

THE BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE DISTRIBUTION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION



DCA NEWS

JULY / AUGUST 2022



**DCA Mid Year
Meeting**

Fall Meeting

Workforce News



CONTENTS

04 Mid Year Meeting

12 Committee News

15 Calendar

16 DCA Fall Meeting

18 SkillsUSA TECHSPO & ASCA No Limits

21 OSHA Demo Day

22 Insights

26 Member News





DCA 2022 Mid Year Meeting Wrap-Up

While much of the country baked in record-breaking heat this summer, DCA members took a much-needed respite in the relative cool of the Pacific Northwest at one of the most beautiful meeting locations in recent years, the Coeur d'Alene Golf & Spa Resort in northern Idaho. Located near the town of Coeur d'Alene on the shores of a clear glacial lake surrounded by fir tree-lined mountains, the resort offers a wide range of fun and relaxation both on and off the water amid spectacular scenery that attendees won't soon forget.

Things got off to a slightly rough start on Monday, July 18, as rain and wind early in the day forced the registration party indoors. Nonetheless, many members dropped by for a fun variety of popcorn and refreshments with spouses and children in tow, and tables full of free swag from the DCA closet were quickly stripped bare. By evening the weather had improved enough for the Street Fair Welcome Reception and Dinner to take place on the resort's front lawn. A patriotic lake breeze kept

the American flag flying overhead as an acoustic band sang classics while members dined in the cool evening air. Vendor tables on the lawn sold jewelry, gelato, crafts, cotton candy, makeup, and more while children played in a bouncy castle and a magician went around the tables doing card tricks for the guests.

Tuesday, July 19

At the group breakfast on Tuesday morning, DCA President Kevin Parker touted the record 265 registrants for this year's meeting, including 56 children. He then introduced keynote speaker Dave Davlin, known for his world record of spinning 12 basketballs on his body simultaneously and years of performing basketball tricks during NBA halftimes. Now a public speaker and author of *The Game-Winning 3*, Davlin talked about lessons he learned from his upbringing in San Marcos, Texas, in between bringing up members of the audience to take part in his basketball antics. We still don't know how he



got Kevin Parker's bra off. He identified the three winning elements of life from his book as the person you become, the memories you make, and the difference you make, noting that the "rocking chair" and "eulogy" tests will tell how you did in the end.

Next, business commenced with the Trenchless Committee meeting. Dave Wisniewski started off with a segment about the Power & Communication Contractors Association's (PCCA) efforts to form a coalition to broadly improve safety across the industry and develop new tools, inspired by a Common Ground Alliance (CGA) presentation on "Why is Air Travel So Safe?" The audience offered vigorous feedback on what problems the proposed coalition should address if the DCA were to get involved. The committee also announced that DCA member Dr. Sam Ariaratnam of Arizona State University had been appointed by Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg to the Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee (GPAC), marking the first time that contractors have been represented on the committee and giving DCA an important voice in future rulemaking. The meeting concluded with a review of the continuing evolution of the DCA Trenchless website as new content accumulates, encouraging members to help drive traffic to the site to improve search engine rankings.

Up next, the Safety/Risk Management Committee offered a presentation on contractor Pipeline Safety Management Systems (PSMS) from Ashley Donnini, CEO of Lola Link Consulting LLC, and David Toth from the American Petroleum Institute (API). They focused on the goals, vision, and mission of the PSMS program, describing its current state of development and future

steps to take. The primary focus is on developing a clear, scalable, and flexible framework and increasing industry participation and support. With safety more top of mind than at any other time in the history of the construction industry and support is there to elevate industry standards, the speakers believe that now is the time to act before the government finds reason to intervene. When the floor opened for feedback, Kevin Miller of Miller Pipeline offered his experience with his company's adoption of its own SMS and some useful suggestions for the larger effort, such as third-party assessments for contractors and organized tracking of safety information.

At the end of an afternoon filled with fishing, golfing, hiking, zip-lining, local tours, and other fun activities, the members boarded a pair of double decker cruise boats for the ride across the lake to the Hagadone Event Center. Lawn games including cornhole, Jenga, Connect 4, Spikeball, and a foosball table were set up just outside the covered pavilion where dinner was served. The expansive view of the lake at sunset accompanied by a singer on acoustic guitar made for the kind of evening to help you forget your cares in life.

Wednesday, July 20

After breakfast the next morning, the Membership Committee kicked off a discussion of the mentor program for first time attendees. Vince King announced that he was working on material and tools for mentors to use. Another member whose first DCA event was the online

(continued on pg. 06)



“Covid Convention” chimed in that he had trouble integrating at first, but that the mentor program had really helped him feel comfortable once in-person meetings started up again. The committee also asked attendees to reach out to members who had dropped out during the pandemic and encourage them to rejoin.

At the Town Hall, DCA Executive Vice President Rob Darden gave the treasurer’s report, noting the effects of the stock market on this year’s budget deficit. The Strategic Vision Committee is focusing heavily on member retention and re-signing, as well as converting “checkbook members” to attending members. Darden also gave a rundown on the DCA’s recent appearances at the SkillsUSA TECHSPO and the American School Counselors Association (ASCA), proudly noting the success of new display materials and strong interest from the counselors with promise to open new doors.

The Government Relations Committee opened with a review of the current status of “fuel choice” laws and damage prevention performance across the states. Highlighted among their 13 recommendations for states was the need for a central repository for GIS mapping — preferably the CGA. Brad Heck of Miller Pipeline updated members on the Operator Qualification Integrity Process (OQIP) pilot programs and different concepts being tested at each location. The legislative update covered the growing push for carbon capture and hydrogen fuel, and the committee advocated for DCA to join the Carbon Capture Coalition. Additional discussion on supply chain issues, SMS, and a successful “Demo Day” for 40 OSHA representatives rounded out the meeting. The

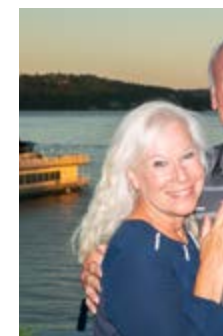
committee also advised that the best time for a D.C. fly-in would be next spring, since nothing is likely to happen until after the midterm elections and access remains restricted on Capitol Hill due to COVID-19.

Next, the Workforce Development Committee went into more detail about the recent SkillsUSA conference in Atlanta that numerous DCA member companies attended. Dave Wisniewski then led a discussion on developing future DCA leaders, focusing on how to impart professional development and soft skills to busy middle managers and superintendents. In BuildWitt news, DCA expects more videos to be released by Thanksgiving, with still more opportunities to take part in the future. Referring back to the ASCA conference, the committee announced new print literature available for counselors to use and noted some feedback from them that the trades have a bad habit of not getting back to counselors after the conventions — an opportunity for DCA to stand out from the crowd.

After another afternoon of activities in flawless mountain weather, members gathered on the cruise boats one more time to enjoy dinner and drinks on the lake with the two boats hitched side by side. While Canada geese and ospreys floated by, parasailers took to the sky, and pleasure boats sailed on, the sun slowly set on the glittering lake to wrap up a truly memorable summer event.

DCA will convene next at the Fall Meeting at the Amway Grand Plaza hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 24-26. ▲











Committee News

July 18 - 21, 2022 Meetings



2022 Mid Year Meeting

The DCA Board of Directors and the five working committees met at the July 18-21, 2022, DCA Mid Year Meeting at the Coeur d'Alene Resort in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

2022 Board of Directors

The 2022 DCA Board of Directors met on Monday, July 18, and reviewed updates to:

- **Arthur Everham Safety Award** – The Arthur Everham Safety Award questionnaire was updated for the first time in over 10 years to reflect current industry safety guidelines. A subcommittee comprised of DCA contractor safety managers recommended adding leading indicators as questions rather than lagging data, removing the EMR from the scoring, and adding questions regarding the new Pipeline Safety Management System (PSMS). The updated questionnaire will be available for the upcoming 2022 award compilation.
- **DCA Scholarship Forms** – A subcommittee reviewed and made improvements and changes to the DCA-Dale R. Michels Scholarship and Curtis Allen Scholarship forms and scoring sheets. Changes included updating short answer questions, scoring sheets with a rubric to assist committee members, and revamping the financial need section. The updated

forms will be used beginning with the 2023-24 academic year application process.

- **Strategic Vision Committee (SVC)** – The board received an update on the SVC that was created in October 2021. The SVC is focusing its efforts on three strategies in relation to member retention, member recruitment, and marketing and attracting younger members to the DCA. The SVC will work with the DCA Membership and Workforce Development committees to implement the strategies.

Leadership Council

The Leadership Council also met Monday, July 18. The council reviewed actions from the board's meeting and each of the DCA working committee chairs briefly outlined the topics to be discussed in their individual meetings. The Leadership Council comprises chairs of the working committees and the BOD's. The purpose of the Leadership Council is to coordinate the strategic direction of the DCA, as directed by the board.

Trenchless Committee

The Trenchless committee received updates on several discussion items at their Tuesday, July 19 meeting.

- **Industry Collaboration on HDD Standards** –

Representatives of the Power & Communication Contractors Association (PCCA) would like to form a coalition with DCA to improve safety protocols, create a universal mapping system, and standardize the industry in the U.S. Dave Wisniewski of Vermeer Corp. requested feedback from DCA members on whether to get involved and what key topics should be included.

- **Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee (GPAC)** – DCA industry member Dr. Sam Ariaratnam of Arizona State University has been appointed to GPAC by Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. As a public member of the committee, Ariaratnam will help ensure pipelines that important resources stay up and running across America. He will promote pipeline installation and replacement methods that are less invasive and will have less detrimental impact on the environments around them.
- **Revamped Trenchless Website** – Attendees received an update on the DCA Trenchless website, www.dca-trenchless.com. The website is evolving and improving with new sections and more content. Members were encouraged to have their employees and co-workers review the site. The more clicks, the higher the site moves in search engines.

The charge of the Trenchless committee is to support safety, training, technical developments, and voluntary operational guides that sustain professional practices and contractors in the trenchless industry. The vice-chairmen of the committee are Rob Hotz of Laney Drilling and Dustin Kraft of Vermeer Corp.

Safety/Risk Management Committee

Ashley Donnini, CEO & Principal of Lola Link Consulting LLC, and David Toth, Senior Associate – System Programs of American Petroleum Institute (API), gave a well-received presentation on contractor Pipeline Safety Management Systems (PSMS) at the July 19 meeting. API is working throughout the pipeline industry on contractor adoption of the PSMS system. The industry goal is to increase contractors' and small operators' support of PSMS, and to develop an industry-led contractor framework and assessment tool that guides contractors in their PSMS adoption while providing flexibility and scale for the diversity of work contractors perform.

Committee attendees also received updates on:

- The Arthur Everham Safety Award revisions discussed and approved at the DCA board meeting.
 - The 2023 Safety Congress that will be held in April 2023 in New Orleans. The exact dates will be announced upon final contract negotiations.
- The charge of the Safety/Risk Management commit-

tee 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 Randy Bunch of Aaron Enterprises are vice-chairmen.

Membership Committee

The Membership committee met Wednesday, July 20, and reviewed several items:

- **Membership Summary** – Attendees reviewed the membership report presented to the Board of Directors. Since the February meeting, two new contractor members and five new associate members have joined DCA. Two contractors and eight associate members have been dropped, resigned, or merged with other members. As of the meeting, current membership was 88 contractor members and 119 associate members.
- **Prospective and Resigned Members** – It was 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 DCA. Chairs will also be contacting prospective members about membership benefits and the February 2023 meeting in Miami.
- **Impact Purchasing Study** – Attendees reviewed the final results of the 2021 Impact Purchasing Study. The link for the 2022 study will be emailed to contractors in early November.
- **Membership Campaign** – DCA Executive Vice President, Rob Darden announced that the membership committee will be working with the SVC on member participation and retention strategies. More details will be presented at the DCA Fall Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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

Government Relations Committee

The Government Relations committee received updates on pertinent topics at their July 20 meeting. For more details about the following topics, please see the *DCA Insights* section of the *DCA News*.

- **Natural Gas Bans versus. Fuel Choice Legislation** –

(continued on pg. 14)

DCA has worked with the Gas Bans Coalition for the past several years to preserve the key role of natural gas as a critical American energy source. While attacks are coming out of the U.S. Congress, the real fight has been and continues to be within the states.

- **Legislative Push re: 811 Study** – DCA's letter to state governments addresses state damage prevention performance and takes a different approach than traditional evaluations of state programs. The letter reflects DCA's position that implementing policy adjustments based on national recommendations provided in the 811 Emergency Report would bolster damage prevention and reduce inefficiencies that cost the nation almost \$61 billion every year.
- **Legislative Updates** – Mr. Wyman gave attendees updates on two legislative initiatives that DCA is supporting: Carbon Capture, Use, and Storage, and the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program.
- **OSHA/AEM "Demo Day"** – In June, DCA and other construction associations conducted a "Demo Day" workshop for more than 40 OSHA representatives, offering a first-hand look at how contractors and equipment manufacturers work together to build our underground infrastructure safely and effectively. There was great feedback from OSHA representatives and more of these events will be planned in the future.

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 vice-chairmen are Andy Miller of Alex E. Paris Contracting and Brad Burris of National Equipment Dealers.

Workforce Development Committee

On Wednesday, July 20, the Workforce Development committee meeting updated attendees on efforts since the February meeting.

- **SkillsUSA** – DCA and several member companies had booths and presentations at the June 20-24 SkillsUSA Convention in Atlanta. DCA needs more representation at the convention to designate energy as a separate trade. DCA members are currently designated as construction.

- **American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Conference** – For the first time, DCA had an exhibit booth at the July ASCA Conference in Austin, Texas. Counselors were extremely interested in the industry and job opportunities for students. DCA is looking for more ways to reach out to counselors and students about the industry.
- **Workforce Summit and Soft Skills Management** – A DCA Workforce Summit and Professional Development Conference (PDC) is being planned for 2023. The event is expected to attract personnel from human resources, marketing, rising middle managers, and superintendents.
- **2022 BuildWitt Video Update** – BuildWitt should have the latest videos completed by Thanksgiving. Program goals for the videos emphasize diversity, income opportunity, and lack of college debt, among other industry benefits..
- **2023 Global Excavation Safety Conference** – Karin Strub, media communications Manager for I-R Saving Lives, asked if a DCA Workforce Panel would present at their 2023 Global Excavation Safety Conference, February 14-16 at the Tampa Convention Center in Tampa, Florida. Those interested should contact Dave Wisniewski.

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. Dave Wisniewski of Vermeer Corp. and Pete Fojtik of Michels Utility Services are the vice-chairmen of the committee.

The next BOD, leadership council, and committee meetings will be in conjunction with the 2022 DCA Fall Meeting, October 24-26, 2022, at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids, Michigan. ▲

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

Calendar

DCA & Industry Events

2022

SEPTEMBER 19-23

International Pipe Line & Offshore Contractors Association (IPLOCA) 2022 Convention
Hilton Hotel
Prague
Czech Republic
www.iploca.com

OCTOBER 24-26

DCA 2022 Fall Meeting
Amway Grand Plaza
Grand Rapids, Michigan
www.dcaweb.org

NOVEMBER 15-17

CEWD's 2022 Workforce Development Summit
The Madison Hotel
Washington, District of Columbia
www.cewd.org/workforce-development-summit

2023

FEBRUARY 7-11

Pipe Line Contractors Association (PLCA)
2023 Convention
Grand Hyatt Kauai
Kauai, Hawaii
www.plca.org

2023 (cont.)

FEBRUARY 14-16

Global Excavation Safety Conference
Tampa Convention Center
Tampa, Florida
www.globalexavationsafetyconference.com

FEBRUARY 20-25

DCA 2023 Convention
Fontainebleau Hotel
Miami Beach, Florida
www.dcaweb.org

MARCH 14-18

CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2023
Las Vegas Convention Center
Las Vegas, Nevada
www.conexpoconagg.com

MARCH 27-29

DCA & AGA Workshop
Trump International Hotel & Tower
Chicago, Illinois
www.dcaweb.org

APRIL 17-19

DCA 2023 Safety Congress
Royal Sonesta New Orleans
New Orleans, Louisiana
www.dcaweb.org

ATTENTION ALL DCA MEMBERS!

So you do not miss out on future meeting and event notices, please have your company's IT representative whitelist all emails from dcaweb.org. If you have any questions, please contact Teri Korson at tkorson@dcaweb.org.



Registration is Open for the DCA Fall Meeting!

October 24-26, 2022

Amway Grand Plaza, Grand Rapids, MI

www.dcaweb.org/page/FallMeeting



Workforce News

DCA Outreach at SkillsUSA TECHSPO and ASCA No Limits



The summer months have been productive for Jeri Lamerton, Lamerton Strategic Communications and DCA Executive Vice President Rob Darden on the workforce development front. They recently attended a pair of conferences with great potential to reach students in search of a fulfilling career.

SkillsUSA TECHSPO

In June, Lamerton and Darden attended the 58th Annual National Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, to take part in SkillsUSA TECHSPO, the largest technical exposition in the nation. The expo featured 159 exhibitors from industry and education, all of whom

wanted to meet and interact with the nation's most highly skilled students. The 2022 event was the first in-person event in three years. Registration topped 13,000, including as many as 8,000 students.

DCA exhibited with several of its member companies, including Ditch Witch, Michels, Miller Pipeline, and Centuri. Vermeer also sponsored an exhibit in the manufacturing area. The DCA display showcased a new backdrop with the tagline, "I bet you didn't know she makes six figures," which attracted considerable attention. During the trade show, video screens played the 2021 BuildWitt video, the President's video, and the DCA/Mike Rowe commercial.



Lamerton and Darden said they had productive discussions with students about trade skills, opportunities with DCA member companies, and how lucrative the industry can be. They also passed out new workforce development flyers and 500 squishy hard hat helmets.

The event was also the site of the SkillsUSA Championships, where 5,055 state champions tested their already-powerful skills in 108 career competition events. The Championships were held across three giant floors within the Georgia World Congress Center, covering 1.79 million square feet — that's a total of 31 football fields or 41 acres. DCA is currently exploring options to become more involved with the SkillsUSA competitions at the local and national levels to promote pipeline industry-related skills. As Darden noted, "That means helping more students experience the magic of career and technical education."

Darden said he would like to get more members involved in SkillsUSA TECHSPO in the future.

ASCA No Limits

In July, Lamerton and Darden traveled to Austin, Texas, for the American School Counselors Association (ASCA) No Limits conference. The conference brings together over 3,500 professional school counselors from pre-kindergarten to post-secondary, as well as counselor educators, supervisors, and graduate students, to expand their professional networks.

This was a great audience to talk to and discuss the trades. Many knew little about the opportunities in underground construction and eagerly sought information. The new backdrop from the SkillsUSA show was also huge success at this event, drawing lots of praise for the subtle placement of "she" over the image of a fully covered welder hard at work. DCA handed out new flyers and business cards that included the "Let's Get to Work" website address.

Michels exhibited at the show and Vermeer showcased their drill simulator and held daily drawings for a Vermeer speaker. The contacts accumulated from the drawings received an email from DCA, Vermeer, and Michels. ▲

(continued on pg. 20)



“Demo Day” Allows Construction Industry to Showcase Underground Safety Equipment, Practices



DCA participated in “OSHA Demo Day,” July 16, a multi-industry showcase of underground construction safety equipment and practices for representatives of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) and representatives of several national construction associations hosted the event at a large construction training site in Hyattsville, Maryland.

OSHA Demo Day featured six stations:

Utility locating and marking – Description of how an underground facility locate is processed, definition and scope of an appropriate one-call ticket, and the process of “white lining.”

Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) operations – Demonstration of how directional drills are set up and safety operated, HDD functionality and why trenchless methods are utilized, demonstration of tracking bores.

Trench safety #1 – Demonstration of trench safety, with a contractor’s perspective on trench safety; review of confined space entry requirements and practices, review of soil types, and varying trench boxes.

Trench safety #2 – In-depth demonstration of trench safety equipment, including steel trench boxes, aluminum boxes, and hydraulic shores, discussion of when one is preferable to another, and proper installation practices.

Vacuum excavation – Description and background of development of vacuum excavation, reasons for utilizing vacuum excavation, various types of vacuum trucks, role of hand digging, specifications and terminology.

Contractor safety programs – Overview of use and importance of tabulated data when selecting protective systems for trenching and excavation, incident and damage reporting, response to incidents, and damage prevention.

“DCA believes that safety is paramount in any construction project, but this is especially true with underground projects,” said Rob Darden, DCA executive vice president. “Gas distribution contractors know the hazards that come with the job, and we appreciate the opportunity to show OSHA the latest and greatest equipment, technologies, and practices related to underground construction projects. We thank AEM for hosting this important event.”

Initial feedback was extremely enthusiastic, and many OSHA representatives encouraged the industry to do more of these events in the future. ▲

Insights



DCA Launches Campaign to Protect Role of Natural Gas, Address Damage Prevention Programs

For the past few years, DCA has worked with a broad coalition of stakeholders interested in preserving the important role of natural gas as a critical American energy source. While many attacks are coming out of the U.S. Congress, the real fight has been and continues to be within the states. A few years ago, only a handful of states were engaged in the battle between policies that would phase out or restrict access to natural gas. At this point, only eight states are not debating this issue, and there is a lot at stake.

Using its grassroots advocacy tool, DCA will continue to engage in the natural gas debate as states continue to struggle over whether natural gas will be afforded to American consumers and how much access will be provided. The good news is that "fuel choice" supporters are winning the battle: Only five states have enacted restrictive measures into law while more than 20 states have enacted fuel choice provisions into their statutes.

The bad news is there is seemingly no end in sight in terms of harmful proposals being introduced in several states.

Therefore, DCA is sending letters to state governors, praising those who have signed fuel choice bills into law, lamenting states that have enacted legislation that will rob citizens of the opportunity to use natural gas in their homes and businesses, and encouraging states with harmful legislation pending to reevaluate.

In its letter, DCA states that "natural gas is delivered to customers across the country through a 2.5-million-mile underground pipeline system, including 2.2 million miles of gas distribution pipelines and 300,000 miles of transmission pipelines. Despite the enduring attacks on natural gas and the pipelines that transport it, this precious and abundant domestic resource will be needed if the U.S. wants to achieve its lofty clean energy goals. In fact, natural gas enables use of renewable energy sources."

The fight to preserve access to natural gas in future building codes is far from over, and with the help of its members, DCA will remain fully engaged in this debate.

Improving Our State Damage Prevention Programs

DCA's letter to state governments also addresses state damage prevention performance and takes a different approach than traditional evaluations of state programs.

As a member of the Infrastructure Protection Coalition, a coalition of industry groups representing regular users and stakeholders in the 811 system, DCA supports all the findings in IPC's *811 Emergency Report*. This comprehensive, independent review of the nation's 811 system includes an in-depth examination of its operations in every state and shows how these costs and increased risks to public safety could be substantially reduced if states adopted more effective practices and procedures that are currently used effectively in many parts of the country.

In its letter, DCA states that adjustments to a state's "dig law," as well as related processes and practices, could be addressed by implementing policy adjustments based on national recommendations provided in the 811 Emergency Report. DCA fully supports the 13 national recommendations included in the report. National opportunities to improve include:

- **No exemptions.** Require all asset owners and operators, including municipalities and departments of transportation, to join and participate in the 811 system.
- **Mandatory damage reporting.** Refine the dig law to require reporting of all damages to all underground utility types to support effective data collection, process improvement, damage adjudication, and enforcement.
- **Balanced enforcement.** Cause enforcement authority to weigh involvement of all primary participants in a damage incident and, in a fair and balanced fashion, hold the asset owner, excavator, and locator appropriately responsible in the damage adjudication process.
- **Third-party enforcement board.** Develop or enhance third-party investigation and enforcement boards, with a balanced number of representatives from each stakeholder group, imbued with both responsibility and authority to manage the entire damage adjudication process.
- **Standardize minimum notification time.** Standardize the ticket notification time to a minimum of two full business days after the day/date of a call.
- **Ineffective penalty structure.** Bring balance to the penalty structure or amount so that asset owners, excavators, and locators each face similar risks and responsibility.

- **Effective metrics.** Identify, develop, collect, and track metrics that effectively support trending and continuous improvement of states' damage prevention performance. Mandatory reporting is necessary to accomplish this effort.
 - o Develop and track metrics that support behavioral change in addition to metrics designed to track violations of the law.
- **Annual reporting to Common Ground Alliance (CGA) and Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT).** Require state entities responsible for the oversight of the 811 system and collection and adjudication of compliance or damage reports, ticket volumes, etc., to submit data to the CGA to support preparation of the annual DIRT Report.
- **Positive response requirement.** A web-based electronic positive response requirement by all asset owners / locators through the 811 system.
 - o Ticket holders can choose how to receive positive response from this electronic system.
- **Excavation site accurate description.**
 - o *Pre-mark / white-line requirement:* Require pre-mark or white-lining of any proposed excavation area that includes traditional reference to intersecting streets/roadways paired with GPS coordinates or electronic white-line.
 - o *GIS system adoption by asset owners:* By 2030, cause all asset owners to adopt a GIS system for asset mapping and require notification through 811 using GPS coordinates.
- **Continuous improvement.** Develop a culture of continuous improvement within the 811 system and more broadly through stakeholder education and public outreach programs.
 - o *Standardize ticket size, distance, duration, and life:* Standardize the ticket size, distance, duration, and life to the described characteristics.
 - o *Educational resources:* Develop and publish electronically an excavator's manual that is updated and republished every five years or when an update to the law takes place, whichever is more frequent.

State by state, DCA will force conversations regarding these recommendations, leaning hard on the need to eliminate exemptions in damage prevention statutes, encouraging balanced enforcement and related penalty structures, and underscoring the need for operators to maintain GIS mapping systems and share the data needed to accurately locate underground facilities.

(continued on pg. 24)

API Releases Latest Policy Agenda

The American Petroleum Institute (API) recently released its "10 in 2022 plan," consisting of policy proposals that policymakers can consider while developing the most effective ways to unlock American energy, fuel economic recovery, and strengthen national security. Recognizing the increase in uncertainties around the world, API is calling on policymakers to "confront the global mismatch between energy demand and available supply that has driven higher fuel prices by supporting greater U.S. production and infrastructure."

In a letter to President Biden, API urged the administration to implement the 10 policies that would support energy investment while keeping government policies from unnecessarily restricting energy growth.

API's recommendations include the following policy proposals:

- Lift development restrictions on federal lands and waters. The Department of the Interior (DOI) should swiftly issue a five-year program for the Outer Continental Shelf and hold periodically mandated onshore lease sales.
 - Designate critical energy infrastructure projects. Congress should authorize critical energy infrastructure projects to support the production, processing, and delivery of energy. Projects in the national interest would undergo a streamlined review and permitting process not to exceed one year.
 - Fix the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) permitting process. API calls for a revision to the NEPA process by establishing agency uniformity in reviews and limiting reviews to two years.
 - Accelerate liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports and approve pending LNG applications. Congress should amend the Natural Gas Act to streamline the Department of Energy (DOE) to a single approval process for all U.S. LNG projects.
 - Unlock investment and access to capital. Revising the overly burdensome and ineffective climate disclosure proposals presented by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) would ensure open capital markets where access is based upon individual company merit, free from artificial governmental constraints.
- Dismantle supply chain bottlenecks. API is pushing for removal of steel tariffs that remain on imports from U.S. allies, as steel is a critical component of energy production, transportation, and refining.
 - Advance lower-carbon energy tax provisions. API agrees with DCA on the important role pipelines will play as we increase the use of renewable gas. Therefore API is pushing for the expansion and extension of Section 45Q tax credits for carbon capture, utilization, and storage development, and creation of a new tax credit for hydrogen produced from all sources.
 - Protect competition in the use of refining technologies. Policy should be considered that would allow U.S. refineries to produce the fuels needed for global energy markets.
 - End permitting obstruction on natural gas projects. API encourages the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to understand its oversight authority, ceasing activities that overstep its permitting authority and adhering to traditional considerations of public needs.
 - Advance the energy workforce of the future. API is calling on all policymakers to support the training and education of a diverse workforce through increased funding of work-based learning and advancement of programs to recruit and retain workers with the skills necessary to construct and operate natural and renewable gas, oil, and other energy infrastructure.

DCA will continue to work with API and other industry allies to encourage these and other pro-energy policies. As always, we'll need an active grassroots network in order to do our part. ▲



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***“OUR INDUSTRY IS ALWAYS EVOLVING, AND CONEXPO-CON/AGG
KEEPS US AHEAD WITH EQUIPMENT THAT MAKES OUR JOB EASIER,
FASTER AND MORE EFFICIENT.”***

— AMERICAN PAVEMENT SPECIALISTS, DANBURY, CT



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Member News



Don W. Miller, Miller Pipeline

In Memoriam: Don W. Miller

It is with extreme sadness that we announce the founder and former Chairman of Miller Pipeline, Don W. Miller of Fremont, Ohio, passed away on August 18, 2022, at the age of 95. DW, as he was known by many, was an influential businessman whose vision resulted in a company that has been an industry leader for nearly 70 years, but it is his influence and impact on the people he interacted with that will be felt for decades to come.

Don was born on March 4, 1927, to Harold and Elma Miller in Clyde, Ohio. DW was one of 10 children, all of whom were taught the value of hard work and dedication in the fields of their family's farm.

After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Don briefly attended Ohio State University but quickly decided his place was in the business world. After performing a variety of jobs, DW found a position as a bulldozer operator with a pipeline construction company. There, his passion for pipelining began, and thus began the Miller Pipeline Core Values the company carries today. Safety, first and foremost; Quality in everything they do; Commitment to the team; and Reputation built on integrity.

While Don enjoyed that job, he always dreamed of working for himself. In December 1953, he went into the pipeline business with a partner and founded the Miller &

Crum Company. A year later, he bought out his partner and founded Don W. Miller, Inc., a company that focused on bringing natural gas to communities across Ohio. In the early days of the business, Don gained a reputation as the kind of boss who was willing to do nearly any task if it meant Miller Inc. completed the job to the customer's satisfaction. The quality of his work meant the world to Don, so much so that people often joked that he preferred customer compliments to profits. That attitude spread to his employees and helped develop the sterling reputation Miller Pipeline maintains today. Brothers Karl, Paul, and Dale joined Don early in the company's history, and this "band of brothers" all shared vital roles in developing what is now Miller Pipeline.

Don guided Miller Pipeline for several decades as the company's President and, ultimately, Chairman, and had immeasurable influence and input for many years after that. Don's innovative approach to new technologies and marketing strategies helped Miller Pipeline become a national brand in the natural gas infrastructure industry. At the forefront of his approach to running a business was the inclusion and proper treatment of the company's most valuable asset, the employees.

Those who worked with and knew Don had a deep admiration for him. His ability to encourage a focus on Miller Pipeline's core values was a testament to his leadership and quiet strength.

Don was instrumental in forming the Distribution Contractors Association (DCA), serving initially as the Treasurer, then President in 1969.

Don was also engaged in the founding or growth of many other businesses and organizations, including Miller Cable Company, Miller Pipeline Service Corporation, and Miller Pipeline de Mexico.

Don had diverse interests, including historical preservation of his land, Peninsular Farms, the oldest property in Ohio, and the Whittaker Estate. Don was also an accomplished pilot with over 7,000 hours of flight experience, including a solo flight on his 90th Birthday.

Don is preceded in death by his wife, Carolyn, of 37 years. He is survived by his daughters Debbie King (Dennis), Chattanooga, Tennessee, Laurie Sistrunk (Mike), Fremont, Ohio, Barbara D'Angelo (Rick), Avon Lake,

Ohio, Donna Drake (Jim), Dublin, Ohio, stepchildren Michael Sheffler (Sandy), Bowling Green, Ohio, Joseph Sheffler (Sheryl), Logan, Ohio, and daughter Lisa Roper (Todd), Ft. Worth, Texas, and 15 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Those wishing to send condolences can do so to:
Herman-Karlovetz Funeral Home
900 North Street
Fremont, Ohio 43420



Artera Services

Artera Announces Merger of Otis Eastern and Minnesota Limited

Artera Services, LLC ("Artera"), one of the nation's industry-leading providers of integrated infrastructure services to the natural gas industry, announced recently its plan to merge Otis Eastern Service, LLC ("Otis Eastern") and Minnesota Limited, LLC ("Minnesota Limited"), to form Otis Minnesota Services, LLC ("Otis Minnesota").

Otis Minnesota will continue to maintain, repair, modernize and build the infrastructure that enables the reliable distribution and transmission of natural gas to its customers and the communities they serve. The company will be headquartered in Wellsville, NY, and operate in three segments: Integrity & Maintenance, Pipeline Construction, and Station & Facility Construction.

"Today marks an important milestone in the evolution of our Transmission Division. Our industry and our customers' needs are changing, and we must adapt how we do business to continue delivering top service for our customers," said Brian Palmer, CEO of Artera. "The reputations of Otis Eastern and Minnesota Limited are second to none when it comes to safety, quality, and ability to perform the most complex work, and we believe our companies are stronger working as one team under one strong brand."

Casey Joyce, who was named president of Artera's Transmission Division in May, will lead the new combined company. Casey spent more than fifteen years in the industry, serving in multiple roles of increasing responsibility before leading Otis Eastern as president and CEO prior to his most recent promotion.

"I am pleased to continue working with these talented teams who remain committed to our core values — Safety, Quality, Commitment, and Reputation," said Joyce. "As one unified team, we are better positioned for continued growth, increased value to our customers, and more opportunities and prosperity for our team members."

When Otis Eastern and Minnesota Limited combine business operations, Artera anticipates synergies that will enable Otis Minnesota to operate and go to market more efficiently. Joyce will work with his leadership team to ensure the new company best leverages the scale, expertise, and knowledge of the legacy companies.

After the merger, Otis Minnesota will have 900 employees serving customers in 17 states from New Jersey to North Dakota.



Troy Young

In Memoriam: Troy Young

Tulsa Rig Iron Vice President and co-owner Troy Young passed away in a tragic boating accident over the Memorial Day weekend.

Young and brother, Trevor, were heavily involved in the family business, which was started by their father, J.D. Young, from an early age. Tulsa Rig Iron originally provided many products and services to the HDD market through core divisions including Hydro-Power Systems, Tulsa Trenchless, and Tulsa Triplex. Since the death of J.D.

(continued on pg. 28)

Young in 2004, the Young brothers grew the company into a drilling equipment manufacturer with a worldwide business base and reputation.

Young was well known for his love of classic cars, specifically 1955 Chevys. Much of his spare time was spent building and tinkering with his pride and joy car collection.

Troy Young is survived by his wife, Becky, three children, his mother, and his brother.



Caterpillar to Launch Demonstration Project Using Hydrogen-Fueled Combined Heat and Power System

Caterpillar Inc has announced a three-year project with Minnesota-based District Energy St. Paul to demonstrate a hydrogen-fueled combined heat and power (CHP) system. The project is supported and partially funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and backed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

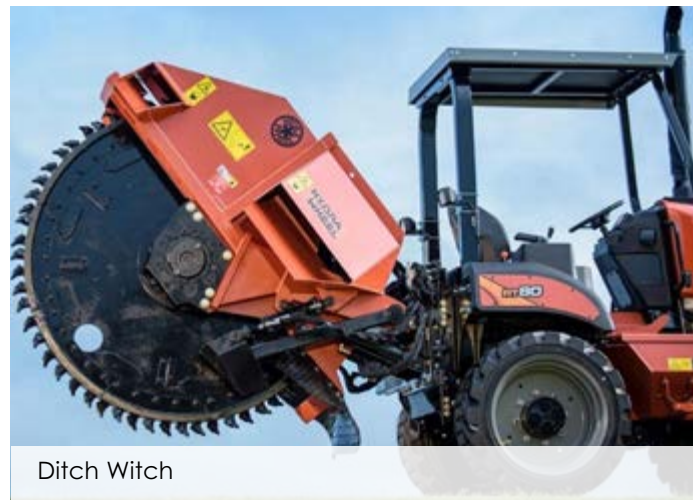
District Energy St. Paul distributes chilled water and hot water to heat and cool buildings and single-family homes in downtown St. Paul, Minnesota, and adjacent areas.

"Caterpillar is focused on supporting our customers with reliable, sustainable power solutions. This hydrogen demonstration project will enable us to evaluate additional hydrogen fuel options for an existing energy-efficient engine, providing even more possibilities for helping our customers meet their climate-related goals and objectives," said Joe Creed, Caterpillar group president of Energy and Transportation.

CHP systems from Caterpillar provide both electricity and heat simultaneously, increasing overall efficiency and reducing exhaust emissions. To assess the potential of a hydrogen-fueled CHP system under real-world operating conditions, power and heat from the

demonstration project will integrate into District Energy St. Paul's electrical and thermal infrastructure.

Scheduled to start early next year, the demonstration project builds on Caterpillar's 35 years of experience with high-hydrogen fuel. The company currently offers a 1250 kW Cat generator set capable of operating on 100% hydrogen, including fully renewable green hydrogen, on a designed-to-order basis. Caterpillar also manufactures commercially available power generation solutions from 400 kW to 4.5 MW that can be configured to operate on natural gas blended with up to 25% hydrogen.



Ditch Witch® Acquires HydraWheel™ Line of Rock Saws

Ditch Witch announced August 1 that it has acquired specific assets from River City Manufacturing Inc., including the HydraWheel design of rock saws. Based out of Bertram, Texas, the company has designed and manufactured rock saws since 1982, earning a strong reputation throughout the industry.

Through this acquisition, Ditch Witch continues to show its commitment to the traditional open-cut utility installation industry. The product line features saws, ranging in depth from 9 to 46 inches, and can be paired with both stand-on skid steers and heavy-duty tractors. As the fiber market continues to drive demand, Ditch Witch is uniquely positioned to meet the needs of contractors around the world.

The rock saws will be manufactured, branded and sold under the Ditch Witch name and are available through the global Ditch Witch dealer network, with nearly 200 locations worldwide. For more information, or to contact your local dealer, visit ditchwitch.com.

(continued on pg. 30)

Welcome New Members

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

USI Insurance Services

5100 Poplar Ave., Ste. 1200
Memphis, TN 38137
(901) 766-5990
www.usi.com

Robert Harris, President of Tennessee;
Robert.harris@usi.com
Michael Martin, Construction Risk Consultant,
Michael.martin@usi.com



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 **JOHN DEERE**

DEERE.COM/EXCAVATORS



Stuart Bennett

In Memoriam: Stuart Bennett

Infrasource Construction General Manager/Assistant Controller Stuart Bennett died unexpectedly at his home in Renton, Washington, July 6, 2022. He was 46.

Stuart graduated from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana with a degree in liberal arts then completed training in hotel and restaurant management in Georgia. He worked in restaurant management before transitioning to the fiber-optic cables and construction business.

Stuart is survived by his mother, two brothers, four sisters, and numerous other relatives. ▲



DCA MEMBERS - SEND US YOUR NEWS!

DCA would like to publish your company news in upcoming issues of the DCA newsletter and on the DCA website. Please send news items, press releases, images or videos to cgreen@dcaweb.org.

Featured DCA Member Websites



The HDD Company

www.crossinggroup.com/the-hdd-company

Serving the USA from their headquarters in Sacramento, California, The HDD Company has a proven track record for completing a wide array of horizontal directional drilling projects both as a sub-contractor and as a prime contractor. They own and operate an integrated fleet of heavy and light HDD rigs and tunneling equipment. The HDD Company is a trusted provider of horizontal directional drilling services for major utility and communication network installations, as well as oil and gas projects.

Energy Worldnet

www.energyworldnet.com

In 1994, ENERGY WorX was born, and the company delivered their first operational and safety training. Fast forward to 1999, and ENERGY worldnet, Inc. was created, enabling them to lean into the industry further and focus on Operator Qualification (OQ). Today, they provide training and compliance for over 1,400 clients throughout North America, South America, Mexico, and Canada.



RCE Equipment Solutions

www.rcequip.com

RCE Equipment Solutions is a diversified manufacturer that produces high quality construction equipment for the rail and energy sectors. They have a full-time, on-site engineering team with over 20 years of equipment development experience. They have designed and put into production 30+ highly specialized machines for rail maintenance tasks, primarily high rail excavators (Railavators) equipped with custom attachments. The RCE team has also designed specialty products and tools for the energy sector, including unique grapples, booms and large drills. All equipment is emissions compliant and customizable.



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Candace Green
Director of Communications

