisville, Kentucky. First of all, WOW! 6,000 students competed in 100 competitions from baking to welding to graphic design to carpentry, all under one roof. These students are the best of the best skilled young people that America has to offer, and they were competing for the gold medal in just about every industry sector.

After seeing the competitions firsthand, I have to ask: Were you there? Did you attend your state’s SkillsUSA competition? Do you know what SkillsUSA is? As an industry, we cannot sit back and complain that we do not have enough skilled young people to fill our open positions if we are not willing to invest the time and energy into connecting with organizations that are doing it right. I am very lucky that my job allows me to travel around the country and meet the wonderful, hard-working people who make up the construction and maintenance industries. But at the same time, I am astounded at how many of them are unaware of SkillsUSA.

Formerly known as VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America), SkillsUSA started in 1965, and today there are 52 state and territorial associations that serve more than 300,000 students and advisers annually. SkillsUSA schools teach students not only technical skills that are defined by industry, but also professional development skills including team negotiation, dealing with stress, self-motivation techniques, goal setting, and financial planning, just to name a few. Students demonstrate these skills in the state and national competitions where they compete in written tests, interviews, and performance tests. These young people are well prepared to join the workforce not only as contributing members but future leaders. To really send the ball home, each year there are 61,000 students in the SkillsUSA architecture and construction cluster, and approximately 30,000 of them graduate annually. Think about those numbers the next time you are looking for talent. Whether you need to fill three or three hundred positions, SkillsUSA is a great place to start your search. To really send the ball home, each year there are 61,000 students in the SkillsUSA architecture and construction cluster, and approximately 30,000 of them graduate annually. Think about those numbers the next time you are looking for talent. Whether you need to fill three or three hundred positions, SkillsUSA is a great place to start your search. Each state has a director who can help you find schools in your area.

Everyone has a line or two they use when describing today’s youth and our education system, but words alone cannot fix the problems we are experiencing. We must step up and get involved. I had the privilege at SkillsUSA to listen to Doug Pruitt, chairman of Sundt Construction, speak about the importance of involvement. In his address he said, “Businesses all across America cannot wait around for someone to do this for them; you must get involved and play a major role in the education, training, and development process if you want to reverse the trend of an ever-growing unskilled workforce in our country.”

Get Involved

I challenge you to take one hour out of your week, locate the SkillsUSA director in your state, and find the SkillsUSA schools in your area. Ask the director what you can do to get involved or where to attend a local competition. Imagine if one hour could lead to two new recruits? What about ten new recruits? What about a pipeline of new recruits for the next five to ten years? This could be the best phone call you make all year. Enough talk, get involved!

mikeroweWORKS Foundation

What’s the Problem?

We’ve made work the enemy. America has become slowly but undeniably disconnected from the most fundamental elements of civilization – food, energy, education, and the very nature of work itself.

Over the last 30 years, America has convinced itself that the best path for the most people is an expensive, four-year degree. Pop culture has glorified the “corner office job” while unintentionally belittling the jobs that helped build the corner office. As a result, our society has devalued any other path to success and happiness. Community colleges, trade schools, and apprenticeship programs are labeled as “alternative.” Millions of well-intended parents and guidance counselors see apprenticeships and on-the-job training opportunities as “vocational consolation prizes,” best suited for those not cut out for the brass ring: a four-year degree. The push for higher education has coincided with the removal of vocational arts from high schools nationwide. And the effects of this one-two punch have laid the foundation for a widening skills gap and massive student loan debt.

Today, the skills gap is wider than it’s ever been. The cost of college tuition has soared faster than the cost of food, energy, real estate, and health care. Student loan

(continued on pg. 20)
debt is the second highest consumer debt category in the United States with more than 44 million borrowers who collectively owe more than $1.5 trillion. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are more than 7 million jobs available across the country, the majority of which don’t require a four-year degree. And still, we talk about millions of “shovel-ready” jobs for a society that doesn’t encourage people to pick up a shovel. We keep lending money we don’t have to people who can’t pay it back for jobs that don’t exist. Bit by bit, our culture reaffirms the misguided belief that a career in the skilled trades shouldn’t be desired. That lack of enthusiasm has reshaped our expectations of a “good job” into something that no longer resembles work.

How Do We Change the Prevailing Misperception about Skilled Labor?
Make work cool again. We are on a mission to help close the skills gap by challenging the stigmas and stereotypes that discourage people from pursuing the millions of available jobs. We’re redefining the definition of a good education and a good job because we don’t think a four-year degree is the best path for the most people. We want people to understand the impact of skilled labor on their lives, and we’re convinced that the solution must start with a new appreciation for hard work.

Each year, the mikeroweWORKS foundation gives away a modest pile of money through the Work Ethic Scholarship Program to help people get trained for skilled jobs that are in demand. It has been proven that opportunities in the trades aren’t alternatives to viable careers – they are viable careers. Through this program, mikeroweWORKS encourages people to learn a useful skill, and the foundation rewards those who demonstrate that they’ll work their butts off. When it comes to hard work, there is no alternative. Since their inception, they have granted, or helped facilitate the granting of, more than $5 million in Work Ethic scholarships and other like-minded programs or initiatives that also work to close the skills gap.

Over the past two years DCA’s partnership with Mike Rowe has grown, culminating in the production of his new show, The Way I Heard It, which will air in early 2020. The Way I Heard It is an entertaining romp through history that showcases the fascinating untold history behind iconic parts of American culture. Like How Booze Built America or Connections, each episode takes Mike on a Rube Goldberg-like journey that shows the circuitous path of how many iconic American things – from the Hubble Telescope, to the development of WiFi, to the creation of R2D2 – ultimately came to be. Each of those journeys will include a surprising connection to the history of power and energy and highlight how people working in oilfields, on powerlines, on pipelines, and in factories have been key cogs in the American machine. These episodes will be released on Mike’s Facebook page, where he speaks regularly to his engaged audience of more than 5.2 million followers, and on his YouTube channel. Mike will use his extensive social media network, including Twitter and Instagram, to promote the series, as well as promote it on TV shows, radio programs, and other interviews when appropriate.

DCA, along with the American Petroleum Institute (API) and Michels Corporation, has sponsored the series and will be highlighted in segments of the show promoting the benefits of the oil and gas industry and the great jobs available.

For Every Problem, a Solution
True, there is a workforce challenge. But there are also potential solutions. The organizations above, as well as groups like Helmets to Hardhats, the labor unions, FFA, First Robotics, and others, are tools to help DCA members tackle the problem. They’re only as good as the effort put in by individuals and companies to engage and take advantage of the tools available.

DCA has revamped the Workforce section of the website. Along with the CGK research and Take-Action Playbook, you will find other resources for employers and students. You company can post jobs and students can post resumes. There are also links to our partner sites as well as educational resources.

We encourage you to take advantage of these tools and let us know of anything we need to add. ▲
The NASTT 2020 No-Dig Show – owned by the North American Society for Trenchless Technology and planned with the help of Benjamin Media, Inc. – is a trenchless celebration that expertly combines professional and high-quality education and exhibits with fun and entertaining networking opportunities over the course of the five-day event. This annual conference brings together trenchless professionals across the industry to help maximize their investment in trenchless technologies, services and applications. The 2020 conference is expected to attract over 200 exhibitors and over 2,200 attendees who include public works, contractors, engineers, utility owners, damage prevention and industrial facility personnel.

The NASTT No-Dig Show blends education and technology through its topnotch Technical Program, which features over 160 peer-reviewed, high-quality technical papers, as well as opportunities for Continuing Education Units (CEUs). The topics focus on both the trenchless installation and rehabilitation industry.

The conference includes an Exhibit Hall and special networking events including a Kick-Off Breakfast, Gala Awards Dinner, NASTT’s Hall of Fame Induction, the 19th Annual Education Fund Auction and Reception and Closing Luncheon.

You can plan your NASTT 2020 No-Dig Show experience, learn about the networking events, view speaker information and connect with other attendees by using the official 2020 mobile event app, which is set to launch in January 2020.
Permitting Reform Remains a Priority on Many Fronts

When DCA expanded its government relations program in 2012, one of the first issues on the new agenda was pipeline permitting reform. It was clear that while there are limits to what the federal government can do to facilitate the permitting process of pipeline and other energy projects, especially because most of the problem lies within the states, the pipeline industry and its allies in Congress were interested in doing whatever they can. Since then, dozens of bills and executive actions have been introduced, debated and challenged, with some progress made but new challenges have surfaced.

Let FERC be FERC

The first bill DCA supported would merely confirm that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is the lead agency in the pipeline permitting process, and that other federal agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency, as well as the countless state-level agencies, would have to adhere to FERC’s timeline and ground rules for weighing in on pipeline project applications. In 2014, DCA testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee in support of the bill, which was authored by then Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-Kansas), who now serves as Secretary of State.

The Pompeo bill never crossed the finish line, nor did many iterations of it during debates of “comprehensive energy legislation” and other similar measures over the past several years, in large part because of a well-funded and coordinated environmental community that enjoyed a process that allows state entities to sit on permits year after year without any obligation to make a final decision. However, the Pompeo bill and its supporters set the stage for what is now a full court press in Congress and in the White House to implement real reforms to the currently flawed permitting process.

Trump Executive Orders Underscore a White House Priority

Even before taking office, President Trump made it clear that a main priority of his administration would be to streamline and update the review process related to energy infrastructure projects. In 2017, the president issued two executive orders (EOs) that required increased...
coordination among entities with a role in reviewing energy projects.

The first was issued in January 2017, where a Trump EO called for the identification of high priority infrastructure projects by the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) within 30 days of a request by a Governor of a State or the head of any executive agency. For any project designated as a high priority, the order required CEQ to “coordinate with the head of the relevant agency to establish, in a manner consistent with law, expedited procedures and deadlines for the completion of environmental reviews and approvals for such projects.” The EO also required that agencies give highest priority to “completing such reviews and approvals by the established deadlines using all necessary and appropriate means.”

In August of 2017, the president issued another EO “in order to ensure that the Federal environmental review and permitting process for infrastructure projects is coordinated, predictable, and transparent...” This EO was issued to promote agency performance accountability by requiring the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to establish a “cross-agency priority” (CAP) goal on infrastructure permitting that would:

• promote a “consistent, coordinated, predictable” federal environmental review process
• reduce the average environmental review and authorization period for major infrastructure projects to approximately two years

The EO required federal agencies with environmental review, authorization, or consultation responsibilities for infrastructure projects to modify their strategic plans and annual performance plans to include performance goals for completing environmental reviews and authorizations in accordance with the CAP goal. Finally, the EO looked to enhance and consolidate the environmental review and authorization process by establishing a “One Federal Decision” policy, which directed lead and cooperating agencies to approach environmental reviews of major infrastructure projects in a more coordinated manner.

In October of this year, the White House moved on a new plan to potentially change the way it issues environmental permits for infrastructure projects. To say that the latest permitting initiative is controversial would be a significant understatement. If the proposal is finalized, it would speed up National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews for not only pipelines, but roads, bridges, ports, power lines, Internet projects and water/wastewater systems.

While this is still several months from even issuing a proposal, the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) sent its proposed changes to the Office of Management and Budget, which could publish a proposed rule for public comment sometime in 2020.

“President Trump is delivering on his promise to streamline approvals and NEPA reform is another step in that direction,” said a White House spokesman in a recent interview on the subject. “The Trump administration is pursuing commonsense, meaningful reforms to ensure America can build the infrastructure we need to provide for economic growth and job creation.”

Environmentalists fear the proposal will dismantle NEPA protections, enacted in 1970 National as the nation’s first major environmental law. NEPA requires federal agencies to take a “hard look” at the environmental impacts of their decisions, including construction of infrastructure. Because the NEPA process is considered a “Holy Grail” issue among many environmental groups, any final rule that would adjust NEPA is almost certain to be challenged in court.

**Addressing Abuses of State Authority Under the Clean Water Act**

The Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1972 provided the foundation for regulating the discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States, which has been a hot topic in Washington, D.C., and among the states for the past several years. CWA Sec. 401 allows states to determine whether any discharges from infrastructure projects are in compliance with water quality standards for the area. While the intent is to ensure that states can more effectively regulate local land and infrastructure, several states have used this as a method to delay or create cost-prohibitive roadblocks to the development of interstate natural gas and oil pipelines.

For example, New York has used authority under CWA Sec. 401 to delay water quality certification because the State found that greenhouse gas emissions had not been properly assessed, which has repeatedly caused significant delays and effectively put a stop to natural gas pipelines moving into the Northeast.

In the last DCA Insights, we reported that the association signed onto a letter by the Energy Equipment and Infrastructure Alliance (EEIA) in support of a proposed rule issued by EPA intended to clarify both the intent and limits to CWA 401 authority. Over the summer, EPA proposed to establish standards for timely reviews of applications, ensure reviews are focused on areas intended by the statute, and set clear and consistent standards for implementation. EEIA’s letter underscored the need for this clarification, which would better ensure effective protection of our water resources, stating that the proposed rule would “provide clarity, consistency and regulatory certainty in the process for state and

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tribal execution of their authority under Section 401 by establishing standards for timely reviews of applications, focusing their scope to areas intended by the Clean Water Act, and setting clear and uniform standards for implementation.”

Since then, energy advocates in Congress have moved on the CWA 401 issue as well. On November 19th, the Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee held a hearing to discuss issues related to CWA 401 and legislation to address them. EPW Committee Chairman John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) provided introductory remarks about the CWA 401 and his legislation, the Water Quality Certification Improvement Act (S 3303), saying the bill would clarify that these reviews must be limited to water quality impacts only, and instill procedural guardrails to prevent future abuses. “Under our legislation, states, when evaluating water quality, can only consider discharges from the federally permitted or licensed activity itself – not from other unrelated sources,” Chairman Barrasso said in an opening statement.

Chairman Barrasso went on to address the many ramifications related to misuse of CWA 401 authority to block construction of natural gas pipelines, including contributions to the bottleneck of energy into the Northeast corridor. “America is the world’s number one producer of natural gas. Pennsylvania has abundant supplies of this resource but New York is blocking gas pipeline projects which would supply states in New England. In January, power plants and utilities in New England had to take the dramatic and drastic step of importing liquefied natural gas from Russia to meet their energy demands. It makes no sense for America to import liquefied natural gas from our adversaries, Russia, when we have that resource right here at home. Using the Clean Water Act simply to delay important projects was clearly not what Congress had in mind when Congress passed the law.”

Ranking Member Tom Carper (D-Del.) made his opposition clear, stating that the “impact on our invaluable coastal wetlands would have been substantial and permanent. The resulting effect on coastal water quality, critical habitats, and the threatened, endangered and at-risk species – like the bald eagle and the red knot birds – that were dependent on these resources would have been, in a word, devastating.”

With due respect to Sen. Carper, DCA believes there are ways to protect the environment and natural resources without obstructing important projects that utilize American energy, and we will continue to work as an active member of EBIA to advance this legislation (and the EPA proposed rule) in 2020. This will be a big challenge, where the second half of the 116th Congress has its work cut out for them at a time when a controversial president is facing impeachment and a 2020 Election Year with is sure to be one for the record books in terms of hostility and partisanship. DCA will need its members actively involved, but this is a fight worth having.

**Pipeline Safety Bill to Go into 2020**

In 2019, DCA’s top priority was to ensure that this year’s pipeline safety legislation, which has a sharp focus on gas distribution, does not unfairly burden DCA members or the gas distribution industry. In the wake of the pipeline incident in the Merrimack Valley area of Massachusetts, there have been shortsighted calls to accelerate gas distribution replacement programs, require a professional engineer to approve work packages and even operator qualification requirements related to a distribution project, and mandate the use of safety management systems.

Thanks to a loyal and energized network of grassroots members, we have effectively thwarted those harmful provisions (at least so far) from being included in pipeline safety legislation that stands a chance of passing. However, because of renewed efforts to inject controversial provisions to address climate change in a pipeline safety bill, such as methane mitigation measures, the pipeline bill is in limbo and will remain there until next year.

As always, I’d like to reiterate my appreciation for the opportunity to work for DCA as 2019 comes to a close. Wyman Associates wishes all DCA members a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and here’s to a productive and profitable 2020. ▲
2020 DCA & Industry Events

JANUARY 28 - 30
Underground Construction Technology International Conference & Exhibition (UCT) Fort Worth Convention Center Fort Worth, Texas www.uctonline.com

JANUARY 29
HDD Reunion 2020 Location TBD (in conjunction with UCT) Fort Worth, Texas www.HDDreunion2020.com

FEBRUARY 4 - 8
Pipe Line Contractors Association (PLCA) 72nd Annual Convention La Quinta Resort & Club La Quinta, California www.plca.org

FEBRUARY 24 - 29
DCA Annual Convention Boca Raton Resort & Club Boca Raton, Florida www.dcaweb.org

MARCH 10 - 14
CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2020 Las Vegas Convention Center Las Vegas, Nevada www.conexpoconagg.com

MARCH 24 - 26
CGA 811 Excavation Safety Conference & Expo Palm Springs Convention Center Palm Springs, California www.CGAconference.com

MARCH 30 - APRIL 1
DCA 2020 Safety Congress Hyatt Regency Austin Austin, Texas www.dcaweb.org

APRIL 5 - 9
NASTT’s 2020 No-Dig Show Colorado Convention Center Denver, Colorado www.nodigshow.com

APRIL 13 - 15
DCA & AGA Workshop The Ritz-Carlton - Chicago Chicago, Illinois www.dcaweb.org

APRIL 20 - 24
Sunbelt Rentals Recognized as Top Military-Friendly Employer
Sunbelt Rentals has been named one of the nation’s top Military Friendly Employers by VIQTORY, a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business that connects the military community to civilian employment and provides educational and entrepreneurial opportunities.

The award comes following years of concerted effort and dedication from Sunbelt Rentals to provide employment opportunities for our nation’s hard-working service men and women.

“We’re very proud of this recognition and for the incredible work ethic and new ideas we get from our veteran employees every day,” Brad Lull, Sunbelt Rentals executive vice president of Central Operations, said.

Former veterans who are now full-time employees at Sunbelt Rentals appreciate the recognition and what’s been done to make it happen. The branch in Jacksonville, N.C. – located just a few miles from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune – has been particularly successful with hires from the military. Its current staff includes six Marine Corps and Army veterans with nearly a century of combined military experience.

“This location sets a great example of how contributions from veterans strengthen our organization,” said Carson Hagar, director of recruitment services. “We continually strive to increase the scores and metrics used to designate this award. We’re proud of the progress that we’ve made, but there’s so much more we can do.”

ELB Equipment New Authorized Dealer in Australia & New Zealand for Ring-O-Matic Vacuum Excavation Equipment
Ring-O-Matic has officially appointed ELB Equipment as the new exclusive distributor of Ring-O-Matic products in Australia and New Zealand effective December 10, 2019. The company will be responsible for all future sales, spare parts, and customer service for the Ring-O-Matic brand of vacuum excavators.

This new partnership will bring nothing but benefit to existing and future Ring-O-Matic owners, stated Brian Metcalf, CEO of Ring-O-Matic. ELB Equipment has the infrastructure, resources and expertise to support our customers throughout the life cycle of their needs. We’re extremely pleased to have ELB Equipment representing our line of purpose-built vacuum excavation equipment in Australia and New Zealand.

ELB Equipment maintains full-service branches in most of the major cities around Australia and New Zealand and has represented brands in the underground utility construction market generally and the vacuum excavator market specifically for over 60 years.

ELB Equipment prides itself on spare parts availability and a trained mobile team of field service technicians to ensure that up-time is maximized, and contractors can get on with the business of making money, stated Christopher Malan, General Manager of ELB Equipment.

ELB Equipment will manage any warranty claims that may arise on behalf of Ring-O-Matic including machines purchased prior to the transition as sold by Diverse Equipment, the previous dealer.
ISCO to Acquire M.T. Deason; Expands Presence in the Gas Distribution Market

ISCO Industries, Inc. (ISCO), a Louisville-based high-density polyethylene (HDPE) piping solutions provider, will acquire M.T. Deason, based in Birmingham, Alabama.

M.T. Deason has provided products and services to the gas distribution market since 1982. The company prides itself on listening and responding to the needs of their customers with innovative solutions.

“I’ve known [CEO] Mike Deason for 25 years and always admired the customer-centric business and the exceptional team he has cultivated,” ISCO CEO Jimmy Kirchdorfer said. “He has been a pioneer in electrofusion and gas pipe fittings and the company has an excellent reputation for providing quality products. I’m proud that he chose to join forces with ISCO to continue on their successful path.”

This acquisition will allow ISCO to increase its service capacity in the gas distribution market. M.T. Deason will operate as a division of ISCO Industries, providing full-service offerings of pipe, fittings, fusion equipment, and valves.

“At M.T. Deason, our customers always come first. It is the same at ISCO,” Deason said. “This shared vision, along with the expertise M.T. Deason offers in gas distribution and the expertise that ISCO offers in their markets, creates exciting opportunities for both sets of customers.”

As the companies join forces, ISCO is excited to welcome M.T. Deason’s team members to the family. M.T. Deason currently has locations in Birmingham, Alabama, Cedar Hill, Texas and Fairfield, New Jersey. They will join the more than 35 ISCO locations across North America.

The agreement is subject to customary closing conditions and the parties expect to close the transaction on January 2, 2020.

Doosan Infracore Demonstrates Automated Construction Site Solution

Doosan Infracore (DI) unveiled Concept-X, an automated worksite control solution, at its Proving Grounds in Boryeong City, Korea.

Concept-X is a comprehensive control solution that can be used to survey worksite topography via 3D drone scanning, establish operational plans based on the topographical data, and operate construction equipment such as excavators and wheel loaders without human intervention. In short, Concept-X realizes the construction site of the future by having difficult construction work performed solely by equipment, leaving human personnel free to concentrate on more sophisticated analysis and management tasks.

DI claims to be the first company to introduce automated solutions across the entire construction site operation process from surveying to equipment operation.

Concept-X comprises a wide range of technologies such as image recognition, cognitive/control technologies, autonomous driving technologies, 5G remote control, and 3D drone surveys, as well as accurate workload estimation and assignment and failure prediction technologies.

The new technologies introduced during the DI demonstration included:

- Three-dimensional worksite maps created with drone-surveyed data.
- A system enabling construction equipment such as excavators and wheel loaders to perform optimized unmanned operations according to any site situation.
- Real-time monitoring of work progress through the X-Center’s comprehensive control solution.

(continued on pg. 28)
DI said the solution will boost productivity and economic feasibility significantly by reducing the time and costs required for construction equipment operations, while continuing to make worksites safer. DI plans to commercialize Concept-X by 2025 and will introduce each of the individual technologies as soon as they have been fully verified.

“Concept X is not just an unmanned technology,” said DI President and CEO Dongyoun Sohn. “Rather, it integrates multiple state-of-the-art technologies that can respond immediately to all of the changes that may arise at construction sites simultaneously.”

In addition to its independent technology development, DI has pursued various forms of open innovation, including collaboration with other companies and schools as well as investment in startups. The company has engaged in industry-academic cooperation with Seoul National University, Yonsei University, and Hanyang University in order to develop new technologies related to AI-based construction equipment operations, drone 3D surveying, and operational data analysis. In 2018, DI, in partnership with LG U+, introduced the world’s first 5G-based remote control technology.

Ditch Witch HX30G Vacuum Excavator Delivers High-Profile Power in a Low-Profile Package
Ditch Witch recently announced an addition to their HX vacuum excavation line. The new Ditch Witch HX30G vacuum excavator is designed to help today’s contractors, facing evolving regulations and tightening budgets, maintain power and productivity without breaking the bank.

“The HX vacuum excavation line, introduced last year, has received a lot of positive feedback from customers,” said Chapman Hancock, Ditch Witch product manager, vacuum excavators. “Expanding on our initial success, we used direct customer feedback to offer a similar, but more economical, HX model that doesn’t compromise power or versatility. The HX30G delivers the same core benefits in a low-profile package at a lower price point to meet the specific needs of municipalities and contractors that use the machine daily.”

The HX30G features the same durable, low-profile design as other HX models with a narrow frame that helps ease navigation in urban, congested and height-restrictive areas without compromising ground clearance.

The HX30G is powered by a 31-hp Vanguard gas engine for optimal suction power and water pressure for small-to mid-sized excavation jobs or non-hazardous cleanup tasks. The new higher-powered machine is also equipped with a 542-cfm blower, 3000-psi water pressure, and 4.2-gpm water flow to help increase productivity and efficiency on any job.

The machine is available with an optional jib boom to provide a wide range of motion and a hose restraint to keep the hose from jumping. The HX30G comes with a hose storage system that allows the hose to be stored flat and straight inside the unit frame when it isn’t needed – a direct customer-driven enhancement.

To offer optimal versatility, the HX30G also comes with the choice of a 500 or 800-gallon tank to appeal to a variety of job requirements. It is available in a variety of trailer configurations, including the new Ditch Witch VT9 trailer, which when equipped with the 500-gallon tank has a GVWR of less than 10,000 pounds and does not require a CDL to transport. Other options include a 12K, 14K, and 20K trailer, all NATM compliant.
Welcome New Contractor & Associate Members

CONTRACTOR MEMBERS

Mid-Ohio Pipeline Company
4244 State Route 546
Lexington, OH  44904
Phone: (419) 884-3772
Fax: (419) 884-0910
Website: mopipeline.com

Jordan Yates, President, Jordan.yates@mopipeline.us
Craig Carpenter, Director of Distribution, c craig.carpenter@mopipeline.us

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Industrial Sales Co. Inc.
1150 W. Marley Rd.
Olathe, KS  66061
Phone: (913) 829-3500
Fax: (913) 829-3515
Website: www.industrialsales.us

Jake Cooper, President, jcooper@industrialsales.us
Roger Galloway, Operations Manager, rgalloway@industrialsales.us

SCHOLARSHIPS

The application process for the 2020-21 DCA - Dale R. Michels Scholarship and DCA – Curtis Allen Scholarship is now open on the DCA website at: https://dcaweb.org/page/Scholarship and all applications are to be completed online.

A few basic guidelines:
• The DCA – Dale R. Michels Scholarship encourages students from all academic levels to apply. The DCA – Curtis H. Allen Scholarship focuses on those planning to attend a trade, technical or vocational school.
• Remember, the student’s application and supporting documents must be completed no later than Tuesday, January 14, 2020.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS (cont.)

Owner Resource Group
221 W. 6th St., Ste. 2000
Austin, TX  78701
Phone: (512) 505-4119
Website: www.orgroup.com

Melissa Sprinkle, Principal, msprinkle@orgroup.com

SITE Technologies
625 West Adams St., 19th Flr.
Chicago, IL  60661
Phone: (312) 796-6512
Website: www.sitetechnologies.io

Austin Rabine
Gary Rabine
Janelle Rabine, janelle@sitetechnologies.io
The DCA continues to find ways for members to engage with each other on a variety of industry related topics. Website forums are now available for the following committees on the DCA website at www.dcaweb.org:

- Government Relations
- HDD
- Safety/Risk Management
- Workforce Development

**To access the forums:**
- Go to www.dcaweb.org.
- Log into your profile.
- Click the Forums tab at the top of the website. You should see a list of the 4 forums.
- Choose the forum you wish to review.
- On the forum that you are accessing, please feel free to create a new topic or add a comment to an existing forum.
- Video, links and files may be added to the forums.

To receive notifications that people have added to the forum or turn off the feature, click Forum Actions and click instant updates text.

Forums are open to signed in DCA members.
**Discovery Hydrovac**

**www.discoveryhydrovac.com**

Discovery Hydrovac is a specialized hydro and air vacuum service provider that supports the ever-expanding oil, gas, utility and construction industries. At Discovery Hydrovac, they use state of the art technology to safely and positively perform subsurface utility locating, (pot holing/day lighting) hydro excavation, air excavation and GPR scanning (Ground Penetrating Radar). Their premier services combine the latest equipment, superior project knowledge, and industry leading operators that will save you time and money while reducing risk.

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**d’Escoto, Inc.**

**www.descotoinc.com**

d’Escoto, Inc. is one of the largest Hispanic-owned professional engineering and construction services firms in the Chicagoland area with concentrations in Construction Management, Program Management, Owner Representation, Civil Design Engineering and Utility Inspection. Their President, Federico d’Escoto, is a second-generation family business owner, originally from Nicaragua and raised in Aurora, Illinois. With over 30 years of experience in the construction industry, Mr. d’Escoto has been responsible for the vision, growth and overall viability of the company. As a testament to their sustainability, d’Escoto, Inc. is celebrating their 47th year in business.

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**Drilling Mud Direct (DMD)**

**www.muddirect.net**

Drilling Mud Direct (DMD) provides a cost-effective solution for high yield bentonite and drilling additives delivered direct to the horizontal directional drilling (HDD) industry. Their mission at Drilling Mud Direct, is to service the drilling fluid needs of the construction industries all around the globe. Having been in the horizontal directional drilling industry for years, they understand that high quality products with competitive pricing and on-time delivery are three major components to helping customers succeed.