

FROM THE TRENCHES

NUCA Iowa Newsletter

March 2017

A Message From Your Chapter President

Well, what little winter we had seems to be fading fast and everyone seems to be anxious to get back to work. Normally, I appreciate a little winter to allow us to reflect on the past year,

make adjustments and plan for the upcoming season. With our warm winter, those efforts have been put on the fast track. We are all expecting another busy year and I wish you all the best.

NUCA Safety Days was recently held at Prairie Meadows in Altoona which allowed 508 individuals to be trained during the 4-day event. This was not only a great accomplishment, but also a testament to our

commitment to safety. Thanks to Dave Hehr, Jeremy Feldmann, the sponsors and everyone who helped plan and organize the event.

The week wrapped up with the NUCA of Iowa Annual Banquet. With record setting attendance – over 165, we enjoyed conversation,



food and drink, and a little friendly competition with the corn toss tournament. Bill Hillman, from NUCA National spoke of the upcoming national events as well as the recent successes in Washington. Our keynote speaker, Don Mann, gave an inspiring talk of national pride and

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NUCA of IOWA
2017 Membership Directory
Advertising Rate Sheet

Deadline: March 10, 2017

There is still plenty of time to reserve your ad space in the 2017 Membership Directory.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES YET ??

Obtaining Change Orders, not lawsuits...

Obtaining Change Orders, not lawsuits. This is the philosophy that underlies the work done at Olson Construction Law, P.C. The attorneys at the firm focus solely on representing contractors, not as a side business for the firm, but as their only work. As a result, the attorneys are advocates of construction best practices, and educating contractors on how to successfully minimize risk and maximize profits. The firm's founding member, Thomas Olson, leads by example for the other attorneys. Tom was recently honored to be named the NUCA associate of the year. Additionally, Tom is the author of NUCA's *National Trenchless Construction Manual* chapter titled "Legal Rights and Obligations of Engineers and Contractors," which should be published this year. Tom has authored many articles for NUCA, has presented at NUCA conferences, and has held countless seminars for underground contractors to help educate best practices.



There is no greater area of risk in the construction industry than underground construction. The reason for this is simple; you can't "see" what is underground when bidding the job. Funding for many projects have been decreasing dramatically in recent years, and as a result, the geotechnical investigations done at the front end of the project are severely lacking. This lack of information at bid time is leading to changed conditions, inadequate design, extra costs, and extra time on projects for underground contractors.

As a result of this, it is no longer sufficient for underground contractors to have good estimators who can bid low, but not too low, and field personnel who can build the job right. In today's reality, underground contractors also need somebody knowledgeable in

determining when project changes justify payment of addition costs and extensions of time, what the contractual grounds are for these extensions, and how to correctly follow the contracts to ensure change orders.



In order to successfully obtain change orders, underground contractors need a partner to help owners and engineers form the right view initially, rather than someone trying to change the wrong view after the fact. Think of the attorneys at Olson Construction Law, P.C. as a new piece of equipment. If this new piece of equipment helped you make more money on a job, wouldn't you invest in it? Contact us today at trolson@olsonconstructionlaw.com or visit us online at www.olsonconstructionlaw.com to learn more about a partnership that will help you obtain change orders, not lawsuits, and as a result minimize risk and maximize profits.

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