

BENCHMARKS

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW







Ben G. Nelson

Ben G. Nelson, president of Michels Pacific Energy Inc., Santa Clara, California. His term as DCA president concluded at the association's 2022 annual convention in February in Phoenix, Arizona, where Kevin T. Parker, Vice President - Health, Safety & Environment of Mears Holding LLC, Rosebush, Michigan assumed the DCA presidency.

After Two Years at DCA Helm, Nelson Sees Progress Through Pandemic

Following a rare two-year term as DCA president, Ben Nelson spoke with Underground Construction about the issues distribution contractors faced during the pandemic and now.

Availability of qualified workforce has long affected DCA members. How are unions addressing those challenges?

Workforce will continue to be of great importance for the DCA, and our union partners are an important part of contractor relationships with their workforces. They do a lot of recruitment and training, which is much of the workforce development is being done.

What programs has DCA developed outside of specific union efforts?

DCA is supporting the development of a video series by our members to promote the different jobs available in our industry. Some of the videos are already available on our website. We're proud of what we've already got and what's to come.

We've also worked with the Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD) to add more material related to contractors. Expanding to the contractor market allows us to be involved and get help with some of our issues, as well.

How are political and environmental forces affecting contractor operations, and what is DCA doing to help?

We work very closely with our Washington lobbyists and other associations to stay on top of these issues. We're also working closely to monitor and make members aware of the many issues at the state and local level.

Many places are restricting natural gas in new construction, so when homes get built, they will only have electric water heaters, stoves, and home heating. On the other hand, some states have passed legislation to prevent those restrictions on natural gas installations, and, of course, we're very much in favor of that. So, a lot of effort is being put into those initiatives.

Is there any pressure being added to job execution from those or other issues, such as negative media coverage?

There can be, particularly around some of the larger pipe-

lines that will attract protesters. But the bigger issue in this area is really around the legislative efforts that are taking place and how we can collaborate with other associations and industry groups to broadcast our messages.

Have supply chain problems negatively impacted distribution construction?

Yes, costs are rising for just about everything distribution contractors do. We must manage costs, be smart about how we buy, and work with our clients to get relief where appropriate.

Equipment availability is a very real issue, especially if we need things quickly. We must give equipment suppliers as much notice as we can. One helpful thing is the DCA equipment purchasing survey, which helps our associate members, who include equipment suppliers and manufacturers and rental companies.

Has DCA helped contractors manage costs?

We decided to fund a study to analyze the underground utility locating industry in each of the 50 states. The way it's handled is different and better in some states than others. All our members have been impacted by underground locating and the delays, damage, and safety issues that may present. The study was just finished within the last month or so. I think it has the potential to make a real, tangible difference for everyone in our industry.

Any accomplishments from your presidential term you're especially proud of?

A personal concern of mine is encouraging the involvement of younger employees and management to make sure we have a good infusion of new perspectives. One of the things our new Strategic Vision committee will look at is how the DCA can get the next generation more involved. That's a direct result of my bringing it up and asking the DCA to consider it, and I was happy to find that other members also felt that's an important goal we should work toward.

DCA MISSION

Quality contractors
and associates working
together to deliver superior
value to the natural gas
and the underground
utility industry.

DCA ADVOCACY PROGRAM

In 2012, DCA initiated a federal advocacy program to advance the interests of the association in the halls of Congress and before federal regulatory agencies. DCA engaged the services of Wyman Associates, a government relations firm based in Falls Church, Virginia, to establish an ongoing presence on Capitol Hill and in front of several administrative branch agencies. The association's Government Relations committee works to expand gas distribution construction markets through existing and pending energy legislation, regulatory actions addressing pipeline safety, and initiatives to prevent underground facility damage during excavation activities. DCA is now an active member of several coalitions and working groups, including:

■ **Common Ground Alliance (CGA)**

The CGA is a community of all stakeholders in underground facility damage prevention, including operators of gas and hazardous liquid pipelines; water, electric, telecommunications and other utility systems; excavators; facility locators and one-call systems; and federal, state, and local government representatives. Collectively, the CGA promotes shared responsibility in damage prevention through development of best practices, increased communication, and utilization of effective technologies.

■ **Energy Equipment Infrastructure Alliance (EEIA)**

EEIA consists of construction organizations and the business community working together to support federal and state legislation that promotes and facilitates the extraction, development, and transportation of shale gas and other energy sources. EEIA efforts include natural gas pipeline permitting reform, streamlining liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports, and policy surrounding energy production on federal land.

■ **Pipeline Construction SMS Coalition**

DCA is leading an industry effort to promote Safety Management Systems (SMS) in the pipeline industry. Pipeline SMS is a cyclical approach to pipeline safety—one that requires buy-in from senior management, top-to-bottom understanding of a company's safety program, and dedication to strive for continuous improvement. SMS is a focus of a number of pipeline operator associations, including the American Gas Association (AGA), American Pipeline Institute (API), Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA), and the American Public Gas Association (APGA).

■ **Construction Industry Safety Coalition (CISC)**

The CISC comprises 25 trade associations representing virtually every construction trade, task, and activity, including small, medium, and large contractors; general contractors; subcontractors; and union and non-union contractors. The coalition works collectively to encourage sound legislative and regulatory policy, overseen by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), on issues with intricacies unique to the construction industry.

■ **Construction Industry Drivers Coalition (CIDC)**

The CIDC is an industry coalition for 15 excavation and transportation construction associations working to mitigate impacts of Hours-of-Service (HOS) regulations overseen by the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration. Intended to address driver fatigue in the long-haul trucking industry, HOS regulations extend to the construction industry without any measurable safety benefit.

■ **PHMSA Damage Prevention State Grant Review Team**

Consisting of state pipeline inspectors, representatives of the gas and hazardous liquid pipeline industries, excavators, and public interest organizations, the review team meets annually to evaluate, discuss, and provide feedback to PHMSA on state damage prevention grant applications submitted by applicants.



DCA Online:

www.dcaweb.org, www.dcaletsgettowork.com,
www.dcatrenchless.com, www.dcagovrelations.com,
www.oqip.org

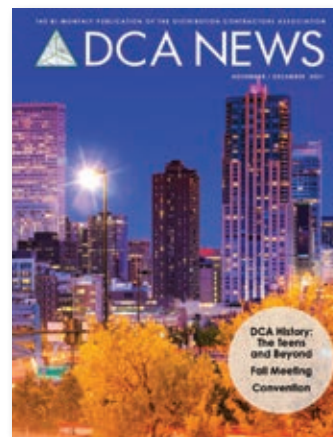
The DCA website is a state-of-the-art tool that gives access to DCA publications, members, and facts with the click of a mouse. It provides members with password protected access to news, committee updates, and association newsletters, as well as wage rates for the 3 labor unions that DCA has agreements with. The website has been enhanced to include four auxiliary microsites related to the association committees. The microsites grant access to a wealth of underground industry resources from a single, user-friendly location. The sites provide education, training and jobseeker/ recruitment tools and opportunities aimed at getting people back to work in a richly rewarding industry.

Benchmarks

The 2021 edition of DCA Benchmarks offers a concise and meaningful look into DCA's current operations, leadership, and organizational outlook, as well as its future initiatives. If you have any questions about DCA or its activities, please contact us at 972.680.0261 or info@dcaweb.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

Acknowledgements

DCA would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of its volunteers and leaders. Without the expertise, resources, and talents of those who support DCA, the accomplishments and activities that occurred in 2021 would not have been possible. We are excited about 2022 and look forward to working with you to make it another year of progress and achievement.



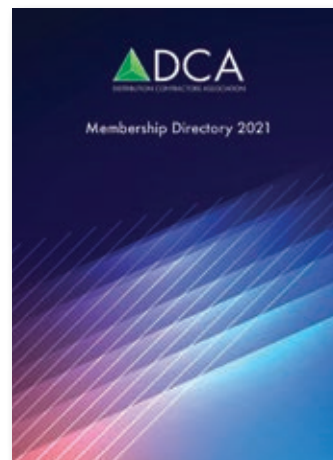
DCA News

DCA News is a bi-monthly publication that keeps members up to date on the latest in industry and regulatory news. Topics include legislation and government regulations, association activities and meetings, industry issues, and safety updates. *DCA News* also provides a forum for company and personnel news.



DCA e-News

DCA members are also informed of late-breaking industry news, regulatory matters, equipment developments, and upcoming meeting information through the monthly *DCA e-News*. This digital publication brings the latest industry news to DCA members through direct links to informational resources.



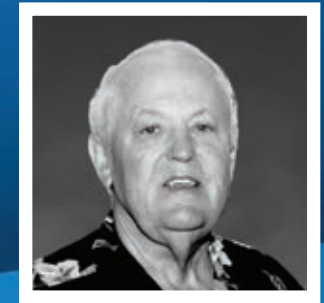
DCA Directory

DCA, through our industry partner, Gulf Energy Information, publishes a nationwide membership directory each year that lists all companies, with their officers and specialties. The directory, a "Who's Who" in utility construction, is distributed to members, prospective members, utility companies, equipment manufacturers, vendors, suppliers, labor representatives and government officials.



DCA-Dale R. Michels Endowed Scholarship

DCA founded the DCA-Dale R. Michels Endowed Scholarship in 1998 to encourage students considering careers in construction. Over the years, the annual distribution has grown from \$5,000 to \$15,000. For the 2022-23 academic year and beyond, the amount distributed to deserving candidates will be based on a portion of the association's auction and investment income proceeds and is estimated to be over \$100,000.



Curtis H. Allen Scholarship

The Curtis H. Allen Scholarship was created by Bentonite Performance Minerals (BPM) in honor of Curtis H. Allen. BPM contributes \$2,500 annually to the fund, an amount matched by DCA. For the 2022-23 academic year and beyond, the amount distributed to deserving candidates will be based on a portion of the association's auction and investment income proceeds and is estimated to be over \$30,000.

Arthur T. Everham Safety Award



The Arthur T. Everham Safety Award, named in honor of an industry safety pioneer and DCA past president, is presented every year at the annual convention to companies with exemplary safety records and practices in various categories. 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 2021, the categories awarded are:

Under 150,000 Hour Category:

- First Place - (a tie)
 - Brotherton Pipeline Inc., Gold Hill, OR
 - R&R Pipeline, Newark Inc., OH
- Second Place - Atlas Trenchless LLC, Rockville, MN

151,000 Hours to 300,000 hours:

- First Place - (a tie)
 - NuLine Utility Services LLC, Belle Chasse, LA
 - Loy Clark Construction, Tualatin, OR
- Second Place - (a tie)
 - Laney Directional Drilling, Waller, TX
 - Pipe Strong LLC, Schaumburg, IL

301,000 Hours to 750,000 Hours:

- First Place - AGI Construction, Smithfield, RI
- Second Place - Hanging H Companies, Burlington, WA

Over 1 Million Hours:

- First Place - Michels Utility Services Inc., Brownsville, WI
- Second Place - Q3 Contracting Inc., Little Canada, MN



James R. Upton Scholarship

In memory of DCA former managing director James R. Upton, the DCA Board of Directors annually distributes \$3,000 to provide scholarship opportunities for students of the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Two annual scholarships are awarded to graduates of Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah. The recipients are selected by and based on criteria established by the Cherokee Nation.

Safety Director of the Year Award

The Safety Director of the Year Award recognizes the achievements of a safety director whose initiatives and programs have enhanced the overall safety program of a member's company. Award recipients also participate in DCA's Safety Congress. The annual award includes a \$1,000 cash prize. The 2021 recipient was Kenneth (K.C. Murray) of the The Hallen Construction Co. Inc.



Safety Person of the Year Award

The Safety Person of the Year Award is given to an individual who has gone beyond the call of duty in any area of company service. It can be a lifesaving event, monetary savings to the company, etc. The recipient can be employed at any level in the company and will receive a plaque and a \$1,000 cash prize. The 2021 recipient was Justin Hutchens of Miller Pipeline.



DCA-Lyons' Grant Program

The DCA-Lyons' Grant Program honors the memory of DCA past president and honorary member Bob Lyons, who was known for his commitment to community service, education, charitable causes and the association. Bob was instrumental in establishing the DCA annual auction in 1991, which to date has raised almost \$5 million for the scholarship program, Safety Congress and association administrative expenses. The grant program was established by Jan Lyons, Bob's widow and a strong supporter of DCA, with a five-year pledge of \$25,000 from the Lyons Family Foundation. While there are no specific grant requirements, it is expected that candidates be strong emerging and/or established community leaders recognized for their personal service and advocacy. Grants are directed to individuals or organizations that do not receive significant financial assistance from governmental or large charitable groups. In Bob's words, "It's all about those that have been blessed with the understanding of what it is to give back." An additional \$5,000 from the auction is added annually to the fund.

From its inception in 1961, the Distribution Contractors Association has been committed to progress. This year, as in years past, DCA members will lead the way in the use of the latest technologies, equipment and safety issues. DCA members remain at the cutting edge of a constantly changing and vibrant industry.

Each year, the DCA holds major meetings to discuss issues vital to the association and the industry, as well as smaller committee meetings throughout the year.

ANNUAL CONVENTION

(FEBRUARY OR MARCH)

The Annual Convention is held in a warm weather location in the US or internationally and is designed for members and their spouses/guests. At this annual meeting of the membership, DCA holds elections for the Board of Directors. A key feature of the convention is the annual auction, which has grown over the years and is the primary fundraiser for the operations of the DCA. The week-long event is supported through the generous sponsorship of our associate members and features first-rate speakers at business sessions, networking events, and local activities. Recipients of the scholarships and the Arthur T. Everham Safety Award are announced at the convention. The final board meeting of the outgoing president and the first board meeting of the new president are held at the convention. A Leadership Council meeting is held, as are meetings of the committees. The general meeting of the membership is the DCA Town Hall, where leadership provides an update on association proceedings and where the members can dialog with leadership.

MID YEAR MEETING

(JULY)

The Mid Year Meeting has grown over the years from a summer board meeting to a family networking event with business session speakers, committee meetings, a board meeting, and a leadership council meeting, as well as the DCA Town Hall. Each year many activities are planned with DCA member families in mind.

SAFETY CONGRESS

(MARCH OR APRIL)

DCA's Annual Safety Congress is becoming a "must-attend" event for safety professionals each year. The two-day event attracts safety professionals from across the country and industry to discuss different challenges and problems utility contractors face, from creative training ideas to managing a safety culture within your company. The Safety Director of the Year and the Safety Person of the Year are awarded at the Congress.

DCA & AGA UTILITY CONTRACTOR WORKSHOP

(APRIL)

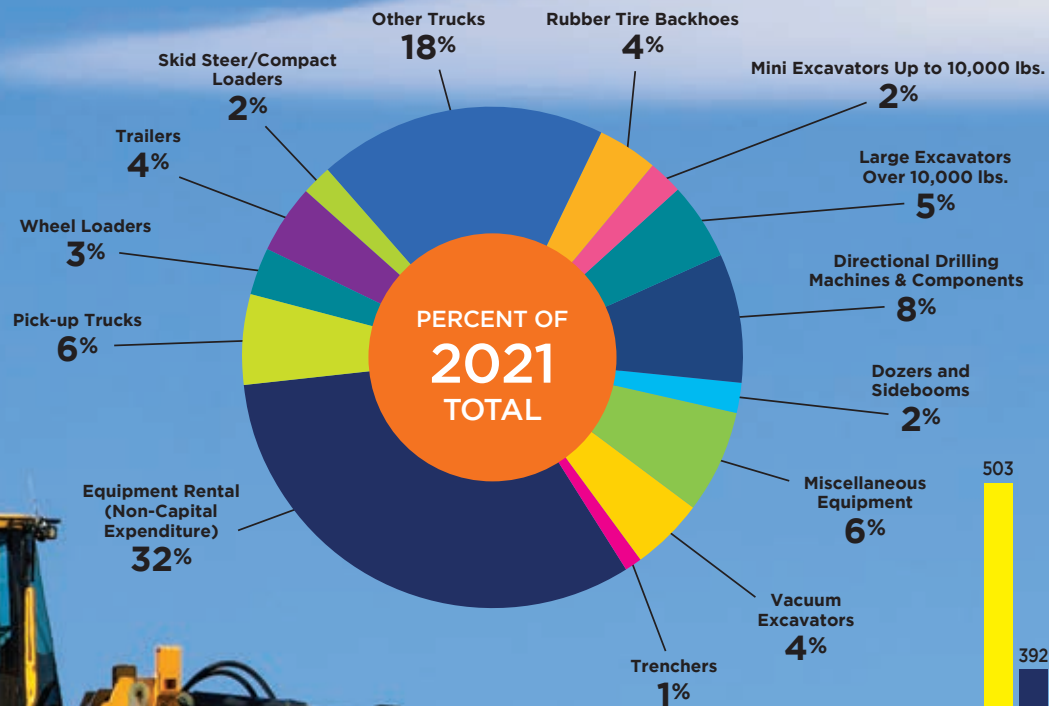
The DCA and American Gas Association (AGA) partner to produce a workshop aimed at increasing communication and cooperation between gas distribution utilities and the contractors who work for them. The event attracts about 130 attendees representing gas utilities, contractors, manufacturers, labor unions, industry experts and federal government officials.

FALL MEETING

(OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER)

The Fall Meeting is a members-only event with a board meeting, leadership council meeting, committee meetings, and a networking social event. The Executive Finance Committee meets at this event to review the operations of the staff.

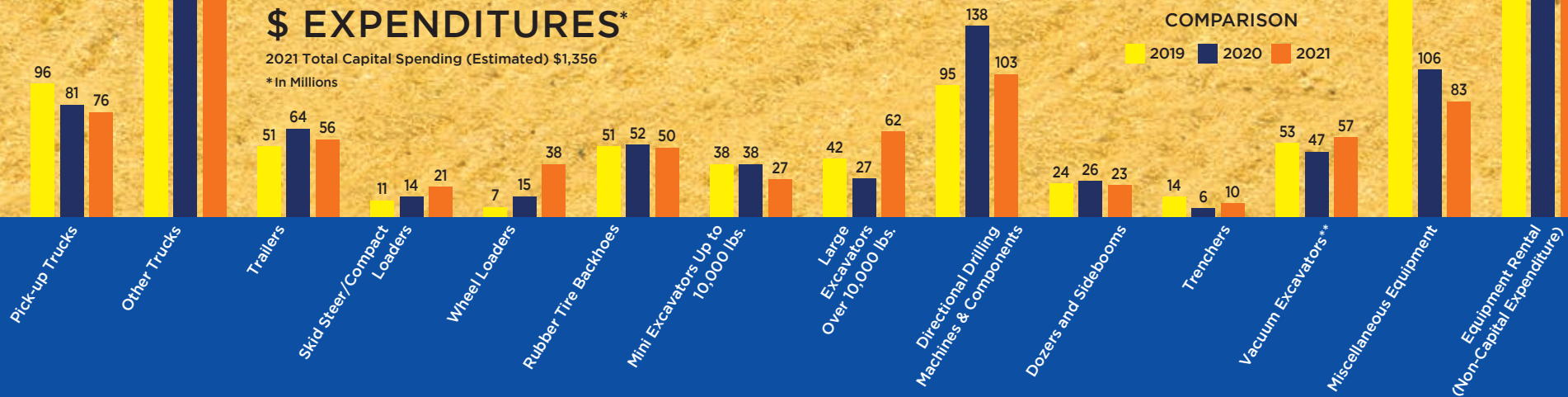
EQUIPMENT SURVEY



\$ EXPENDITURES*

2021 Total Capital Spending (Estimated) \$1,356

* In Millions



\$795,523

Total Contributions

**LiUNA/DCA
Cooperation Trust**

LiUNA!

A joint labor-management cooperative trust was established in December 1990, under the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act, between DCA and the Laborers' International Union of North America to:

- Improve communications
- Expand work opportunities
- Promote safe, efficient work conditions
- Sponsor seminars, conferences, and meetings concerning the industry
- Facilitate a network for the exchange of information
- Resolve problems
- Advance mutual interests relating to the industry

Governing the trust is a Board of Trustees appointed from labor and management. The executive vice president of DCA serves as executive director of the trust, and trustee meetings are conducted on a regular basis. The LiUNA Cooperation Trust of DCA provides financial support to the Association for use in publications, the annual convention, and industry relations.

*Annual financial audits are prepared by AFairchild, PC, Carrollton, TX

\$705,673

Total Contributions

**National Distribution Pipeline
Industry Communications &
Productivity Fund (NDPIC & PF)**



DCA and the United Association reached an agreement in November 1990 to establish a joint labor-management cooperative trust to:

- Improve communications and the collective bargaining relationship between labor and management
- Study ways of eliminating potential problems that reduce competitiveness and inhibit the economic development of the distribution pipeline industry
- Engage in public relations and public education programs
- Research and develop programs to improve the distribution pipeline industry

The executive vice president of DCA serves as executive director of the trust to govern the fund. The NDPIC & PF provides funding for DCA publications, the annual convention, and industry relations. Gary A. Pasternak, Cartmell, Pasternak & Associates, PC, Carrollton, Texas, is the administrator of trust collections.

*Annual financial audits are prepared by AFairchild, PC, Carrollton, TX

\$250,374

Total Contributions

**Distribution Contractors
Industry Advancement Fund**



The DCA and the International Union of Operating Engineers reached an agreement in June 1999 to establish an industry advancement fund. The fund is designed to advance the interests of the distribution construction industry by:

- Establishing good public relations and market development
- Engaging in public relations and public education programs
- Negotiating fair and equitable collective bargaining agreements with representatives of employees engaged in the industry
- Encouraging and developing industry safety standards
- Providing educational opportunities for those engaged in, or connected with, the industry
- Encouraging the use of union contractors for the construction of all distribution pipelines
- Improving communications between labor and management

*Annual financial audits are prepared by AFairchild, PC, Carrollton, TX

DCA 2021 FINANCIALS

	2021	2020
Revenue:		
Meetings:		
Convention Registration	\$514,440	\$751,565
Convention Sponsorship***	—	203,325
Mid Year Registration**	—	—
Other Meetings	124,300	—
Total Meetings	\$638,740	\$954,890
Member Dues:		
Contractor Member	\$245,833	\$186,500
Less: Contributions Credit	(27,031)	(36,144)
Associate Member	144,000	105,188
Total Member Dues	\$362,802	\$255,544
DCA Auction*:	\$579,040	\$981,701
Other Income:		
I.U.O.E. Industry Fund	\$11,290	\$10,069
Management Fees	171,814	138,713
Grants	1,400,000	1,325,000
Net Unrealized Gain (Loss) On Investments	285,092	293,209
Interest	100,631	75,718
Total Other Income	\$1,968,827	\$1,842,709
Total Revenue	\$3,549,409	\$4,034,844
Expense:		
Convention	\$1,098,706	\$1,555,136
Mid Year Meeting**	—	—
Other Meetings	112,966	42,781
General & Administrative	1,672,902	1,379,902
Scholarships	137,700	135,700
Special Projects	329,745	397,177
Loss on Disposal of Equipment	—	—
Total Expense	\$3,352,019	\$3,510,696
Excess Revenue Over Expenses:	\$197,390	\$524,148
Assets:	\$5,080,908	\$4,498,971
Liabilities:	\$1,057,574	\$673,028
Member Equity:	\$4,023,334	\$3,825,943

*Auction Income Supplements Annual Meeting Sponsorship

** 2020 & 2021 Mid Year Meetings Canceled due to Pandemic

***2021 Convention Sponsorship waived due to Pandemic



LEADERSHIP

DCA LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

Distribution Contractors Association is a membership based trade organization with a Board of Directors, Leadership Council, Standing Committees, Working Committees and Special Committees comprised of grants and trusts that plan, execute and manage its business.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The affairs and management of the Association shall be conducted by the Board of Directors composed of:

- Ten (10) Contractor Members (elected by Contractor Members)
- Immediate Past President
- Past President Director (appointed by the Past Presidents)
- Director at Large (appointed by the Nominating Committee)
- Two (2) Associate Member Directors (elected by Associate Members)
- Executive Vice President (serves as Chief Operating Officer)

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

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 Board of Directors. Each committee chair and vice chair will lead their committees in the tactical implementation of the strategic plan.

WORKING COMMITTEES

The Working Committees of DCA are committees that meet several times a year and whose mission is to work on initiatives to improve the operations and membership value of the organization. They are the following:

- Government Relations Committee
- Membership Committee
- Safety/Risk Management Committee
- Trenchless Committee
- Workforce Development Committee

STANDING COMMITTEES

The Standing Committees of DCA are committees that meet as needed for a specific purpose and not an ongoing project. They are:

- Convention Planning Committee
- Associate Member Nominating Committee
- Recognition Committee
- Strategic Vision Committee
- Executive Committee
- Executive Finance Committee
- Contractor Member Nominating Committee

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Special committees oversee the scholarships, grants, and trusts, including:

- DCA-Dale R. Michels Endowed Scholarship
- DCA-Curtis H. Allen Scholarship
- DCA-Lyons' Family Grant
- James R. Upton Scholarship

TRUSTS AND FUNDS

- LMCT/DCA Trust - Laborers' International Union of N.A. (LiUNA)
- National Distribution Pipeline Industry Communications and Productivity Fund (NDPIC&PF) - United Association (UA)
- DCA Advancement Fund - International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE)
- Laborers - Employers Benefit Plan Collection Trust (LEBPCT)
- IUOE National Training Fund

LABOR COMMITTEE

The Labor Committee serves DCA in negotiating collective bargaining agreements with the three labor unions: UA, LiUNA, and IUOE. The committee serves independently of the Board of Directors and does not report to the Board or leadership of DCA.

DCA MEMBERSHIP

All members can participate in DCA Committees by contributing and discussing ideas in a collaborative forum. All members provide timely payment of membership dues and contribute to the association's finances through sponsorship of events, labor trusts, auction proceeds and support of the association events.

CONTRACTOR MEMBERS

Any contracting firm engaged in the construction and maintenance of distribution pipelines and underground utilities that has established a reputation for skill, integrity, and responsibility, may apply for Contractor Membership in the Association.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Any individual, firm or corporation engaged in the business of manufacturing or selling equipment, materials, supplies, insurance, or other services for the construction or maintenance of gas distribution and other pipelines, horizontal directional drilling and underground utilities may apply for Associate Membership.

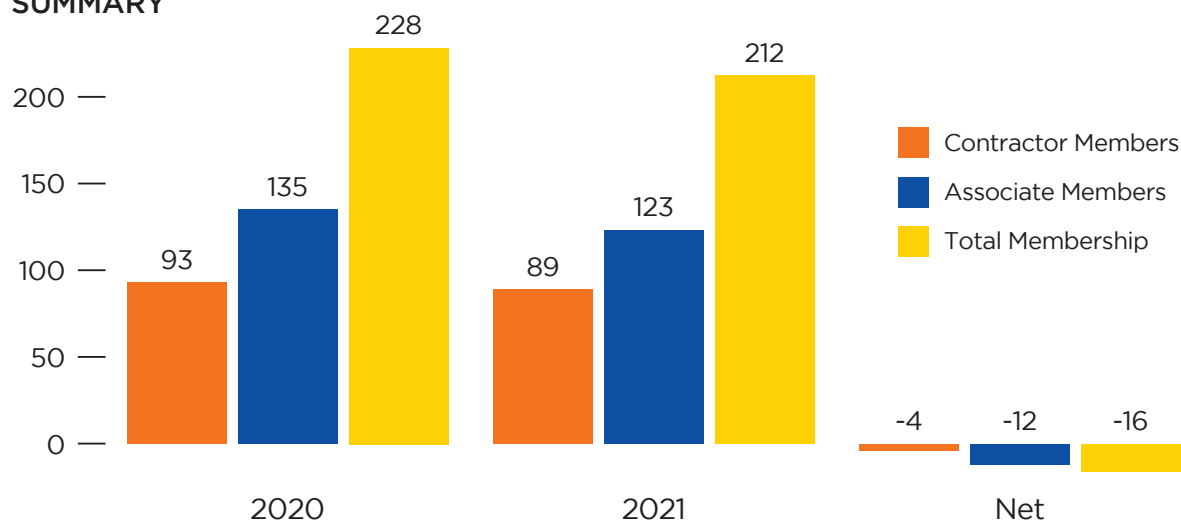
INDUSTRY MEMBERS

An individual who is retired from a member company, regularly employed as a consultant, an employee, officer, director, or elected official of any corporation or governmental unit engaged in the distribution industry, and not deemed eligible for Contractor or Associate membership by the Board of Directors, can apply. An Industry Member may also be a widow/widower of a deceased member or a current or former officer or employee of affiliated associations as selected by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may establish or change the procedure to be followed in approving such applications.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Individuals that have performed distinguished service for the DCA or the distribution construction industry are eligible for nomination and election as an Honorary Member. Nominees must receive a three-fourths majority vote of the Board of Directors. Directors who are the current representatives of the same company as the nominated individual or corporation shall recuse themselves from the voting on that Honorary Member nominee. Honorary Members and their spouse/guest shall be exempt from meeting registration fees at Association meetings.

2021 MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY



■ TRENCHLESS

LEADERSHIP

Vice-Chair – Rob Hotz, Laney Group Inc.
Vice-Chair – Dustin Kraft, Vermeer Corp.

MISSION STATEMENT

To educate and promote the use of Trenchless Technology to contractors, customers, and governing agencies by sharing safe, environmentally friendly, state of the art technology, and best practices for underground infrastructure installation worldwide. The Trenchless committee is also forum to identify, discuss and work toward resolutions of member issues and needs related to trenchless construction.

2021 ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Panel discussion on contractor issues/changes related to COVID moderated by Dave Wisniewski that was held at the UCT.
- Changed “HDD committee” to “Trenchless committee” expand efforts to all trenchless technologies used by DCA membership.
- Informative member speakers at the 2021 Convention and the Fall Meeting on HDD related topics.
- Alan Goodman, Hammerhead Trenchless, Plastic and Steel Replacement
- Andy Bremner, Vermeer, Electric Jobsite, and the Future of HDD
- DCA Trenchless microsite rollout and continual updates.
- Began collaborative efforts with NASTT, working towards more cooperation between contractors, engineers, and owners.

2022 GOALS & INITIATIVES:

- Resume efforts to engage in state agency educational meetings and state and federal lobbying.
- Collaboration with NASTT to include DCA representation on NASTT Committee to redevelop the HDD Best Practices Course.
- Continue expansion of DCA Trenchless microsite for HDD and other trenchless technologies.
- Explore issues related to drilling fluid regulations.

■ SAFETY/RISK MANAGEMENT

LEADERSHIP

Vice-Chair – Bill Colson, Pretec Directional Drilling LLC
Vice-Chair – Randy Bunch, Aaron Enterprises Inc.

MISSION STATEMENT

Review safety related information provided by DCA members/associates and hold open discussions at meetings on safe jobsite practices. Oversee the Arthur T. Everham Safety Award, assist with the Safety Director and Safety Person of the Year Awards, and the annual Safety Congress.

2021 ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Arthur T. Everham Safety Award:
- Maintained the 4 categories for the Arthur T. Everham Safety Award.
- Participation remained at about 50% of member contractors from 2020 to 2021.
- The 2020 Benchmarking survey (latest statistics) had 47 participants.

2022 GOALS & INITIATIVES:

- Promote the 2022 DCA Safety Congress to new and existing Members / Associates.
- Promote the DCA and encourage attendance and participation for all events.
- Continue lobbying with Eben Wyman of Wyman Associate in efforts to push for SMS.
- Continue promoting the Arthur T. Everham award with higher participation from members.
- Assist with a sub-committee to update the Arthur T. Everham questionnaire.
- Continue promoting submission of safety statistics with higher participation from members.
- Continue to have high quality speakers that will benefit all attendees.
- Continue growth by fostering safety/risk mitigation within the DCA functions.

■ WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

LEADERSHIP

Vice-Chair – Pete Fojtik, Michels Utility Services Inc.
Vice-Chair – Dave Wisniewski, Vermeer Corp.

MISSION STATEMENT

Utilize DCA resources, relationships, and membership to execute multiple initiatives that help promote, recruit, and retain the best possible talent for DCA contractor and associate members.

2021 ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Transitioned committee leadership.
- Increased local SkillsUSA involvement (even though Covid constraints restricted much of the personal interaction).
- Continue dialog and Board participation with CEWD.
- Completed our first BuildWitt video series highlighting various contractor roles in the industry.
- Negotiated the next phase of the BuildWitt video project.
- Arranged for various contractor and associate members to present on “best practices” for onboarding and training new employees.
- Introduced the DCA organization to StrataTech, a welding school located in several states.

2022 GOALS & INITIATIVES:

- Complete the second BuildWitt video series.
- Create a more formal recruiting platform and recruiting package with the help of BuildWitt.
- Increase contractor engagement with SkillsUSA at the local level.
- Participate in the annual SkillsUSA event.
- Participate in the annual CEWD meeting and continue to develop our participation in their organization.
- Host a Workforce Development Summit in person in fall.
- Host a workforce “best practices” panel at the DCA/AGA joint session.

MEMBERSHIP

LEADERSHIP

Vice-Chair – Mike Aydt, MP Technologies LLC
Vice-Chair – Brad Everett, Caterpillar Inc.

MISSION STATEMENT

Actively solicit and evaluate potential DCA contractor and associate members and make recommendations on member programs and awards. Additionally, work to assure new members are integrated into the association and getting value from their membership and attendance at the conferences.

2021 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Membership -

- Maintained DCA membership
 - Contractor Membership – (2019) 95 (2020) 93 (2021) 89 net -4
 - Associate Membership – (2019) 142 (2020) 135 (2021) 123 net -12

DCA Members Participation -

- Mid Year Meeting attendance
2017 = 228; 2018 = 267; 2019 =231; (2020 & 2021 cancelled)
- Fall Meeting attendance
2018 = 143; 2019 = 180; 2020 (virtual) 75; 2021 = 123
- Annual Convention attendance
2019 = 613; 2020 = 568, 2021 =404
- Annual Convention Auction results
2019 = \$972,826; 2020 = \$996,565; 2021=\$570,040

Equipment Survey Results and Participation -

2019 Results = \$1,568,263,882
Participation - 51%

2020 Results = \$1,356,187,634
Participation - 50%

2021 Result = \$1,241,311,950
Participation - 50%

2022 GOALS & INITIATIVES:

- Focus on getting existing members to participate in all DCA functions and meetings.
- Member retention - foster a strong DCA community, whether it's the first time or tenth time attending.
- New members – proactively engage with first time attendees, with the help of mentors, to increase engagement and gain feedback after their first meeting.
- Former members – reach out to and re-engage former members.
- Increase member levels; restore membership to pre-pandemic levels.
- Continue to show value to our members by encouraging them to engage within the association.
- Increase participation/attendance of contractor members at all DCA breakout meetings.
- Make concerted effort to attract more contractor members.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LEADERSHIP

Vice-Chair – Mark Albert, AGI Construction Inc.
Vice-Chair – John Lamerton, Wyo-Ben Inc.

MISSION STATEMENT

Target specific regulatory and legislative items and report their findings through the Legislative Watch section of the DCA News and DCA website. Present to the board those issues we believe our members would benefit from through advocacy for or against.

2021 ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Lobbied aggressively on federal infrastructure legislation supporting investment in a range of infrastructure categories.
- Worked with industry allies to successfully defeat the "Build Back Better Act," which contained overreaching climate change policies, included a new tax on methane emissions.
- Rolled out DCA's new grassroots program ("Muster") that enables members to communicate DCA messages with federal, state, and local policymakers.
- Developed a new DCA position paper on "Pipeline Transportation of Critical Energy," which made the case that ambitious energy goals without robust pipeline infrastructure.
- Worked as a co-sponsor of a comprehensive study on the underground facility locating process. The study, entitled "811 Emergency," provides a national report as well as an in-depth look at each state damage prevention program.
- Successfully pushed back aggressively against new federal mandates on employers requiring Covid-19 vaccinations and/or regular testing. In the end, all proposed mandates were overturned.
- Continued working as part of the Pipeline Safety Management Systems (SMS) Industry Team, which promotes commitment and implementation of SMS approaches among pipeline stakeholders.
- Continued to support efforts overseen by the Energy Equipment and Infrastructure Alliance (EEIA) on a variety of efforts to rebut increasing hostility towards the natural gas industry.

2022 GOALS & INITIATIVES

- Help secure passage of any legislation that promotes expansion of pipeline infrastructure as part of CCUS and increased use hydrogen.
- Successfully defeat 'stand-alone' legislation containing harmful provisions previously included in last year's "Build Back Better" legislation, such as measures that would levy new taxes on methane emissions or other attacks on natural gas.
- Ensure that new pipeline safety regulations do not impose overreaching new regulations related to methane emissions as part of the PHMSA's purview.
- Continue to successfully enact "fuel choice" legislation and defeat harmful legislation at the state level that would restrict access to natural gas through banning natural gas and/or mandatory electrification.
- Expand the DCA "Muster" network to include as many new members into the program as possible. This will expand the influence of DCA "grassroots" advocates, and therefore expand the association's overall influence.
- Promote the messages included in the "811 Emergency" report at both the federal and state level.
- Work with the Coalition for Workplace Safety to block anticipated legislation that would impose harmful new regulations from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).



CONTRACTOR MEMBERS

3P Utility Services
 Aaron Enterprises
 Aecon Industrial Management Ltd.
 AGI Construction
 Alex E. Paris Contracting Co.
 Appalachian Pipeline Contractors
 ARB
 Atlas Trenchless
 Blackeagle Energy Services
 Bond Brothers
 Brotherton Pipeline
 Carson Corporation
 Centuri Group
 D.R.S. Enterprises
 Discovery Hydrovac
 ECI Contracting
 Elecnor Hawkeye
 Feeney Brothers Utility Services

Flatirons Drilling
 Gabe's Construction Co.
 Global Underground Corp.
 H.L. Chapman Pipeline Construction
 Hanging H Companies
 Henkels & McCoy
 Hydro Excavators II
 Hypower
 InfraSource
 InfraSource Services
 InterCon Construction
 INTREN
 J. F. Kiely Construction Co.
 K. R. Swerdfeger Construction
 KS Energy Services
 Laney Directional Drilling Co.
 Ledo Group
 Loy Clark Construction

MasTec North America
 Maxx HDD
 Meade
 Mears Group
 Mears Holding
 Mersino Dewatering
 Michels Corporation
 Michels Pacific Energy
 Michels Utility Services
 Mid America Energy Services
 Mid-Ohio Pipeline Company
 Midwestern Contractors
 Miller Pipeline
 Minnesota Limited
 MP Technologies
 Nash Brothers Construction Co.
 Network Infrastructure
 Niels Fugal Sons Co.

Northern Clearing
 NPL Construction Co.
 NuLine Utility Services
 Otis Eastern Service
 Outback Contractors
 Oz Directional Drilling
 Pe Ben USA
 Peak USG
 Pipe Strong
 Precision Pipeline
 Pretec Directional Drilling
 Price Gregory International
 Primoris Services Corp.
 Q3 Contracting
 R&R Pipeline
 R. L. Coolsaet Construction Co.
 RBS International
 RLA Utilities

Roberts Pipeline
 SiteWise
 Snelson Companies
 Southeast Connections
 Southeast Directional Drilling
 Team Fishel
 Teichert Pipelines
 The Hallen Construction Co.
 The HDD Company
 The Hillis Group
 Turner Underground Installation
 U.S. Pipeline
 Underground Construction Co.
 Utility Line Services
 Veteran Pipeline Construction
 Wright Traffic Control
 WSB

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

AIS Construction Equip.
 Allan Edwards
 ALLU Group
 American Augers
 Bentonite Performance Minerals
 Brandt Equip. Solutions
 Brooks Tractor
 Browline USA
 Case Construction Equip.
 Caterpillar
 Century Products
 CETCO
 Challenger Services
 Cleveland Brothers Equip. Co.
 Consolidated Pipe & Supply Co.
 Continuum Capital
 CRC Evans Pipeline Int'l
 Cross Country Infrastructure Services
 Darby Equip. Co.
 Derrick Corporation
 d'Escoto
 Digital Control
 Ditch Witch
 Ditch Witch Mid-States
 Ditch Witch Midwest

Ditch Witch Undercon
 Ditch Witch West
 Ditch Witch Worx
 Doosan Infracore North America
 Drilling Mud Direct (DMD)
 Dura-Line
 ELM Utility Services
 ENERGY worldnet
 EPIC Insurance Brokers & Consultants
 Express 4x4 Truck Rental
 Fabick Cat
 Finn Corporation
 FMI Corporation
 Footage Tools
 GF Central Plastics
 Groebner
 HammerHead Trenchless
 Herrenknecht Tunnelling Sys.
 Hi-Vac Corporation
 Hobart Brothers Co.
 Holly Pipe Corp.
 Hunting Trenchless
 Industrial Training Services
 INROCK Drilling Systems
 ISCO Industries

J. T. Miller
 JAN X-Ray Services
 JESCO
 John Deere
 KERAMIDA Inc.
 Komatsu America Corp.
 LaValley Industries
 McElroy Manufacturing
 Melfred Borzall
 M-I SWACO
 Midwestern Manufacturing Co.
 Miller Electric Mfg.
 Minova USA Inc.
 Morain Sales & Services
 National Equip. Dealers
 National Trench Safety
 Newman Tractor
 Ohio CAT
 Owner Resource Group
 Ozzie's Inc.
 Pipe View America
 PipeLine Machinery Int'l
 Pipeline Pigging Products
 Pipeline Supply Co.
 PipeSak Inc.
 Planet Underground TV

Prime Direct
 PSS Industrial Group
 R.M.S. Welding Systems
 RAMVAC Vacuum Excavators
 RCE Equip. Solutions
 RDO Equip. Co.
 Reed Manufacturing Co.
 Repurposed Materials
 Right Turn Supply
 Ring-O-Matic
 Ritchie Bros.
 Rockford Rigging
 Rockland Manufacturing
 Roland Machinery Co.
 Sander Resources
 Sharewell HDD
 Signature Systems
 Specialty Polymer Coatings
 Stratatech Education Group
 Subsite Electronics
 Sunbelt Rentals
 T T Technologies
 Terramac
 The Lincoln Electric Co.
 Tulsa Rig Iron
 Underground Magnetics

United Rentals Trench Safety
 Upsco
 Vacmasters
 Vacuworx
 Vermeer All Roads
 Vermeer Colorado
 Vermeer Corporation
 Vermeer Iowa & N. Missouri
 Vermeer Midwest
 Vermeer North Atlantic
 Vermeer of Indiana
 Vermeer of Michigan
 Vermeer Texas - Louisiana
 Vermeer Wisconsin
 Volvo Construction Equip.
 Weiler Abrasives Group
 Western Supplies
 Wyo-Ben
 YAK ACCESS
 Ziegler Cat

Executive Vice President Letter

While 2020 was a year that put everyone on pause, it wasn't a year without stress. The unknown aspects of Covid-19, the racial turmoil of the summer, and the divisive elections that ended the year were all the underpinnings of an uncertain 2021. DCA and the membership persevered, however, and while there were ups and downs, we kept moving forward in 2021.

After a year and a half of staring at each other on computer screens, the miraculously rapid development of effective Covid-19 vaccines made it possible to finally meet in person again. A record-setting Safety Congress in April preceded the 2021 convention, which was originally scheduled for Hawaii in February, and then Scottsdale, Arizona, before finally taking place in Orlando, Florida, in July in place of the Mid Year Meeting. The Ritz-Carlton Grande Lakes Orlando was a welcoming host to the 400 members and guests who turned out to celebrate DCA's Diamond Anniversary. Ben Nelson saw his term as president extended for another year, reflecting the unusual times, and the auction revenues fell as expected, but managed a still-healthy \$560,000 total.

The OQ project, which DCA had been shepherding for several years, was formalized into the Operator Qualification Integrity Process or OQIP, which became its own 501c3 organization with www.OQIP.org as its electronic home. Pilot programs are ongoing and demonstrating the viability and value of the process.

DCA ramped up its marketing efforts in 2021. Two new micro-websites were launched in 2021—www.DCALetsGetToWork.com and www.DCATrenchless.com—to help target the organization's messages on workforce issues and trenchless technology more directly. The release of "Six Degrees with Mike Rowe" on the

Discovery Channel in April also raised industry awareness and featured ads from DCA, Michels, and Artera highlighting the availability of high paying jobs and great careers.

The association, the membership, and the country in general were at peak in February 2020, and then the bottom fell out. It will take several years to fully recover. It won't happen overnight, so DCA is planning accordingly. All DCA events for 2022 are scheduled as in-person gatherings, so expectations of attendance are tempered. Realistically, it may be 2023 or 2024 before we see the same record level of activity we saw in 2019.

These days, political rancor is reaching highs not seen in more than a century, the virus refuses to fade into history, and the gas industry is facing new pressures as the debate on climate change grows and a renewed opposition to natural gas rises. An organization born in the 1960s, however, is no stranger to turbulence. It may take a couple of years to return to full strength, but the DCA's long track record of dedicated members, steady leadership, and consistent achievement leave it well equipped to tackle difficult times and ensure that its members can keep America's lights on for many decades to come.



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Eben Wyman - Wyman Associates, Washington, DC Representative





101 W. Renner Rd. Suite 460
Richardson, TX 75082

(972) 680-0261

info@dcaweb.org
www.dcaweb.org