

THE BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE DISTRIBUTION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION



DCA NEWS

MARCH / APRIL 2021



**DCA History
The 70's**

**Virtual Spring
Meeting**

Safety News



DCA Historical Member Photos

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DCA Historical Member Photos

DCA History: The 70s - Thriving in a Turbulent Decade

In the early 1960s, four contractors and a small group of representatives from other small contractors got together and formed an organizational committee that was the precursor to the DCA. During the '60s, the group grew rapidly, going from 26 contractor members in 1962 to 44 in 1969.

Then came the 1970s.

DCA was poised to continue that rapid growth, even if it couldn't have predicted the oil-to-gas conversions that the world would begin to undertake in reaction to the oil crises of the decade.

And speaking of the world: the 1970s started with a lot of turbulence. It saw spaceship launches and failures — "Houston, we have a problem" — continued war in Vietnam and war with Cambodia. Widespread college campus protests and a tragedy at Kent State University were in the news, the voting age was lowered to 18, and the Beatles hit song "Let It Be" remained in the number one position for a full month.

The Start of a New Decade

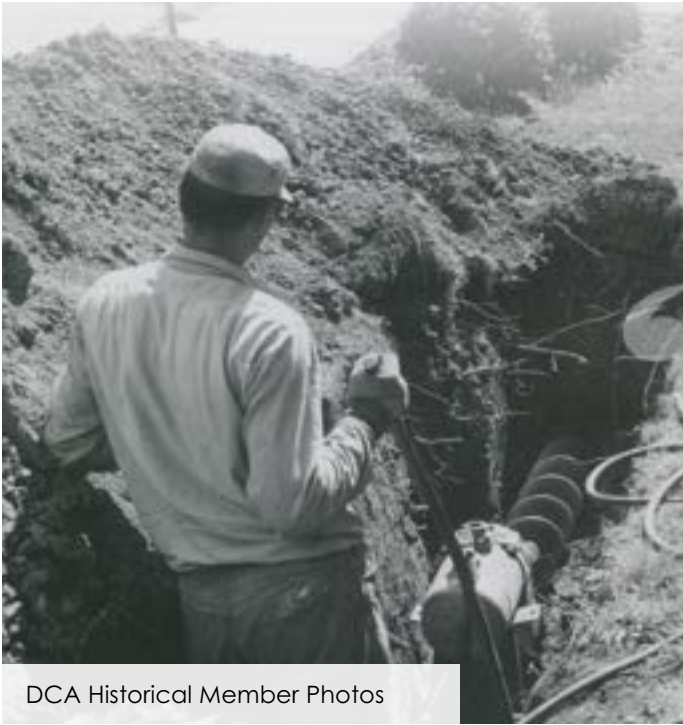
But in Freeport, Grand Bahama, in January 1970, things were progressing smoothly as DCA held its yearly convention following the PLCA annual meeting.

One event that helped ease the way for DCA members was the formation of the Distribution Pipeline Committee. It would work as a liaison with the federal government's Office of Pipeline Safety. DCA's in-the-field experience provided valuable feedback to the government office, so it could create regulations that would make it safer for contractors. About the same time, President Richard Nixon signed the National Environmental Policy Act into law and the Boeing 747-100 made its first commercial transatlantic flight from New York to London, foreshadowing the 1970s take-off of the DCA. Not to be outdone, Evel Knievel used his motorcycle to jump over parked cars in the parking lot of the Cow Palace in Daly City, California.

The convention saw newly elected officers, including Edwin Gabrielse as president, Warren Muncie of Universal Pipeline Constructors as first vice president, Bob Lyons of Michigan Trenching Service, Inc. as second vice president, and Murry Loffis as treasurer.

DCA Helps Members Pivot

With distribution construction down for the third consecutive year, members began to look for other areas where they could use their expertise and fill in



DCA Historical Member Photos

the gaps. During the 1971 annual convention, which returned to the Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego, California, representatives from American Telephone and Telegraph Co. (now AT&T) and the San Diego Gas & Electric Company gave presentations about how the underground installation of both telephone lines and electrical lines was increasing.

During that convention, Murry Loftis moved from treasurer to president, and L.R. Young of L.R. Young Construction Company was elected first vice president. Other official appointments were Allan Coolsaet from R.L. Coolsaet Construction Company as second vice president, and Bob Brogan from GET Construction Company as treasurer.

Safety Comes Into Focus

In 1972, shortly after Elvis Presley met with President Nixon to ask for help in getting the credentials of a federal agent so he could do his part in fighting the drug problem, DCA members met together in beautiful Honolulu after the PLCA convention in California. The prior year, new health and safety regulations had taken effect and the convention focused mainly on those areas.

In addition to the DCA safety committee releasing a new employee safety manual for members, the director of the PHMSA's Office of Pipeline Safety assured the members that, in general, pipeline construction work was being performed safely. To ensure that everyone was up to speed on the new OSHA regulations, the organization's area director discussed the ramifications of the newly enacted Occupational Safety Act.

Allan Coolsaet, the former second vice president was elected DCA president. M.H. Cook from M.H. Cook Pipeline was elected first vice president, Stewart Kniff from the Van Ess Company took Coolsaet's place as second vice president, and Dick Comstock from Tarnow Pipeline Company was elected treasurer. Meanwhile, the U.S. entered its second decade of the Vietnam War, Charles Manson and three of his female followers were convicted of murder in Los Angeles, and Alan Shepard hit a golf ball on the moon as part of the Apollo 14 mission.

Despite the emerging emphasis on oil and gas industry safety, an empty liquefied natural gas tank exploded on Staten Island, New York, killing 40 workers, shortly before members met in Las Vegas for the February 1973 annual convention. With safety still on their minds, their focus turned to new labor agreements. Part of those agreements was a provision for plastic pipe along with negotiations for new wage rates with the Laborer's International Union.

Around the same time, the U.S. Supreme Court gave us *Roe vs. Wade* and President Nixon announced a peace accord with Vietnam had been reached in Paris. He told the nation that the POWs would arrive home in 60 days. Subsequently, the Selective Service announced an end to draft calls.

The members chose M.H. (Bill) Cook as president, Stewart Kniff as first vice president, Dick Comstock as second vice president, and Bob Bricker from Henkels & McCoy, Inc. as treasurer. Not long after the convention, OPEC announced its oil embargo, and soon after, 20% of the nation's gas stations had no fuel.

The Oil Crisis and DCA

Not surprisingly, the 1974 convention in Key Biscayne, Florida, centered around fuel availability. While each region of the country experienced varying levels of shortages, the state and federal governments ultimately stepped in by allocating fuel for energy-related construction activities and relieved some of the pressure. President Nixon signed a law limiting highway speeds to 55 mph to conserve that fuel. Other discussions centered around a trend where utility and pipeline firms were being included in negligence damage claims. Also, the industry was experiencing tightness in the supply chain for new construction equipment.

That same year, "Happy Days" premiered on ABC — turning the 1950s into nostalgia — gold hit a record high of \$158.76, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was kidnapped in Berkeley, California, and President Nixon resigned due to the Watergate scandal.

DCA members elected Stewart Kniff as president, Dick Comstock became the first vice president, Bob Bricker

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DCA Historical Member Photos

assumed the role of second vice president, and Gerald Snyder from Pace Pipe Line Company was elected the new treasurer.

The next year, in 1975, the convention was once again held in Key Biscayne — this time before the PLCA convention — and the members were presented with better news regarding the oil and gas industry. C.J. Gauthier, chairman of the American Gas Association, told the members that he thought the nation's distribution system would continue to grow, and he talked about prospects for new gas supplies.

That year, Margaret Thatcher was elected the leader of the Tory Party in England and Jacqueline Kennedy once again became a widow after the death of Aristotle Onassis. At the convention, Pipeline Inspection Company held its first gin rummy tournament, which would become an annual event. Also around the time of the convention, the first pipe of the Alaska oil pipeline was laid at the Tonsina River. "Gunsmoke" would air its final episode, Spielberg's "Jaws" would terrorize the nation, and the U.S. forces finally pulled out of Vietnam.

Before the members adjourned, they elected Dick Comstock as president, Dale Michels from Michels Pipe Line Construction, Inc. as the first vice president, Bob Bricker as second vice president, and William Snelson from Snelson, Inc. as treasurer.

The 15th Annual Convention Focuses on Its Members

DCA celebrated its 15th annual convention at the Marco Island Hotel and Club in Marco Island, Florida, in 1976.

Just a few months later, Apple Computer would be founded and an entire Picasso exhibit in France would be stolen.

The convention focused on teaching contractors how to increase business. First, the delegates were told that once the older distribution systems were upgraded, distribution contractors would experience more business. Next, representatives from the Caterpillar Tractor Company gave them some practical suggestions that would allow them to use equipment maintenance as a way of increasing productivity.

Women dominated the news that year: Agatha Christie died in England, Lindsay Wagner debuted on ABC in "The Bionic Woman," and Patricia Hearst was convicted of armed robbery and sentenced to seven years in prison.

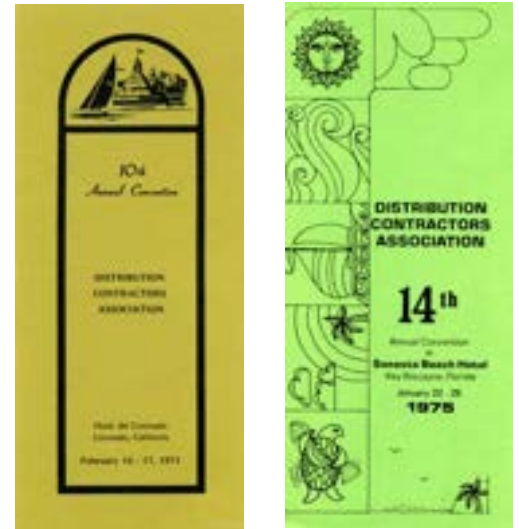
At the convention, Dale Michels was elected president, Bob Bricker took on the role of first vice president, Rolland B. Lyons from Michigan Trenching Service, Inc. became the second vice president, and Noel Coon from Northern Pipeline Construction Company became the treasurer.

Optimism Rules

In 1977, the convention was once again held in Key Biscayne, and just as previous conventions there, it offered sunshine for the attendees in more ways than one. Officials from the American Gas Association and the Midwest Gas Association made presentations that held optimistic views about the nation's gas industry. In the



DCA 1972 Convention in Hawaii



DCA 1971 & 1975 Convention Materials

presentations, they talked about real-world incentives to increase gas production and said the increases could be maintained.

Bob Bricker became the president, Rolland B. Lyons the first vice president, Gene R. Spencer from G.R. Spencer Construction Company was elected the second vice president, and Thomas B. Poole from The Hallen Construction Company became treasurer. That same year, Jimmy Carter was sworn in as President and after the ceremony, he walked from the U.S. Capitol to the White House. Later, he addressed the nation in his now-iconic cardigan urging everyone to conserve energy. In the middle of the year, Star Wars debuted and Elvis Presley succumbed to heart failure at the age of 42.

DCA Members Find Their Voices

In 1978, the DCA rolled the dice and returned the annual convention to Las Vegas for the second time. The meetings took on a different tone as Fred Culpepper of Ford, Bacon, & Davis, Inc. urged contractors to get involved in politics, join political action committees, and make their voices heard. He believed that businessmen could influence legislation if they were involved in the process. Also, the convention featured a panel of insurance agents.

Newly elected officers were Rolland B. Lyons, president; Gene Spencer, first vice president; Thomas B. Poole, second vice president; and Robert Cooley of Distribution Construction Company as treasurer.

The Optimism Continues

The world was just as optimistic as DCA in 1978. The U.S. saw the first female and the first Black astronaut join

NASA. The Bee Gees released "Saturday Night Fever," which stayed at the number one position for 24 straight weeks. The U.S. post office put the first Black woman on a postage stamp — Harriet Tubman — and the film "Grease" was released to much fanfare in New York.

The 1979 convention, held in Newport Beach, California, was filled with more optimism and clarity about new safety regulations despite a burgeoning second oil crisis. A representative from the Office of Pipeline Safety Regulations went over the new regulatory procedures from the Department of Transportation and spoke about the upcoming frequent and easily understandable publications of new regulations.

One of the reasons for the optimism was that work was increasing for DCA members. In residential, commercial, and industrial markets, including many oil-to-gas conversions, gas was in demand. At the same time, however, their operating costs had increased as well. Coincidentally, OPEC raised oil prices in June of that year twice, resulting in a 50% increase per barrel year-over-year.

Toward the end of the convention, Gene Spencer was elected president, Tom Poole first vice president, Book Cooley second vice president, and Dale Miller of Miller Pipeline Company was elected as treasurer.

Lasting Success in a Tumultuous Decade

What a decade. The 1970s saw growth and maturation as the DCA worked with government agencies to improve safety for the industry. It also kept its members informed about opportunities to increase production and productivity — all during the two great oil crises of 1973 and 1979. ▲



DCA VIRTUAL SPRING MEETING March 2 - 3, 2021

DCA Virtual Spring Meeting Wrap-Up

As the COVID-19 pandemic rolled on into 2021, DCA again exercised the better part of valor by hosting a rare Spring Meeting online to fill the void left by the rescheduled Annual Convention, which was moved to July. With the news of vaccines adding a hint of optimism for the future, everyone at DCA hoped this will be the last time a virtual conference is necessary, but at least this time the now-hardened Zoom veterans pulled off the event with minimal technical hiccups.

The conference began after lunchtime on Tuesday, March 2 with the Town Hall Meeting. After a welcome from DCA President Ben Nelson of Michels Pacific Energy, who is continuing in his position this year until regular transition activities can resume, Executive Vice President Rob Darden opened with the Treasurer's Report, anticipating a smaller convention and auction this year, and a lower overall annual budget. Darden also reminded everyone that a new Member Survey — the first since 2013 — would be going out in early May, which he highly encouraged all to participate in.

The Town Hall wrapped up with a review of the upcoming event schedule, highlighting the April Safety Congress in Grapevine, Texas, as the first in-person meeting of the year and noting the shorter schedule for the Annual Convention.

Government Relations Committee

John Lamerton of Wyo-Ben began the Government Relations Committee Meeting with the state of the natural gas industry after 2020, lauding several key achievements over the last year, including facilitating the national COVID response and persuading the government to declare natural gas workers as essential. It also pushed Pipeline Safety Management Systems (SMS) forward, initiated studies on locating issues, and made efforts to rebut false claims about natural gas from environmentalists and others.

Chairman Mark Albert of AGI Construction then outlined the committee's goals for 2021, which are focused on combatting bills attacking the natural gas industry. DCA plans to build a grassroots effort at the state and local level, where most of these bills originate, and use a new program called Muster to facilitate organization. Eben Wyman of Wyman Associates reviewed the status of the anti-gas bills passed or pending in several liberal states, along with the counter-efforts to pass fuel choice bills in more conservative states.

Zack Perconti of Wyman Associates was up next with an overview and demonstration of the Muster Grassroots Communications program Albert mentioned earlier. The program's star feature is the unlimited contacts that allow users to reach specific individuals at all levels within a company or organization. Action alerts also allow for personalized messages matching members to elected officials for more efficient issue advocacy. Perconti showed an example campaign demonstrating options for sharing, customization, and viewing message statistics. Members followed up with a round of questions.

Wyman concluded the meeting with a review of recent wins and accomplishments, including the reauthorization of the Pipeline Safety Bill in December, the defeat of an accelerated replacement effort in Massachusetts that compromised safety, and the defeat of the engineer on site requirement. Efforts to improve state enforcement of damage prevention laws, one-call membership, and location requirements remain underway.

Workforce Development Committee

At the Workforce Development Committee session that afternoon, Dave Wisniewski of Vermeer Corp. started things off with an overview of activities related to SkillsUSA since last year's convention in Boca Raton. Wisniewski lauded the completion of the playbook for contractors to establish relations with SkillsUSA and reviewed DCA's

ongoing efforts to collaborate with SkillsUSA by creating competitions and sponsoring winners.

Vivek Arora of Quanta Services followed by describing the pilot program DCA is creating with BuildWitt.com, in which John Deere, Vermeer, and United Rentals Trench Safety along with Mears have agreed to film a series of videos about the work they do and the types of jobs available in their companies to highlight work opportunities in the natural gas industry.

Randy Rupp of Ditch Witch quickly highlighted changes to the workforce section of the DCA website before Pete Fojtik of Michels Utilities Services reminded the audience about DCA's collaboration with the Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD). CEWD hosted a virtual workforce summit in 2020, and the event is likely to remain virtual this year. As DCA continues to push CEWD to open up to associate members, Arora will be taking over as incoming chair of CEWD — the first time a contractor will have held that position. Arora and Fojtik emphasized that it is worth joining the CEWD now even if members passed on it a few years ago, calling it a different organization now than it was then. CEWD offers lots of workforce data along with resources, tools, and programs to aid members in recruiting.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee began its brief session by announcing Mike Ayd of MP Technologies and Brad Everett of Caterpillar as the new vice chairs of the committee. Ayd read the membership numbers for 2020 — down a net total of nine overall — before discussing the most recent Equipment Survey results. As expected, equipment purchasing was also down in 2020, particularly on “big iron.” Everett reiterated the committee's goals to get all existing members to participate in DCA events, attract more contractor members, and make new members feel welcome, before adjourning the meeting for the day.

HDD Committee

Wednesday's business started off with the HDD Committee, newly chaired by Rob Hotz of Laney Directional Drilling and Dustin Kraft of Vermeer Corp.

Kraft announced the HDD panel discussion at the upcoming Underground Construction Technology (UCT) conference, along with other possible venues, and recapped the purpose of the 2020 drilling mud safety study.

Jeri Lamerton of Lamerton Strategic Communications then discussed the DCA trenchless.com website project. The committee began by adapting the HDD flyer to make it more interactive, and will be asking members to provide content for the future. The site was scheduled for public release on March 10, 2021. Lamerton emphasized that the site will be changed and updated regularly, pushed out beyond members to the industry at large, and cover not just HDD, but trenchless technology in general.

Next, Alan Goodman from Hammerhead Trenchless gave an excellent presentation on “Pipe Splitting & Pipe Extraction.” He covered several types of HDD ram assist and showed examples of pneumatic pipe bursting for plastic pipe replacement. Electrical strike indicator technology also factored into the discussion.

Safety/Risk Management Committee

Bill Colson of Pretec Directional Drilling kicked off the Safety/Risk Management Committee meeting with a quick review of 2020 safety awards participation and events before passing the digital podium for the first presentation.

In “Voice AI and the Industrial Worker,” Junaid Faruq, Head of Strategy at Datch, discussed how poorly designed voice interfaces can lead to poor or inadequate reporting of field operations data.

Datch is an artificial intelligence (AI) assistant that aims to bridge this gap and make voice entry of data easier and more natural. Faruq gave numerous demonstrations of different types of voice entries ranging from maintenance, work orders, and training to health and safety, compliance, and quality control reports. He noted that easier reporting leads to more accurate timestamping of reports, which in turn increases the accuracy of billing. Overall, Datch could potentially reduce time spent on data input by up to 75 percent.

Jason Cramer from Wright Traffic Control followed next with a presentation on traffic management and safety around jobsites.

Statistics show that jobsite fatalities due to traffic crashes are on the rise, and drivers aren't getting any better. Wright Traffic Control specializes in training, equipping, and providing traffic control professionals to manage traffic around jobsites. Having dedicated traffic personnel alleviates the need to put random employees with little training on traffic duty, or conversely pulling employees off traffic duty when more help is needed in the hole and leaving the jobsite unguarded. Benefits include a lower EMR rate and lower insurance rates thanks to fewer accidents.

Wrapping up the afternoon's business, Dana Heieie of Southeast Directional Drilling recognized the Arthur T. Everham Safety Awards winners for 2020 and encouraged everyone to register for the Safety Congress in April, finishing with a call for speakers at the convention in July.

The 60th Annual DCA Convention will take place in person July 27-31 at the Ritz-Carlton Orlando in Grande Lakes, Florida. The convention will be a day shorter this year to give families more time to enjoy Disney World and the other parks in the area, and all necessary precautions will be observed to ensure our health and safety at leisure as we do at work.

For the full write-up of the committee meetings, please see pg 10. ▲

Committee News

March 2 - 3, 2021 Meetings



The DCA Board of Directors (BOD), Leadership Council and the five working committees held virtual meetings in conjunction with the DCA March 2-3 Virtual Spring Meeting.

Board of Directors

At the BOD virtual meeting Monday, March 1, board members discussed and approved a number of items, including the 2021 convention, the status of special projects and DCA financial documents.

- Due to the pandemic, the DCA 60th annual convention has been rescheduled for an unprecedented third time. The event will be held July 27-31 at the Ritz-Carlton Orlando. The convention schedule has been restructured to incorporate COVID-19 safety protocols required by the CDC and the hotel. The 2021 event will be one day shorter than past events and will be a family-oriented convention. Speakers and specific events will be announced in the coming weeks. Registration will open in mid-May.
- DCA currently has several special projects in development:

- o Microsites have been launched for HDD (HDD Trenchless) and workforce (Let's Get to Work).
- o DCA has contracted with BuildWitt to create three industry-related videos focused on job roles and the people who do the work.
- o A membership study is being developed and will be sent to DCA members in the coming months. The Strategic Vision Committee will review the results and set a future path for the association.
- The BOD reviewed the 2020 audit report and the 2021 budget. Board members also received an updated industry event schedule.

At the May 2020 Virtual BOD meeting, board members agreed to extend their term of office through February 2022. With this extension, there will be no BOD elections at the 2021 convention.

Leadership Council

The Leadership Council also met Monday, March 1, by Zoom call. The council reviewed actions of the DCA BOD from their earlier meeting. DCA working committee chairmen each gave a brief outline of the topics their

committee would be discussing in their individual meetings. The Leadership Council is made up of the elected chairs and vice chairs of each of the committees, the president and vice president of the board, and the executive vice president. The purpose of the Leadership Council is to coordinate the strategic direction of the DCA, as directed by the BOD.

Government Relations Committee

The Government Relations Committee met virtually Tuesday, March 2, and received updates on several pertinent topics. For more details about the following topics, please see the *DCA Insights* section of the *DCA News*.

- **State of Natural Gas Industry** – DCA has joined two coalitions that are collectively fighting the wave of gas bans for buildings and general pipeline opposition in several liberal states. DCA will continue to support legislation and rulemaking related to both policy that would restrict/phase out use of natural gas and “fuel choice” policy that would prohibit natural gas bans in their state. This presents ample opportunity to weigh in at the state level to oppose harmful and shortsighted legislative and regulatory efforts to restrict/phase out natural gas, and support policy that would prohibit such legislation. The committee was presented with information about a grassroots program that would facilitate communications from the DCA members. Follow-up information will be sent to the membership soon.
- **Pipeline Safety Legislation** – The reauthorization bill regarding the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) was included in the year-end “omnibus” legislation enacted in December.
- **Pipeline Safety Management Systems** – The committee was reminded that DCA was invited to participate in the industry team working to implement safety management systems (SMS) approached in the pipeline construction industry. While DCA is supportive of the direction the industry team is going, there are concerns about pipeline operators demanding additional requirements specific to their operations. DCA members were encouraged to reach out to Eben Wyman of Wyman Associates with similar concerns or experiences regarding SMS.
- **Muster** – DCA is engaging with Muster, a grassroots program that would facilitate communications from the DCA membership. Alerts would be sent out to DCA members, who would be given the choice to participate.

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 vice-chairmen of the committee are Mark Albert of AGI Construction and John Lamerton of Wyo-Ben.

Workforce Development Committee

The Workforce Development committee meeting updated attendees on efforts since the October Virtual Fall Meeting.

- **Workforce Sub-committee** – At the February 2020 meeting, a subcommittee was formed to help the committee focus on specific projects. The subcommittee is focusing on getting involved in local and state welding programs through SkillsUSA. Stephanie Metzler of Mears Group is the liaison for DCA members, SkillsUSA and schools. A state-by-state SkillsUSA Playbook is also being drafted. State pilot programs have been formed by:
 - o Michels Corp. in Wisconsin.
 - o AGI Construction in Rhode Island.
 - o Mears Group in Missouri.
- **BuildWitt** – DCA has contracted with BuildWitt to create three industry-related videos focused on job roles and the people who do the work. Filming for the videos will begin in April and DCA hopes to have a draft to view by the July convention. Special thanks were given to John Deere Construction & Forestry Division, United Rental Trench Safety, Mears, and Vermeer Corp. for sponsoring the project.
- **DCAletsGetToWork.com** – A microsite has been linked to the DCA website (www.dcaweb.org) called www.dcaletsgettowork.com. The microsite has information on prospects, Gen Z/Millennials, education, partners and prospects.

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 coordination with other industry professionals and national organizations. Vivek Arora of Mears Group and Randy Rupp of Ditch Witch are completing their terms as vice-chairmen of the committee. Dave Wisniewski of Vermeer Corp. and Pete Fojtik of Michels Corp. will become the vice-chairmen at the July convention.

Membership Committee

The Membership committee also met Tuesday, March 2. The committee reviewed the list of inactive contractors and noted that the list had shortened since the October

(continued on pg.12)

meeting. The committee also noted that several inactive members had attended the 2020-21 DCA hosted virtual meetings.

Attendees reviewed the membership report presented to the DCA BOD. Since the October BOD meeting, two new contractor members and three new associate members had joined DCA. Two contractors and 11 associate members had been dropped, resigned or merged with other members. Current membership totals are 93 contractor members and 134 associate members. The chairmen noted that the pandemic and the resulting economic conditions have hurt the associate members. Attendees were asked to reach out to members who have dropped and encourage them to rejoin the DCA. Chairmen will also be contacting prospective members about membership benefits and the July convention.

The committee also reviewed the results of the 2020 Equipment Study. The results of the survey will be published in the DCA annual report Benchmarks. Associate members use the results of the survey to justify their membership, sponsorship, and auction contributions to the DCA.

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. The 2021 vice-chairmen are Mike Aydt of MP Technologies and Brad Everett of Caterpillar.

HDD Committee

The HDD committee met on Wednesday, March 3. Attendees of the HDD Committee received an update on several discussion items.

- **Industry Events** – Several in-person industry events are scheduled for spring and summer. No Dig Show – Orlando, March 28-31; HDD Academy – Arizona State University, Scottsdale, April 22-23; and UCT – Nashville, July 13-15.
- **HDD Committee Micro Page** – Jeri Lamerton of Lamerton Strategic Communications gave an update on the DCA HDD Microsite, www.dcatrenchless.com. The site is linked to the DCA website, www.dcaweb.org, and is currently a baseline with new content, including videos and jobsite photos, being added. The focus of the site will gradually transition from HDD to trenchless in general.
- **OSU Mud Study Update** – It was announced that Phase 1 of the study has been completed. Phase 2 has been started but delayed due to the pandemic. The new target date is mid-2021. Kelvin Self of Ditch Witch oversees the project.

- **HDD Presentation** – Alan Goodman, Market Development Manager of HammerHead Trenchless in Lake Mills, Wisconsin, presented *Plastic & Steel Pipe Replace: Pipe Splitting & Pipe Extraction* to the attendees.

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 Rob Hotz of Laney Group and Dustin Kraft of Vermeer Corp.

Safety/Risk Management Committee

The Safety/Risk Management committee wrapped up the Virtual Spring Meeting on Wednesday, March 3. Attendees were treated to presentations by new DCA associate members Junaid Faruq of Datch and Jason Cramer of Wright Traffic Control.

Faruq, who is the Head of Strategy & Business Development for Datch, presented *Voice AI & the Industrial Worker: Making Operational Safety, Risk Management, & Data Quality a Natural Experience*. Datch, located in San Francisco, is an interactive voice-visual interface engineered specifically for the industrial workforce to interface with enterprise databases.

Jason Cramer serves as the Director of Operations for Wright Traffic Control (WTC) in Medina, Ohio. He presented *Safety is a Commitment*. WTC designs traffic programs for contractor projects.

Committee members discussed the revised category distribution for the Arthur T. Everham Safety Award. Forty-four contractors completed questionnaires for the 2020 award. *See page 16 for the list of 2020 Everham Safety Award recipients.*

The committee also reviewed plans for the 2021 DCA Safety Congress which will be held April 19-21 at the Gaylord Texan Resort in Grapevine, Texas. The 2021 event will be chaired Ken Crook, ARB, and Caleb Scheve, Price Gregory. This will be the first in-person DCA event since February 2020.

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. Bill Colson of PreTec Directional Drilling and Dana Heieie of Southeast Directional Drilling are vice-chairmen.

The next BOD, leadership council and committee meetings will be in conjunction with the 2021 DCA Convention, July 27-31, at the Ritz-Carlton Orlando. ▲

If you are interested in becoming an active member of any of the working committees, please contact the DCA office.



DCA-Dale R. Michels Scholarship Recipients Announced

Fourteen students were given a financial boost when they were selected by the scholarship committee as recipients of the 2021-22 DCA-Dale R. Michels Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship was founded in 1998 in honor of deceased DCA Honorary Member and Past President Dale R. Michels from the proceeds of the DCA's Annual Auction. The committee is pleased to announce that with DCA Members' generous support of the DCA auctions, that \$105,000 of scholarships to both students starting college and people who are returning to college has been awarded. The recipients for the 2021-22 academic year are:

- Laith Almhimedawy, Henkels & McCoy Inc. - \$2,500
- Kaylee Ellis, Q3 Contracting Inc. - \$10,000
- Morgan Greene, Vermeer Midwest Inc. - \$2,500
- Jonathan Ivy, InfraSource Services LLC, \$20,000
- Nathan Johnson, American Augers, Inc. - \$22,500
- Zaria Johnson, The Lincoln Electric Co. - \$2,500
- Lauren Limbeck, Michels Corp. - \$5,000
- Allison Maruska, Michels Corp. - \$2,500

- Elinore Neeves, Miller Pipeline - \$2,500
- Audrey Ryser, The Lincoln Electric Co. - \$2,500
- Thor Schiffer, K.R. Swerdfeger Construction Inc. - \$15,000
- Caleb Seabolt, American Augers Inc. - \$5,000
- Desarae Spielvogel, KS Energy Services LLC - \$2,500
- Megan Tibbett, Midwestern Manufacturing Co. - \$10,000

The 2021 DCA-Dale R. Michels Scholarship committee was comprised of DCA President Ben Nelson, Michels Pacific Energy Inc.; DCA Treasurer Ray Swerdfeger, K.R. Swerdfeger Construction Inc.; Past President Director Shepard Poole, The Hallen Construction Co. Inc.; Associate Member Director Woody Ferrell, Cross Country Infrastructure Services; Nate Eastway, Gabe's Construction Co. Inc; Mike James, ISCO Industries; Thomas Jones, MasTec North America Inc.; and Stacia Smith, Discovery Hydrovac LLC Kevin Michels of Michels Corporation sits permanently on the committee.

DCA-Curtis Allen Scholarship Recipients Announced

Six students were selected as recipients of the DCA-Curtis Allen Scholarship. The scholarship was founded in 2010 in honor of the late Curtis Allen and emphasis is given to students entering a vocational, trade or technical school. The scholarship receives funding from the DCA auctions and Halliburton. The recipients for the 2021-22 academic year are:

- Jarren Abel, MasTec North America - \$4,000
- Gavin Delrow, Miller Electric Mfg. - \$4,000
- Vanessa Falzerano, Bentonite Performance Minerals - \$4,000
- Andrew Hoeger-Pint, InfraSource Services LLC - \$4,000

- Nathan Ver Meer, Vermeer Corp. - \$6,000
- Kayden Zengerle, Otis Eastern Service - \$10,000

The 2021 DCA-Curtis Allen committee was comprised of: DCA Vice President Kevin Parker, Mears Group Inc.; DCA Director at Large Doug Reeves, Primoris Services Corp.; DCA Associate Member Director Scott Cooper, Caterpillar Inc.; and Scott Wright, Reed Manufacturing Co.; Halliburton Representatives Chris Bower of Bentonite Performance Minerals and Clint Pitman of Drilling Mud Direct sit permanently on the committee. ▲

Safety News

Safety Director & Safety Person of the Year Awarded During the Safety Congress



Nate Healy was named 2020 Safety Director of the Year and Rory Folsom took home the Safety Person of the Year honors at the 2021 DCA Safety Congress, April 19-21 at the Gaylord Texan Resort, Grapevine, Texas.

Healy is the Director of HSE for Michels Utility Services, Inc., in Brownsville, Wisconsin; Folsom is a Safety Director with ARB Inc., in Lake Forest, California. DCA President Ben Nelson of Michels Pacific Energy presented the awards.

Healy, who has been with Michels Utility Services for 12 years, is credited for his leadership with both the Michels Corp. COVID-19 Strike Team and the ongoing CDC research of infectious disease policy. He is also

a long-standing member of the Michels Emergency Response Team and worked with the Physical Security Team to develop the "Threat Assessment Guide," which is used for field leaders to assess their surroundings during times of civil unrest. Healy's calm and steadfast temperament complemented his outstanding leadership skills through unprecedented safety challenges in 2020.

Folsom has been with ARB for four years and has demonstrated leadership in safety on and off the work site. He reinforces the Primoris and ARB Safety Management System, having crew members share in leading safety meetings. In the last four projects he was involved with, Folsom oversaw more than 500 personnel



Nate Healy



Rory Folsom

and third-party contractors. While keeping safety at the forefront of everyone's thoughts, Folsom oversaw over a million man-hours worked without a recordable or lost time injury.

In addition to Healy, Safety Director of the Year nominees were:

- Jamison Carpenter, AGI Construction, Smithfield, Rhode Island
- Travis Flowers, Brotherton Pipeline Inc., Gold Hill, Oregon
- Tony Hartman, Oz Directional Drilling, Carefree, Arizona
- Chris Moulden, ARB, Inc., Lake Forest, California

Safety Person of the Year Nominees also included:

- Juan Luna, Oz Directional Drilling, Carefree, Arizona
- Joe Searl, Michels Corp., Brownsville, Wisconsin
- Tony Turner, Miller Pipeline, Indianapolis, Indiana

The DCA Safety Director of the Year award began in 1998 to recognize the importance of the safety director's role in today's construction industry. The winning safety director must first be nominated by the management of their company. The finalists are selected by members of the DCA Safety Committee and then voted on by their DCA peers. The winner receives a \$1,000 cash prize and plaque.

The Safety Person of the Year award, which recognizes an individual who has made a lasting impact on safety,

was suggested at a Safety Congress a few years ago. Nominees can come from any department within a DCA member company.

This year's Safety Congress included presentations on important issues affecting the industry and the U.S. Topics included:

- Human Performance & Building Capacity for Failure into our Work Practices - *Todd Conklin, Los Alamos National Laboratory*
- The Capacity Model - *Sage Babin, Quanta Services*
- Situational Awareness & Self Awareness - *Matt Barnhill, Barnhill & Associates Counseling Center*
- 2 Truths & a Lie* (*and Hoping the Lie Won't Kill You) - *Hal Snyder, Retired Sempra Utilities*
- My Brain Made Me Do It - *Justin Ganschow, Caterpillar Safety Services*

The DCA Safety Congress was the first in-person event DCA held since the pandemic started. The event attracted a record number of construction industry safety professionals—75 in all—who gathered to network, share creative training concepts, discuss trends, and to hear from leading safety training consultants, other safety directors, and risk management executives.

DCA wishes to thank 2021 Safety Congress co-chairs Ken Crook, Regional Safety Manager of ARB Inc., and Caleb Scheve, Director Safety & Health of Price Gregory Int'l, for their efforts in organizing this year's event.

**Save the Date for the DCA 2022 Safety Congress
March 28-30 in Austin, Texas**

2020 DCA Arthur T. Everham Safety Award



Safety excellence was recognized for several DCA contractor members for the effectiveness of their respective programs in 2020. The DCA established the Arthur T. Everham Safety Award in 1986 to recognize contractors with exceptional safety programs. Judging criteria includes: the number of OSHA lost workday cases, number of OSHA restricted duty days, number of first-aid cases, number of fatalities, the presence of a documented safety program, the use of a drug-testing program, and the company's Experience Modification Rate.

The award is highly coveted as recipients are recognized and honored by competitors. For 2020, the categories awarded are:

Under 135,000 Hour Category:

First Place – (a tie)

- NuLine Utility Services LLC, Belle Chasse, LA
- The HDD Company Inc., El Dorado Hills, CA

Second Place – (a tie)

- Atlas Trenchless LLC, Rockville, MN
- Brotherton Pipeline Inc., Gold Hill, OR

136,000 hours to 799,000 hours:

First Place – AGI Construction, Smithfield, RI

Second Place – Loy Clark Construction, Tualatin, OR

800,000 Hours to 1.9 Million hours:

First Place – Hanging H Companies, Burlington, WA

Second Place – Michels Corporation, Brownsville, WI

Over 2 Million Hours:

First Place – ARB Inc., Lake Forest, CA

Second Place – Minnesota Limited LLC, Big Lake, MN



DCA 60th Annual Convention
July 27-31, 2021
Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes, Florida

Registration Opens in May

Workforce News

How DCA Helped Produce a National TV Show



Who would have thought that exactly four years ago, a chance meeting with “Dirty Jobs” star Mike Rowe would turn into a TV show — one that sheds light on the importance of energy in our everyday world and provides DCA an opportunity to highlight the jobs available in our industry?

In May 2017, DCA Executive Vice President Rob Darden was invited to a dinner hosted by SkillsUSA, which provides technical classes that fill the gap left when shop and home economics courses were dropped from public schools. Rowe, a huge proponent of getting kids into the skilled trades, was on hand to help the organization recruit sponsors. By then, DCA had already sponsored SkillsUSA for a couple of years.

When Darden agreed to attend the event, he thought it would be a 50-person affair. In fact, it ended up being

an intimate dinner with just seven, including Rowe, mikeroweWORKS Foundation President Mary Sullivan, SkillsUSA Executive Director Tim Lawrence, Darden, and three others. The dinner was scheduled for a couple of hours but lasted nearly five, which is not unusual where Rowe is involved. Over a good meal and a few glasses of bourbon, he and Darden had time that evening to become well acquainted.

Mike Rowe Meets the DCA

A little less than a year later, Rowe was the opening keynote at the 2018 DCA Annual Convention at the Monarch Beach Resort in Dana Point, CA., where he regaled the audience with stories of how Dirty Jobs came to be and generally captured the DCA audience. The night before his speech Rowe asked to meet with Darden



Rob Darden & Mike Rowe on the set of Six Degrees

to get a feel for the audience and what he should talk about. The meeting began at 5:30pm and ended after midnight. Not only did time fly that evening, but apparently several helpings of bourbon did as well. But, over those drinks and dinner, a mutual agreement that energy powers everything, even in ways people do not understand.

The following month, Darden sent Rowe a proposal for him to produce a series on the energy industry, titled "Powering America's Future". Similar in style to past shows Mike has produced like "Dirty Jobs" (jobs), "How the Universe Works" (science), "How Booze Built America" (alcohol), or "Deadliest Catch" (fishing), "Powering America's Future" would focus on the variety of methods energy is created and used in America and how it impacts every aspect of American lives. It would be an effort to create industry awareness and highlight the great jobs available. Mike loved the idea and so the start of what would become "Six Degrees" began.

Giving the Project Some Legs

Nothing in the world of television production is fast or ends up quite how it starts. From April 2018 through December 2019, the show evolved from "Mike Rowe Knows" to "The Way I Heard It" to "Six Degrees."

The concept changed as well, transitioning from a show directly promoting the energy industry to an entertainment show with energy as a thread. As Rowe explained, people will not listen if they're hit over the head with the message. They need to be entertained first, then messaging could follow.

The format changed as well. Instead of a "Dirty Jobs" approach, the show would be based on a BBC production from the 1970s called "Connections." In that program, British historian and scientist James Burke connected the historical dots that illustrated how an event in the 1300's could cause a result in the 1970's. Both Rowe and Darden had loved the show while growing up, and Rowe had been thinking of ways to reboot the show for years. This new show would borrow generously from "Connections" and would incorporate the notion of "six degrees of separation" - the idea that all people on average are six, or fewer, social connections away from each other.

Now that there was a concept, the big challenge was how to pay for the show. The 2018 and 2019 DCA boards, led by presidents Jay Osborn and Mike Hickey, were very supportive of the effort and pledged DCA

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funds. In return, DCA would get an ad featuring Rowe that promoted industry jobs. Michels Corporation generously agreed to match DCA's contribution, but more money was still needed. In June 2018, Rowe and Darden presented the idea to the major energy associations in Washington, D.C. Out of that meeting came a very large contribution from the American Petroleum Institute (API). The combination of resources allowed production to begin.

Rowe stressed that while the show would feature energy, it would not be an "energy" show, nor would it be "created or scripted" by the energy industry. He would have full creative control over the content. For the show to be successful, and for Rowe to maintain his independence, neither the show nor he could be seen or perceived as having been bought and paid for by any one company or industry. DCA and API fully agreed and did not contribute to the creative aspect of the show, only to the ads that were produced and presented within the show.

Change of Plans, both Good and Bad

TV shows, especially like this one, are filmed all out of order. Parts of one episode are filmed on the same day or set as parts of another. Over the summer of 2019, filming of the now officially named "Six Degrees with Mike Rowe" began in San Francisco and in and around Atlanta. By then, what had started as six 30-minute shows to be aired on Rowe's social media channels turned into one-hour long episodes that caught the eye of Discovery, the home of most of Rowe's shows. While most filming was completed in the summer of 2019 more needed to be completed or segments reshot. That was scheduled for April 2020.

In March 2020, Darden invited Rowe to the DCA Convention in Boca Raton, Florida, to talk about "Six Degrees." He compared it to the old Texaco Theater, Exxon/Mobil Masterpiece Theater, and even the "soap operas," shows that were directly sponsored by an industry. Rowe said he believed that as television productions evolve, single-issue sponsored shows will return. He encouraged DCA and the energy industry to get behind shows that promote their benefits.

Just after the DCA Convention and before filming could be resumed, COVID-19 struck. All television production ceased, as did all events for DCA and others. The world came to a screeching halt. By October 2020, however, production slowly started up again and filming was completed in Atlanta. It is easy to tell by the masks

the production teams are wearing which scenes were shot when.

Making a Hit

By this time, Discovery was fully on board with the goal of making "Six Degrees" a prime show on their new streaming service, discovery+. Included with each episode were ads from API as well as the ads Rowe produced personally for DCA and Michels. In November 2020, Artera Services joined the effort and Rowe produced several ads promoting their companies, including Miller Pipeline, KS Energy, Minnesota Limited, Otis Eastern and Southeast Connections, all DCA members.

On January 4, 2021, "Six Degrees with Mike Rowe" premiered on discovery+. It can be seen at any time with a subscription to the streaming service. The industry ads, along with several clever character pieces directly about the benefits of oil and natural gas, are intrinsically connected to the show. On April 11, 2021, the show premiered on the main Discovery Channel with a new episode each Sunday night and reruns throughout the week. Discovery is very pleased with the positive reception the show is getting and has already asked Rowe for more episodes.

What started out over bourbon and good conversation four years ago has turned into an entertaining and informative TV show about how "energy is always in the room". Not only is the industry getting national exposure through an entertainment vehicle, but Rowe is also talking it up on his Facebook page, which has around 6 million followers, as well as during appearances on national TV shows. Rowe has been very vocal in his support of the industry and the great, high paying jobs available, especially considering the decision to cancel the Keystone Pipeline just as "Six Degrees" was going on air.

Getting Results

Mike Rowe is probably the energy industry's greatest advocate, and for that DCA thanks him, as well as DCA members Michels Corporation and Artera Services for supporting the effort. The ads embedded in the show are getting results. DCA has been receiving resumes from people interested in getting into the industry. They are posted on the DCA website and at our new workforce dedicated microsite – www.dcaletsgettowork.com. If you are interested in sponsoring and having Rowe produce an ad for your company, contact Darden at DCA. ▲

TRENCHLESS UTILITY INSTALLATION

Technology and Fluid Basics

Trenchless installation equipment is used to tunnel underground and install utilities with minimal ground disturbance. Trenchless installation is a proven method that has existed for over half a century. It is environmentally friendly and offers a lower carbon footprint than other installation methods. It also produces less noise pollution.

DCA Launches New Microsite to Help Educate Underground Industry

DCA Trenchless (www.dcatrenchless.com) was launched during the DCA Virtual Spring Meeting in early March 2021. The site's comprehensive, multimedia content gives users a concise, basic overview of the applications, techniques, equipment, and tooling used in horizontal directional drilling (HDD) and trenchless.

Topics also include drilling fluid's purpose, environmentally friendly additives, and recycling process. Darden said, "This site's a trenchless educational resource teaching how it not only avoids costly demolition and consequent restoration of surface structures and landscapes but offers utility installers capabilities that are only possible with trenchless."

DCA members will find the DCA Trenchless site to be an asset they can use both for their own education and as a resource to educate others. However, its value extends throughout the industry to all stakeholders. It's for anyone and everyone curious about trenchless and HDD works.

Content includes "myth busting," Darden said, public misconceptions such as the stigma surrounding the term "frack-out." The slang expression has been confused

with "fracking, which is short for "hydraulic fracturing." Hydraulic fracturing has no context in HDD. It is primarily used in the oil and gas industry to enhance resource extraction.

"Misinformation causes needless controversy," Darden said. "We hope our educational microsites help to curb that unnecessary waste of energy and emotion. Misperceptions based on false notions create obstacles that keep jobs from getting done and people from getting work."

If you would like to submit your company's photos or videos for the DCA Trenchless site, then please send them to Jeri Lamerton at Jeri@lamertonstrat.com.

Please specify in the email what is going on in the photo (who, what, when and where). If the photos or video is too large to send via email, then contact Jeri for a google drive link. Please only submit non-advertisement files. If you have any questions, just contact Jeri.

Please promote DCA and the microsite via your social platforms. ▲

Industry News

Gen Xers are “Thriving” with Digital Work while Millennials Struggle



TechRepublic.com – Adobe's Workfront has released its annual State of Work report for 2021, outlining "how COVID-19 changed digital work," the generational differences among employees, the importance of useful technology in day-to-day workflows, and more.

The report compares the results of two studies conducted by the Center for Generational Kinetics. The first study was conducted in February and March 2020 and the second was held eight months later, in November and December. Each study involved 1,000 respondents who "worked on a computer and collaborated with other people" and were employed by a company with at least 500 employees, the report said.

In the telecommuter age, remote teams have leveraged a vast suite of technologies to enable collaboration from afar. The number of respondents who said technology was "very important" for collaboration increased 10 points and the number of respondents who said technology was similarly important for "doing their best work" increased nine points, according to the report.

The authors explained that "remote work has exposed the limits of outdated technologies," noting that the number of respondents who felt that "old technology" made it harder to take on more work increased five points.

Prior to the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, about one-quarter of workers said they had quit a position "because workplace tech made their jobs harder," according to the report.

In the ensuing months, the report said the number of people who left a job due to tech inhibiting their "ability to do good work" jumped to 32%, and nearly half of respondents said they'd likely leave their current position "if they're unhappy or frustrated with the technology" used in their day-to-day work.

A portion of the report parses out datasets by age groups, specifically focusing on millennials and Gen X workers. Compared to "pre-COVID-19 measures," the number of people who said they'd quit a position over "bad technology" jumped 13 points for Gen Xers and seven points for millennials.

"The meme would be that a millennial generation is more technically savvy than a Gen X [generation], so you wouldn't expect the Gen X generation to have such a visceral reaction to bad tech. So I think that was one that jumped out to me as a meme-buster, if you will," said Alex Shootman, Workfront vice president and general manager.

The number of respondents who said they had turned down a position due to outdated tech increased 12 points and digital workers who said they'd applied for a position "because they heard a company's employees use great technology" jumped seven points, according to the report.

Overall, all respondents felt as though their daily work contributions made an "even bigger impact on the success of their companies than before the pandemic," but Gen Xers believe "their contributions are much more valuable," jumping eight points compared to millennials (three-point increase), the report said.

Digital workers are more comfortable with "a variety of foundational work elements," but Gen Xers "appear to be thriving," according to the report. For example, the number of millennials who said they were comfortable

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with communicating ideas and expressing opinions increased one point, while Gen Xers reported an eight-point increase in both categories.

In terms of a person's ability to "build and reinforce trust in the workplace," millennials' comfort levels dropped three points while Gen Xers reported a four-point increase.

Overall, both millennials and Gen Xers became more comfortable "dealing with work-related conflict and hard conversations," but comfort among older employees with these situations increased 10 points compared to a three-point bump for younger workers.

"We tend to assume that because younger workers grew up as 'digital natives,' they're very comfortable with a technology-enabled workplace and don't need extra support," Laura Butler, Workfront senior vice president of people and culture, said in the report. "But younger workers haven't had the opportunity to build collective resilience through a national catastrophe, are still growing their professional networks, and haven't logged as many years absorbing all the nuances of corporate culture," Butler noted.

"On top of all this, they're more likely to have young children at home that they're trying to care for and educate during the workday," Butler said.

The report ends with a series of "takeaways" for business leaders, including treating "technology as a critical workforce issue."

"Technology cannot be separated from the humans who use it. In making technology decisions, leaders must put at the center of their consideration how, and whether, technologies empower or hobble their workforces. Investing in new technologies is important, but investing in the right technologies is even more critical," the report said.

It also suggests leaders should "personalize the employee experience," which this includes allowing employees to "work where and how they are most creative and productive" and using technology ecosystem investments to offer "common information and collaboration spaces" while allowing workers to use their preferred "tools of choice."

The last takeaway is focused on leaders not taking "engagement for granted," when it comes to its workforce. The report states that "employee engagement can't be just an HR issue; it must become a strategic and multifaceted imperative." ▲

**Save the Date for the DCA Fall Meeting
Four Seasons, Denver, Colorado
October 27-29, 2021**



Insights



DCA Engages in State Level Advocacy to Defend Future of Natural Gas

In the January/February issue of *DCA Insights*, we reported on several states that are advancing legislation that would substantially reduce or phase out access to and use of natural gas. At the same time, several other states have passed or are advocating for “fuel choice” legislation that would prohibit state legislatures from enacting laws with restrictions on natural gas or other fuel sources.

The number of laws and legislative proposals under consideration seems to change by the day; when this article was written, some 15 states have enacted fuel choice bills into state law or have passed legislation that is awaiting the governor’s signature. Approximately the same number of states had enacted or were working on harmful bills that would restrict access to natural gas by new requirements subject to state or local building codes.

For the past several months, DCA has participated in a coalition of business organizations working collectively to support fuel choice bills and oppose restrictive measures at the state level. Moving forward, this effort will require more active and direct advocacy by DCA members. As such, the association is investing in an elaborate, online grassroots advocacy program that will provide a very ‘user-friendly’ way for DCA members to support or oppose these bills through direct communication with state legislators.

More to come on this in the near future, but DCA is counting on your active participation in supporting fuel choice laws and policies.

Carbon Capture Initiatives Quickly Gaining Attention

Recognizing the national shift toward increased use of renewable energy, DCA has described the concept of having to choose between using natural gas or other traditional energy sources versus renewable energy as a “false choice.” Future use of abundant and clean-burning natural gas actually enables the use of renewable fuels, while the intermittent nature of renewables such as wind and solar proves that these energy sources alone do not have the capacity to meet current and future demand.

In a March 24 letter to House and Senate leadership and committees with jurisdiction over energy policy, DCA stated that, “America cannot achieve its clean energy ambitions without substantial growth of natural gas production and gas-fired electric generation and an equally large expansion of the natural gas pipeline network,” and that, “we believe that the increasing hostility regarding the important role that natural gas plays in providing a sustainable source of American energy is largely misplaced.” At the same time, evaluating clean energy initiatives early will help ensure the smoothest transition possible in the current political environment.

Carbon capture, use, and storage (CCUS) efforts are increasingly considered to play an essential role in capturing emissions from indispensable industries like steel, cement, plastics, and fertilizer production that have inherent carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in their production processes. Infrastructure must be built to transport captured industrial and atmospheric CO₂, and pipeline transportation continues to be the safest way to move energy. In addition, geological storage infrastructure will be needed to permanently and safely store CO₂. At a time when the natural gas industry seems to be under constant attack, CCUS opportunities bode well for the pipeline construction industry.

Pipelines are currently the dominant mode of CO₂ transportation. There are 5,000 miles of existing CO₂ pipelines in limited regions that were developed over the past half century to transport it from natural geologic sources to oil fields. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) regulates these pipelines, which are widely considered to have operated safely and reliably with no significant environmental or safety incidents.

Similar to existing rail, highway, power, water, and gas infrastructure for their respective industries, CO₂ transport and storage infrastructure facilitates carbon capture deployment in three key ways:

- First, building this infrastructure will enable more CO₂ capture from more locations. Not all areas of the country have the appropriate geology for CO₂ storage, so it must be moved to regions that do.
- Second, CO₂ transport and storage infrastructure have strong economies of scale, and larger infrastructure that can handle greater CO₂ volume carries a lower unit cost. Collecting increased amounts of CO₂ from multiple sources will allow for more carbon capture for future use.
- Finally, shared CO₂ infrastructure systems will help connect multiple buyers and sellers of CO₂. Creating a CCUS market will decrease the demand or supply risk for carbon capture, utilization, or storage projects, thereby reducing the total cost of carbon capture while driving technological innovation.

SCALE Act Introduced to Facilitate CCUS Efforts

In March, Sens. Chris Coons (D-Del.) and Bill Cassidy (R-La.) and Reps. Marc Veasey (D-Tex.) and David McKinley (R-W.V.) introduced the "Storing CO₂ And Lowering Emissions (SCALE) Act." It is intended to help develop CCUS infrastructure to reduce CO₂ emissions while creating regional economic opportunities and jobs. The legislation would establish carbon-to-value research and development initiatives to support development of low and zero-carbon fuels, chemicals, building products, and materials; provide low-interest grants and loans for CCUS efforts; and provide funding for federal permitting of carbon injection wells.

"Carbon capture and the associated infrastructure is essential for the United States to reach net-zero emissions by mid-century," said Rep. Veasey. "If we successfully deploy CO₂ transport and storage infrastructure, we can

help certain industrial sectors of our economy dramatically reduce their emissions while creating thousands of good jobs."

Rep. McKinley agreed, adding that, "building out midstream and downstream infrastructure is a key component of supporting the deployment of carbon capture technologies," and that, "for carbon capture to work, we need to be able to transport it to geologic storage or customers who can use it. Through additional investments proposed in this bill, the U.S. can take significant steps towards reducing its carbon emissions by developing a program that will support the construction of CO₂ pipelines across the country and create countless jobs."

The legislation would establish a "CO₂ Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act" (CIFIA) program to finance shared CO₂ transport infrastructure. Modeled on the "TIFIA" and "WIFIA" federal programs for highway and water infrastructure, CIFIA will provide flexible, low-interest loans for CO₂ transport infrastructure projects and grants for initial excess capacity on new infrastructure to facilitate future growth.

Challenges

The legislation will need to address certain barriers to CCUS deployment that must be addressed at the federal level to make CCUS a sustainable tool for a clean energy future. The first is cost, and while there are existing tax credits that enable economic CO₂ capture from multiple sources, the credit value is not high enough to fund significant new CO₂ transportation/storage infrastructure.

CCUS also faces a "chicken-and-egg" challenge. CO₂ transportation/storage infrastructure must exist, or at least be certain to be built, before CO₂ capture projects can be committed. At the same time, CO₂ capture projects must also exist or be certain before the transport and storage infrastructure can be committed.

Building for future demand will also have to be factored in. CO₂ transport and storage infrastructure needs to be built with excess capacity needed for future growth, while initial CO₂ capture projects must bear the cost of the infrastructure but will need federal support in order to pay for oversized infrastructure.

Increased Use of Hydrogen Will Mean Extensive Pipeline Construction Work

Congress and the energy industry are also evaluating hydrogen as an environmentally friendly alternative to conventional fossil fuels for vehicles and power generation. Increased delivery of hydrogen to facilities such as power plants, industrial sites, and fuel distribution hubs across the country will require an expansive hydrogen pipeline network. A staff report last year from the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis recommended that Congress draft legislation to facilitate the development of hydrogen transportation and that federal agencies should adjust their regulatory framework to support the construction of the infrastructure needed to do the job.

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Hydrogen is colorless and odorless, with the highest energy content of any fuel and can generate electricity with only heat and water vapor as by-products while posing an overall safety risk comparable to that of methane. Hydrogen can deteriorate steel pipe, pipe welds, valves, and fittings.

At the end of 2020, there were just over 1,600 miles of hydrogen pipeline in the U.S., located primarily along the Gulf Coast. While most hydrogen pipeline transportation occurs in dedicated hydrogen infrastructure, some American operators have begun projects to blend hydrogen and methane in existing natural gas pipelines. Many analysts agree that 20% of hydrogen concentrations may be the maximum blend before significant pipeline upgrades will be required.

Converting natural gas pipelines to carry pure hydrogen is viable and may offer economic advantages over building new pipelines, although both converted and new hydrogen pipelines will face market uncertainty and logistical challenges related demand. In addition, shared jurisdiction among a variety of federal agencies may complicate changes to the regulation of hydrogen. Jurisdiction currently resides with the Surface Transportation Board (STB), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and PHMSA.

Congress will have to map out the relationship between hydrogen pipelines and other federal and/or state energy initiatives, oversee the related activities among different federal agencies, and prioritize federal efforts to develop hydrogen pipelines. While there already exists a modest hydrogen pipeline network in this country, the scale of a national hydrogen pipeline system will need to grow substantially to support the ambitious environmental goals of the Biden administration, which has proposed \$15 billion for hydrogen demonstration projects, including utility-scale energy storage and hydrogen pipeline construction.

According to PHMSA, "as the hydrogen economy moves from concept to reality, and the public grows to depend on hydrogen availability ... the ability to safely and reliably transport ... larger quantities of hydrogen will become increasingly important." Although many technical, regulatory, and economic issues would still have to be resolved to grow the hydrogen pipeline system, efforts have been underway domestically and abroad to address potential barriers to future hydrogen pipeline development and gas pipeline conversion.

Developments in both hydrogen supply and demand will be key factors of how much hydrogen pipeline capacity will be needed, and hydrogen-fueled electric power plants, vehicles, and industrial processes will be equally important to the pipeline construction needed to expand the role of hydrogen in America's energy future.

As DCA continues to fight the ongoing attacks on natural gas and the important role it plays in ensuring sustainable American energy, one thing is clear as policy-makers continue to evaluate alternatives: the need for a significant buildout of pipeline infrastructure remains.

FERC to Consider GHG Emissions in Future Environmental Analyses

On March 22, 2021, FERC set new standards to be used to evaluate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with natural gas pipelines as part of their assessment of potential projects. In a recent order, FERC makes it clear that it will now consider GHG impacts in its environmental analysis of a proposed project. Specifically, GHG impacts will be one of the factors FERC will weigh when determining whether a pipeline is in the public interest and should be permitted.

Although the order does not explicitly address many questions regarding FERC's approach to weighing the impacts of GHGs, it does clarify the following:

- FERC will consider a project's GHG impacts along with its other environmental impacts required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- FERC will look at the project's GHG emissions as compared to total U.S. emissions.
- FERC will examine whether a project is consistent with any state policies limiting GHG emissions.
- Emissions will be considered along with other factors when determining whether a project is required by the public convenience and necessity.
- Environmental conditions imposed on a pipeline will be integral to the treatment of the GHG emissions in environmental analysis.

Several questions are not addressed in the order, including whether and how FERC will evaluate the "downstream" GHG impacts of a project (i.e. the impacts of GHGs emitted by end-users burning gas), or if FERC will incorporate the Biden administration's recent executive action regarding the "social cost" of carbon in its NEPA analysis. Other remaining questions include how a project will be determined to have significant enough GHGs to trigger the requirement for an Environmental Impact Statement, and how the cumulative impacts of pipelines on GHG emissions will be evaluated.

FERC's order represents a major shift from its previous approach to GHG emissions and its obligations under NEPA. Additional changes are likely as FERC addresses specific issues in future orders, such as upstream and downstream GHG emissions. The bottom line is that the recent order is a clear indicator that GHG impacts of pipeline proposals will get a lot more attention than they have in the past. ▲



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Principal

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Calendar

DCA & Industry Events

2021

JUNE 10-11

HDD Academy
Arizona State University SkySong Center
Scottsdale, Arizona
www.hddacademy.com

JULY 13-15

Underground Construction Technology International
Conference & Exhibition (UCT)
Music City Center
Nashville, Tennessee
www.uctonline.com

JULY 27-31

DCA 60th Annual Convention
Ritz-Carlton Orlando
Grande Lakes, Florida
www.dcaweb.org

AUGUST 11-15

Pipe Line Contractors Association
(PLCA) Annual Convention
The Greenbrier
White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia
www.plca.org

SEPTEMBER 28-30

The Utility Expo
Kentucky Exposition Center
Louisville, Kentucky
www.icuee.com

OCTOBER 27-29

DCA Fall Meeting
Four Seasons Hotel Denver
Denver, Colorado
www.dcaweb.org

2022

FEBRUARY 14-18

Pipe Line Contractors Association
(PLCA) Annual Convention
Sheraton Wild Horse Pass
Phoenix, Arizona
www.plca.org

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 5

DCA 61st Annual Convention
J.W. Marriott Cancun Resort & Spa
Cancun, Quintana Roo
Mexico
www.dcaweb.org

MARCH 1-3

Global Excavation Safety Conference
Phoenix, Arizona
www.globalexavationsafetyconference.com

MARCH 28-30

DCA Safety Congress
Hyatt Regency Austin
Austin, Texas
www.dcaweb.org

APRIL 11-13

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

MAY 2-6

Pipe Line Contractors Association of Canada
(PLCAC) Annual Convention
Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa
Maui, Hawaii
www.pipeline.ca

Member News



Miller Electric Mfg. Co.

New Learning Management System Designed for Welding Instructors

A solution for welding classes

As the number of skilled welders continues to decrease, welding instructors play a critical role in retaining and training new welders. At the same time, instructors must adapt classroom and lab techniques for a technology-savvy generation of learners.

Miller® OpenBook™ is a free learning management system (LMS) used to plan, implement, offer and assess learning processes. With OpenBook™, welding instructors can assign and deliver welding content, create quizzes, welding labs, monitor student participation, and assess and report student progress and performance.

This LMS offers a wide variety of welding resources and course materials — such as e-learning modules, hands-on welding labs and quizzes. Instructors can utilize the content available to create their own course. Simply create an account, register your school or company and you are ready to get started.

Flexible system

The online software can be used as a tool to teach anything from welding basics to advanced lab activities and can be tailored to fit most classroom settings — from a middle or high school program all the way up to a high-level college training course.

"Instructors can customize the experience for their students depending on the needs of their local market

and the curriculum that their state deems they should be teaching," said Phil Sabee, manager of training services at Miller.

OpenBook™ is also great for companies and organizations wishing to provide continuous training to employees. This is helpful for educating novice welders on the job's essentials, providing training to existing welders on new processes or even getting an entire workforce up to speed on the basics of welding.

Miller continually adds new materials and updates existing materials in OpenBook™ when needed, so the instructor doesn't have to — making it simple, up-to-date and easy to use.

"As an instructor, it has freed me up a lot because I'm not spending time sitting there trying to pull information out of magazines, off the internet or looking through a textbook — it's all there on the software," said Matt Hansen, welding instructor at MMCRU High School in Marcus, Iowa. "I'm quickly creating my own plug-and-play system to alter a class, so the information I want conveyed to the class is right there on the OpenBook™ website."

Reducing the time instructors have to spend planning lessons, grading assignments, finding resources and more means additional time they can spend helping students in the lab with their welding technique.

Modern learning

OpenBook™ is ideal for the modern learner, allowing students to complete their work on a computer, tablet or even on their phone. Students can simply log on to the OpenBook™ site and complete the assignments wherever, whenever.

"Modern students like utilizing technology; It's just a better way to reach kids right now," said Hansen.

In addition, OpenBook™ tracks how long a student is logged in and grades assignments, and it automatically notifies students of assignments once the instructor publishes them. This allows for greater accountability from the students.

"It's just a great way for them to learn," said Sabee. "And a different way for them to learn than what they have had in the past."

Time and cost savings

When developing curriculum and finding resources is streamlined, there is a cost and time savings for instructors and students alike. But even more important is the opportunity easy-to-use software provides for instructors to focus their efforts where it matters: teaching.

With the time instructors save searching for classroom resources and grading assignments, they can spend more time in the shop helping students build their hands-on welding skills.

"The biggest thing for me is that it has allowed me to create better relationships with my students — getting more one-on-one time, watching them and working with them out in the shop," said Hansen. "It has freed me up as an instructor."



CASE Construction Equipment

CASE Delivers Electric Backhoe Loaders to Utilities in New York

The construction industry's first designed and commercially developed electric backhoe loaders — two CASE 580 EV backhoes from CASE Construction Equipment — have been delivered and are currently working with utilities in New York.

New York State Gas & Electric (NYSEG) and Rochester Gas & Electric (RG&E), AVANGRID, Inc. subsidiaries also revealed its first electric backhoe recently at a special event in New York, and National Grid took delivery of its first electric backhoe earlier this year. The backhoes require no diesel and produce zero emissions — all while providing the power and performance associated with diesel-powered equipment.

CASE announced the development of the electric backhoe in March of 2020, and has been working with each utility on refining the machines ahead of final delivery and field deployment. Electrification of the CASE 580

EV was performed in conjunction with New York companies Green Machine Equipment, Inc. and Moog Inc. Monroe Tractor in New York will work with each utility and the integration partners to support the equipment in the field.

NYSEG and RG&E President and CEO Carl Taylor believes that the deployment of electric construction equipment into the communities they serve is driven by sustainability and the desire to be responsible neighbors.

"At NYSEG and RG&E, the driving force behind all of our decisions is to put our customers first and care for the communities we serve," says Taylor. "As an energy provider, we have a responsibility to be good stewards of the environment and build a more sustainable future for our communities. The addition of this first-of-its-kind backhoe into our fleet will help us meet sustainability goals and benefit the communities we serve by providing a cleaner work environment in the form of emissions and noise reduction. It's equipment like this that will drive our fleets, businesses and communities into the future."

The 580 EV is powered by Green Machine's proprietary 480-volt, 90-kilowatt-hour lithium-ion WhisperDrive battery pack that can be charged by any 220-volt connection. While applications vary, each charge can support common eight-hour workdays. The battery separately powers the drivetrain and hydraulic motors, resulting in hydraulic breakout forces equal to diesel-powered machines and improved performance during simultaneous loader and drivetrain operation.

It is estimated that the 580 EV could save fleets as much as 90 percent in annual vehicle service and maintenance costs when taking into account the reduction/elimination of diesel, engine oil, diesel exhaust fluid, regular preventive maintenance and long-term engine upkeep/maintenance (and the associated labor rates and time savings).

"National Grid and NYSEG and RG&E are at the forefront of living the clean energy promise in their communities, and their use of electrically powered equipment like the CASE 580 EV shows that fleets can be clean while also delivering where it counts in the field," says Leandro Lecheta, head of construction — North America, CASE Construction Equipment. "We share that commitment to develop and stand behind equipment that meets sustainability and productivity goals, while also being good for the communities we work in together."

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Caterpillar Foundation Announces Global Environmental Partnership with One Tree Planted

The Caterpillar Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Caterpillar Inc., recently announced an investment of \$1 million with One Tree Planted, a nonprofit organization focused on advancing the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through global reforestation initiatives. In recognition of Caterpillar's more than 95-year commitment to building a better world, the Caterpillar Foundation and One Tree Planted will collaborate on tree planting engagements in 95 communities across the globe.

The Caterpillar Foundation is on a mission to help build resilient communities that thrive in a rapidly changing world. As part of its strategy, the Foundation is focused on restoring local ecosystems to help communities grow stronger and more sustainable.

"Our partnership with One Tree Planted is not just about planting trees — this is part of a larger journey contributing to restored forests, cleaner air and water, stabilized soils, improved biodiversity and more," said Caterpillar Foundation President Asha Varghese. "From California to Brazil and South Africa to India, this work will help catalyze the importance of natural infrastructure around the world."

Through the Foundation's support, One Tree Planted will work with community-based watershed and conservation organizations and municipalities to ensure ecolog-

ical restoration outcomes that include planting approximately 290,000 trees, restoring approximately 620 acres, and an estimated 7,000 metric tonnes of CO2 sequestered per year.

"The impact of these reforestation initiatives will be far-reaching and long-lasting," said Matt Hill, chief environmental evangelist at One Tree Planted. "We appreciate the Caterpillar Foundation's thoughtful vision in connecting the environment, employees and local communities to create a healthier future."

The Foundation's approach to sustainable natural infrastructure and support of One Tree Planted also aligns with Caterpillar's focus on sustainability. As one of the company's core values, sustainability represents Caterpillar's vision of a world where people's basic needs — such as shelter, clean water, education and reliable energy — are fulfilled.

Holsen to Lead Michels' Midwest North Pipe Rehabilitation Efforts



Marc Holsen

Marc Holsen joins Michels Corporation as Midwest North Region Senior Manager of its Pipe Services operations. He will be responsible for all operational aspects in the Midwest North region, which includes Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan.

Pipe, culvert, and utility manhole rehabilitation services in the region include cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) relining using steam, water, and ultraviolet light (UV) curing; sprayed-in-place geopolymer applications; water main rehabilitation; utility manholes; and grouting.

Prior to joining Michels, Holsen served as the Manitowoc County (WI) Highway Commissioner for five years, following one year as Road Superintendent. In his nearly 25 years of road and highway experience, Holsen has worked as a Laborer, Project Engineer, and Project Manager. His career started as a Platoon Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he led a combat engineering platoon on projects including bridge construction, inspections, and demolitions.

Holsen earned an associate's degree in drafting and design and a bachelor's degree in project management from ITT Technical Institute as well as a master's degree in operations management from the University of Wisconsin - Stout.

Welcome New Members

CONTRACTOR MEMBERS

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Phone: (309) 912-7026
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ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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Website: www.minovaglobal.com

Michael Portwood, Vice President Americas
Stan Harlen, General Manager Oil & Gas;
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"Marc has a unique perspective on the impact proper maintenance and rehabilitation of underground pipes and water mains can have on the roads and highways above them," said Pat Herzog, Vice President. "That knowledge, as well as all of his other experiences, makes him a great addition to our team."

Michels is one of the largest, most diversified energy and infrastructure contractors in North America. The company provides bridge construction, highway and road construction, construction aggregates, concrete crushing, and recycled concrete aggregates.



RDO Equipment Company

RDO Equipment Sponsors Drone Category in "Prospects" Competition for Students in Billings, Montana

Students and community members took in a drone exhibition recently after three students won a Montana Chamber of Commerce Chamber Foundation business pitch competition.

The competition, called "The Prospects" awarded prizes

over 10 categories, including a special prize category on drones and data which was won by Rapelje High School students Lily Herzog, Kylee Bryant and Matthew Brubaker for their "Pipeline Tech" submission.

RDO Equipment Company sponsored the drone category, and the company put on a drone flight and data analysis exhibition in Rapelje, with an emphasis on how drone technology can be integrated with heavy machinery in the agriculture, construction and energy industries.

Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen also attended and spoke at the Monday event.

"Our goal for the Drone and Data Exhibition was to demonstrate how business and education can partner on work-based learning opportunities that develop in demand workforce readiness skills; and support the career technical education (CTE) that our students need for success in the information age," Matthew Olson, the director of network development for the Montana Chamber of Commerce, said.

Award winners for The Prospects were announced in March. The competition awarded \$35,000 in cash, \$15,000 in scholarships and financial aid and \$2,000 in Microsoft technology prizes. The Montana Chamber Foundation partnered with the entrepreneur education nonprofit Youth Entrepreneurs for the competition.

"During the pandemic we saw the need to run a virtual high school business competition to reward kids for their ideas," Olson said.

Entries consisted of a pitch video running two minutes or less and a business summary of 1,000 words or less.

A total of 171 students submitted 93 entries to the competition.

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James (Jim) Bielawa

In Memoriam: Jim Bielawa

James (Jim) E. Bielawa, founder and president of Century Products, Inc, passed away peacefully February 28, 2021, at age 85.

Bielawa was a Navy veteran who co- founded Century Products, Inc., with his wife, Nancy, in 1982. Bielawa served as the company's president

for 39 years, becoming CEO in 2001 when his son, Todd Bielawa, took over daily operations.

Century Products began as a wholesale distributor but by 2000 the company had expanded and started

designing and manufacturing downhole drilling tools for the horizontal directional drilling Industry. Their engineering efforts paid off, and Century Products built a reputation within the industry of developing the strongest and most reliable hole openers in North America.

"It is my Dad that taught me how to conduct business with integrity being of the utmost importance in any business relationship," Todd Bielawa. said. "He was a rock when it came to making tough decisions. As his years climbed, he still wanted to come to the office and help guide the ship."

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Jim Bielawa's name can be made to the Salvatorian Fathers, Waukesha Humane Animal Welfare Society (HAWS), or a local animal shelter of your choice. ▲



DCA MEMBERS - SEND US YOUR NEWS!

DCA would love to publish your company news in upcoming issues of the DCA newsletter, on the website and DCA social media pages. Please send news items, open job positions, press releases, images or videos to cgreen@dcaweb.org.

Featured DCA Member Websites



Aaron Enterprises

www.aaronenterprises.com

Aaron Enterprises is a underground trenchless utility contractor that specializes in installing pipe for utilities using auger boring, horizontal directional drilling, tunneling, pipe ramming, micro-tunneling, and vertical shafts. The majority of their work is for natural gas transmission pipelines, water, electric, sewer, and storm water. With over 30 year's experience, Aaron Enterprises has developed the reputation as the "trenchless technology" expert that gets the job done.

ALLU Group, Inc.

www.allu.net

ALLU designs, manufactures and sells products for adding value to customers in numerous applications for processing, separating, sorting, mixing and crushing materials. Typical applications include e.g. soil and waste material recycling, processing contaminated soil, transforming waste to usable material.

Driven by customer needs, the company has innovated the methods and equipment for transforming the processes and operations of the customers. The history of ALLU goes back for over 30 years and today over 95% of the business is done with international customers globally.

The serving network of ALLU consists today of own subsidiaries and a dealer network in more than 30 countries.



Brandt Equipment Solutions

www.brandt.ca

Originally Brandt Electric designed and built innovative products including one of the first grain augers available in Canada. Eventually, Brandt Electric became Brandt Industries Ltd. Today, Brandt is a growing, dynamic and diverse group of companies headquartered in Regina, Saskatchewan. Brandt employs more than 3400 people across Canada and the US and services markets in over 20 countries and six continents. Brandt is the largest privately owned company in Saskatchewan and a Platinum Member of the Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies program.



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