

# NETWORKING



Members from all over the country gathered at the Palms Casino Resort for NUCA Convention 2017. Las Vegas was the perfect destination for three days of networking, education, recognition, and, of course, fun. Whether it was taking in the sights and sounds of Vegas or taking the time to chat with fellow NUCA members, this desert oasis was the perfect backdrop for NUCA's biggest event of the year. Additionally, having the convention concurrent with CONEXPO-CON/AGG, the largest construction tradeshow in North America, was a winning match! You can view all 2,500 convention pictures at [nuca.smugmug.com](http://nuca.smugmug.com). You may download an unlimited number of photos at no charge.

Attendees were given many chances — both formal and informal — to discuss critical business issues with fellow contractors. NUCA's National Partners were on hand to chat with contractor members who explored their table-top exhibits and experienced the exciting equipment simulators from Caterpillar, John Deere and Ditch Witch, and also checked out the newest technology in trench boxes on display from United Rentals.

# AT NUCA'S 2017 CONVENTION



## SPEAKERS



TOP LEFT: Both keynote speakers were sponsored by HD Supply Waterworks and introduced by Vice President of Market Development, Yvonne Bland.

TOP RIGHT: HD Supply Waterworks presented Amelia Rose Earhart, who re-created the 1937 circumnavigational solo flight of her namesake. Amelia spoke to a full house about the difficulties she faced during her flight, overcoming that adversity, and more broadly, rising to meet any challenge to reach your goals.

CENTER LEFT: HD Supply Waterworks also presented Sgt. Matt Eversmann to a packed house, as he recounted his personal story of the infamous 1993 battle of Mogadishu, Somalia, which was the basis for the film *Black Hawk Down*, and spoke about the vital importance of teamwork.

CENTER RIGHT: Mark Bridgers led an in-depth discussion about the current state of the economy for the utility construction industry and his expectations over the next few years, including how President Trump may impact the economy and industry.

**HD SUPPLY**  
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# TEAM BUILDING

While convention attendees expected a jewel-heist-themed team building experience, they were surprised to see Keynote Speaker Amelia Rose Earhart kidnapped right before their eyes! Attendees deciphered codes and worked together as teams in different events to help rescue Amelia. NUCA members were engaged and had a great time during this event.



**SPONSORED BY:**  
**CATERPILLAR®**

Caterpillar representative Scott Knoblauch introduces the event and chats with Amelia Earhart.

...but suddenly, Amelia is kidnapped!



Teams competed in multiple events to solve the mystery of Amelia's abduction...



In the end, one team was victorious, Amelia was returned safe and sound and fun was had by all.

## NUCA 18-HOLE GOLF TOURNAMENT

With the backdrop of the beautiful and historic Las Vegas National Golf Club, the annual golf tournament — which benefits NUCA's Strategic Advocacy Fund — was another fun day of sport and friendly competition.



# AWARDS

In total, more than 30 NUCA members and executive directors were recognized for their leadership, commitment to NUCA and the industry, and proven dedication to the safety of their employees in 2016. NUCA and chapter leadership are grateful to these men and women in their efforts to advocate for and protect the integrity of NUCA and the industry as a whole.



2016 William H. Feather Safety Award recipients showed there is no shortage of NUCA members who put employee safety first.



NUCA Leadership Awards are presented to outgoing Committee Chairs. [From L to R] Kevin Cripps, Convention Committee Co-Chair; Tom Fieweger, Convention Committee Co-Vice-Chair; Wayne Newitts, Convention Committee Co-Vice-Chair (not pictured); Dan Buckley, Budget and Finance Committee; Jeff Rumer, Executive Committee; Jason Clark, Convention Committee Co-Chair; Bruce Wendorf, Nominating Committee; Warren Graves, Awards Committee; and Kara Habrock, Government Relations Committee.



Chapter Merit Awards and Honorable Mentions were presented to NUCA chapters for their dedication to NUCA, their members and the industry.

Ditchdigger of the Year Bruce Wendorf (R), Forsberg Construction Inc., presented by 2015 recipient Warren Graves.



Dan Buckley presented the Associate Member of the Year to Scott "Knobby" Knoblauch (L), Caterpillar.



NUCA CEO Bill Hillman presented the We Dig America Award to NUCA's Vice President of Safety George Kennedy (R).



Chairman-elect Mark Fuglevand (R) and Treasurer Fred Chesney (L) present the Outstanding Leadership by a Chapter President Award to Thomas Butler (C) of Suncoast Utility Contractors Association.



Outstanding Contribution by a Chapter Executive Director Award went to Deana Butorac, NUCA of North Texas.



# TOP JOBS AWARDS

NUCA's second annual Top Jobs Awards were presented during the convention. The Top Jobs competition recognizes outstanding projects that exhibit innovative solutions to overcome challenging obstacles and produce the highest quality results. Contractors entered the competition in one or more of six categories.



Convention attendees voted for projects in each category over the course of the convention.



Overall Top Jobs Winners were voted for by convention attendees, resulting in a three-way tie: Marshank Construction (Lake Stevens, Wash.), L.G. Roloff Construction (Omaha, Neb.) and Vogel Brothers Building Co. (Lakeland, Fla.).



## INSTALLING BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

1. Newly elected 2017-2018 Officers and National Directors are installed.
2. Outgoing Chairman Jeff Rumer shares some remarks with attendees and NUCA's newly installed leadership.
3. Newly-appointed Chairwoman Kara Habrock shares what led her to NUCA, the impact it has had on her personally and professionally and her goals for NUCA under her leadership.

## WELCOME NUCA OF GREATER KANSAS CITY REGION

President of NUCA of Eastern Washington & North Idaho and Director Scot Hattenberg presents the new chapter charter to Jim Kissick, president of NUCA's newest chapter.



Following a time-honored tradition, Kansas City Chapter Board Member Bill Jackson presents gifts representing the Kanas City region to NUCA's leadership, including a Kansas City Chiefs pillow pet, a Kansas City Royals baseball cap and other local treats.



NUCA of the Greater Kansas City Region members gather for a photo.

# AUCTION & GALA

The Auction and Awards Gala, sponsored by John Deere, included both a silent and live auction, as well as the popular chapter gift basket raffle. Ritchie Bros. conducted the live auction, and Steve Kriebel did a fantastic job of getting the crowd excited and bidding on items donated by NUCA members and National Partners.



JOHN DEERE



John Deere's new NUCA representative Andy Williams welcomes attendees to the evening's events and kicks off the night's festivities.

Convention Committee Chair Jason Clark counts down the closing of the silent auction and encourages members to dig deep for NUCA during the upcoming live auction.

# HAPPY PEOPLE

WHAT CAN WE SAY?  
NUCA CONVENTIONS ARE NOT  
ALL WORK — WE HAVE FUN  
TOO! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU  
NEXT YEAR!

