

# FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



**NUCA**  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

BUILDING SOUTHWEST FLORIDA  
FROM THE GROUND DOWN

A grey hard hat is centered below the text in this section.



**F.T.B.A. Construction Conference—February 11th & 12th**

**NUCA SWFL Construction Day at the Ballpark—February 28th**

**NUCA SWFL Spring Clay Shoot—March 7th**

**NUCA National Convention @ Orlando—March 18th-21st**

**NUCA FL Legislative Days—March 31st-April 2nd**

**NUCA SWFL Member Social—April t.b.a.**

**NUCA FL ASJMSF Bass Fishing Tournament—May 1st—3rd**

**NUCA SWFL Fishing Tournament @ Tween Waters —May 2nd & 3rd**

**NUCA SWFL Membership Meeting—May/June t.b.a.**

**NUCA National Washington Summit—May 13th & 14th**

**NUCA SWFL Trade Show—June 19th (tentative)**

**NUCA SWFL Scholarship Awards—July 2025 t.b.a.**

**NUCA FL Annual Conference @ Ocean Reef, Key Largo—July 16th—July**

**19th NUCA FL President's Cup @ Longboat Key-September 19th & 20th**

**NUCA SWFL Scholarship Golf Tournament—October 17th**

**NUCA SWFL Membership Meeting—November t.b.a.**

**NUCA SWFL Clay Shoot—December 5th**

**NUCA SWFL Holiday Social—December 11th**

***“Building Southwest Florida from the Ground Down”***



# Installation of Officers & Directors 2025





# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS 2025**

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>President</b>       | <b>Cheryl Ricciardi – Andrew Sitework</b>         |
| <b>President Elect</b> | <b>Aaron Hunt-Branch – Guymann Construction</b>   |
| <b>Vice President</b>  | <b>Trevor Reese – B C Underground</b>             |
| <b>Secretary</b>       | <b>Russell Tripp – Rinker Materials</b>           |
| <b>Treasurer</b>       | <b>Jerry Haas – Honorary Director / Treasurer</b> |
| <b>Past President</b>  | <b>Dustin Gibson – Denco Construction</b>         |

- Brian Balsley – Core & Main**
- Brian Brandfass – Andrew Sitework**
- Chase Anderson – B C Underground**
- Chris Stewart – Flygt a Xylem Brand**
- Edward Williams - Oldcastle Infrastructure**
- Dominick Stefanacci – Quality Precast Solutions**
- Keith Lant – Synergy Equipment Pump Division**
- Kenny Cabana – Cabana Construction**
- Mark McFalls – Ferguson Waterworks**
- Matt Swan – Foley Products**
- Mike McDonnell – Quality Precast Solutions**
- Mitchell Penner – Mitchell & Stark Construction**
- Scott Anderson – Grundfos Inc.**
- Scott Ferrell – BC Underground**

***“BUILDING SOUTHWEST FLORIDA FROM THE GROUND DOWN”***





**THANK YOU!**

**Guest Speakers**

**NUCA of Florida's Advocacy**

**Representatives**

*Kari Hebrank*

*&*

*Lucas Parsons*

***"BUILDING SOUTHWEST FLORIDA FROM THE GROUND DOWN"***

# NUCA

REPRESENTING UTILITY & EXCAVATION CONTRACTORS  
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

## LEE HEALTH SPORTS COMPLEX CONSTRUCTION DAY AT THE BALLPARK

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28  
AT 1:05 PM

*Twins*

**VS**

*Orioles*<sup>TM</sup>

**SECTION 128 "THE PORCH"  
TICKETS - \$18 EACH**

**PURCHASE TICKETS WITH  
RHONDA & CAILYN  
EMAIL: [NUCASWFL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NUCASWFL@GMAIL.COM)  
PHONE: 239-939-1952**



**WELCOME  
NEW  
MEMBERS**



**GRUNDFOS**

**Scott Anderson - District Sales  
Manager**

**Pumps - Materials Supplier  
Water Supply Services  
Water/Sewer Maintenance**

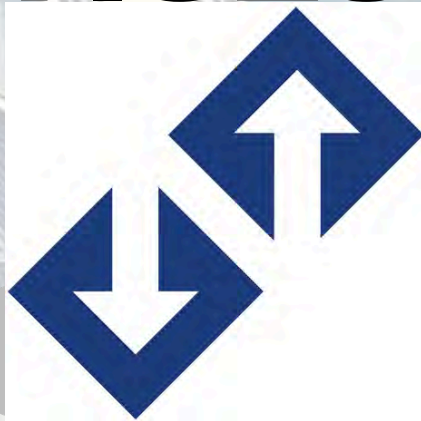
**856 Koomey Rd, Brookshire, TX 77423**

**Phone: 813-601-1843**

**<https://www.grundfos.com/us>**



# **NEUBERT CONSTRUCTION SERVICES INC.**



**Tyler Neubert - Vice President**

**Excavation - Site Development**

**Roadway/Highway Construction**

**3791 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Unit 3,**

**Fort Myers, FL 33916**

**Phone: 239-332-8800**

**<https://www.neubertconstruction.com/>**

# Loss Control Tips

## Excavation Contractors

The primary business of excavation contractors in the construction industry is land preparation. Their work often involves operating heavy machinery to dig, move and grade the earth for various construction projects.

Such practices include digging the foundation to exacting dimensions, grading to provide a level surface, and trenching to accommodate water, sewage or utility pipelines.

Excavation contractors may also clear land and perform some types of concrete work, such as pouring foundations for roads, houses or other buildings.

Due to their wide variety of operations, these professionals are often exposed to various safety, liability and property risks. That's why it's vital to have effective loss control measures in place. This resource outlines common risks excavation contractors must address and offers helpful strategies to avoid possible claims.



### Jonathan Brooke

Vice President – Sales Producer  
239.270.5009

[Jonathan.Brooke@Acentria.com](mailto:Jonathan.Brooke@Acentria.com)

11215 Metro Pkwy | Bldg 1, Suite 4  
Fort Myers, FL 33966

# Acentria Insurance

A Foundation Risk Partners Company



## Inland Marine Mobile Equipment

Excavation contractors face many inland marine exposures, especially since they often use their own excavation and construction equipment at job sites. Inadequate maintenance procedures and a lack of prevention protocols can result in equipment damage, which could lead to significant interruptions and costly repair or replacement expenses.

Excavation contractors should consider these steps to limit risks:

- Keep a detailed list of machinery. Each item should include an identifying number, age, type and condition.
- Add nonremovable labels to mobile equipment to allow for easy and permanent identification.
- Implement an effective mobile equipment inspection and maintenance program to help keep equipment in good condition and prevent safety issues during operation. Clean equipment tracks at the end of each day to prevent any issues from arising.
- Implement security measures to prevent the unauthorized use of equipment left at job sites. These measures can include installing security cameras, locking equipment doors and hiring on-site security.
- Conduct daily operation checks on heavy equipment to make sure there are no issues with the machinery.



## Premises and Operations Liability

The nature of excavation and trenching operations poses various liability concerns. For example, third-party damage and injuries to bystanders can lead to costly liability claims. It's important for excavation contractors to take the following measures to limit their premises and operations liability:

- Develop appropriate safety protocols for excavation operations. This includes implementing programs for soil classification and identification, excavation safety plans and the use of excavation protection systems.
- Make sure all operations are conducted in accordance with applicable OSHA regulations, including making sure trenching boxes are used for trenching activities when needed.
- Ensure all excavation contractors are appropriately licensed and experienced for the task at hand before beginning work.
- Require all contractors to utilize a detailed inspection checklist when conducting maintenance procedures.
- Use signage to signal there is open trenching.
- Develop and implement procedures for inspecting a job site before work begins. This includes determining where earth moving will occur, where spoil piles will be located and what areas are around the job site.
- Ensure site security measures prevent the general public from trespassing on job sites. If working around high vehicle traffic areas, ensure signs and barricades are utilized to protect workers, vehicle traffic and pedestrians.



*Get Involved!*

## **Southwest Florida DPC**

**February 19, 2025 | Noon - 1:30**

### **Bonita Springs Utilities**

Location provided by Bonita Springs Utilities, Inc.

11500 Operations Way

Lunch provided by: Sunshine 811

Bonita Springs, FL 34135

[map and directions](#)



### **ATTEND IN PERSON! SPACE LIMITED! SECURE YOUR SPOT**

Attendance in person is highly recommended. Audio and video quality is not assured for online attendees.

<https://app.coursettra.com/4iq/publicseminar/SWDPC20250219>

*Registration to attend in person is done through our online learning platform Coursettra. Click here to watch a registration video.*

### **Attend Virtually**

This meeting will also be held virtually, with participants included in discussion.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6841409182536290399>

### **DPC INFORMATION**

[Sunshine811.com/DPC](https://Sunshine811.com/DPC)

### **QUESTIONS?**

Contact Brian Dean

Sunshine 811 Education & Awareness Liaison

[brian.dean@sunshine811.com](mailto:brian.dean@sunshine811.com)



# NUCA of SWFL's SPRING CLAY SHOOT

@ BERMONT SHOOTING CLUB



**FRIDAY**  
**MARCH 7**

- 50 targets/person
- Carts Available
- Lunch and Beverages
- Awards and Raffles
- Rentals Guns

(CALL Bermont Shooting Club TO RESERVE)

**40571 BERMONT RD. PUNTA GORDA, FL**

Registration = 8:00 am

Safety Talk = 8:30 am

Shotgun Start = 9:00 am

**REGISTRATION FEE**

**\$500**  
**MEMBER TEAM**

**\$650**  
**NON MEMBER TEAM**

TO REGISTER  
CONTACT RHONDA AND CAILYN

**NUCASWFL@GMAIL.COM**

**239-939-1952**





2025 Spring Clay Shoot Sponsorship Form
March 7th, 2025

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Representative \_\_\_\_\_

Donations Are Appreciated: Hats, koozies, gift certificates, raffle prizes, door prizes, etc.

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Breakfast Sponsor @ \$250.00 EACH \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch Sponsor @ \$500.00 EACH \_\_\_\_\_

Beverage Sponsor @ \$500.00 EACH \_\_\_\_\_

Cart Sponsor (1) @ \$1,000.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Shooting Stand Sponsor @ \$200.00 EACH \_\_\_\_\_

Challenge Bird Contest @ \$200.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Green Bird Contest @ \$200.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Raffle Sponsor @ \$100.00 EACH \_\_\_\_\_

Awards Sponsor @\$100.00 EACH \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL SPONSORSHIP AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_



NUCA of Southwest Florida

P. O. Box 62207, Fort Myers, FL 33906

Email to: nucaswfl@gmail.com

**Friday, March 7th, 2025**

40571 Bermont Rd, Punta Gorda, FL 33982

**Registration: 8:00 A.M.**

**Safety Talk: 8:30 A.M.**

**Shotgun Start: 9:00 A.M.**

**NUCA SWFL MEMBER COST: \$500 per (4) Person**

**Team NON-MEMBER COST \$650 per (4) person Team**  
(includes 50 targets, golf cart, lunch, beverages and awards)

**(Ammunition is not included)**

**Clay Shoot Rules & Info**

- ◆ Liability Waiver Required
- ◆ Shotgun must have a barrel length minimum of 20 inches
- ◆ Safety meeting is mandatory
- ◆ Training available  
(appt. required) \$150/hour
- ◆ Tie Breaker—1 person from the tied teams shoot off
- ◆ Rental Guns Available **-CALL BERMONT SHOOTING CLUB TO RESERVE**



**Bermont Shooting Club Inc.**  
Sporting Clays, 5 Stand, Clays, Trap, 3D Archery Course

**Team Entry Form:** NOTE: Carts are issued first come basis, you may bring your own.

**Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Company:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Shooters:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please designate any shooters 16 years or under\*\*    \*\*Must have one experienced shooter on each**

**team\*\*** \_\_\_\_\_ **NUCA Member Team of 4—\$500**    \_\_\_\_\_ **Individual Shooter \$125**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Non NUCA -Member Team of 4-\$650**    \_\_\_\_\_ **Individual Shooter \$165**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Challenge Bird Contest—\$5 per shot**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Green Bird Contest 5-Shots—\$25 (two stations)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Raffle Basket Tickets (5) for—\$10**

**Total Amount Due \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN FORM STO: Rhonda Cason, E.D. and Cailyn Finn Intern E.D.**  
**NUCA of Southwest Florida, P. O. Box 62207, Fort Myers, FL 33906**

**nucaswfl@gmail.com**

# LEGISLATIVE DAYS 2025



Support our Advocacy efforts  
& sponsor NUCA FL's 2025  
Legislative Days.

Platinum.....	\$2500
Diamond.....	\$2000
Gold .....	\$1500
Silver.....	\$1000
Bronze.....	\$500
Copper.....	\$250
Advocacy Friend.....	\$150

The 2025 Legislative Session kicks off this next year on March 4<sup>th</sup>. NUCA of Florida is hosting Legislative Days April 1-2, 2025, at A/C Marriott. On April 1<sup>st</sup>, attendees will gather for a Breakfast Legislative Briefing from 8 a.m. -10 a.m. Members will then “walk the halls” and meet one-on-one with legislators at the Capitol. Industry- specific bills covering fire suppression, development, construction practices, crane regulations, & licensure are all on the table. In the evening, we’ll gather with lawmakers for a cocktail reception. On April 2nd, the Executive Committee begins at 8:30 a.m. and the Board of Directors convenes at 10:30 a.m. Join us in Tallahassee to advocate for the underground utility industry!

[TO REGISTER & SPONSOR  
CLICK HERE](#)

[TO BOOK HOTEL STAY  
CLICK HERE](#)



# Kari B. Hebrank

SENIOR GOVERNMENT CONSULTANT

TALLAHASSEE

☐ 850.513.3607

☐ 850.222.0398  
☐

CONNECT  
LinkedIn

## Overview

Kari Hebrank represents a wide range of clients before the Florida Legislature and the executive branch with a focus on construction, regulatory licensing and permitting, housing, title insurance, building materials, building codes, sustainability, mitigation, energy, energy financing, mining, infrastructure, and utility issues. Her legislative and regulatory affairs duties include bill analysis, bill drafting, testimony preparation, strategy development and strategic communication, policy and agency rule monitoring, lobbying, grassroots advocacy, campaign and elections counsel, and coalition building.

She has successfully lobbied appropriations issues for affordable housing, on-site wastewater funding, transportation, construction training and education, mitigation funding, unlicensed contractor enforcement, and the Future Builders of America.

Kari has also written and managed three grants for the Florida Home Builders Association issued from the Division of Emergency Management and managed two projects for the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

Kari previously served as vice president of government relations for the Florida Building Material Association, responsible for lobbying myriad construction industry and business issues. She also served as a legislative liaison for the Florida Association of Counties, where she lobbied a variety of county government issues, including growth management, environmental, transportation, utility, appropriations, and agricultural issues.





# Lucas G. Parsons

GOVERNMENT CONSULTANT

TALLAHASSEE

850.513.3609

850.222.0398

CONNECT

lparsons@carltonfields.com

LinkedIn

## Overview

Lucas Parsons has nearly a decade of experience in government relations, with a particular focus on policy analysis and its impact on the construction and development industries. He represents a wide variety of clients before state and local governments and helps clients in all industries navigate the legislative process.

Lucas has experience in all aspects of the legislative process, including lobbying, bill drafting, policy and agency rule monitoring, and legislative committee operations. As a former legislative analyst, Lucas developed key relationships with policymakers and stakeholders, analyzed and drafted legislation, and advised on policy matters and regulatory issues. His extensive experience working with industry and business professionals bolsters his understanding of large and small businesses, their concerns, and their interests — as well as the legislative and regulatory environments in which they must navigate — allowing him to advocate effectively on their behalf.

Lucas previously served as a senior attorney for the Florida Senate Committee on Fiscal Policy, where he tracked legislation covering a myriad of issues. He also served under the Select Committee on Resiliency, working to find solutions to fortify the state against future hurricanes.

# 'It's...your future:' The lucrative careers Immokalee students get access to

Immokalee Technical College is on the cutting edge of a trending industry, and students are cashing in.

Photo by: Ella Rhoades



As Southwest Florida grows, so does the need for heavy equipment technicians. It's not only here but across the nation. A two year ITECH program prepares and places techs in the workforce.



By: [Ella Rhoades](#)

*Posted 5:18 PM, Jan 30, 2025*

IMMOKALEE, Fla. — A technical college in Immokalee is on the cutting edge of a trending industry, and students going there are getting to cash in.

As Southwest Florida grows, so does the need for heavy equipment technicians.

Yes, if you were a kid or have a kid who loves the big yellow construction trucks, bulldozers, front-end loaders, you name it — these kids are growing up to work on these machines and keep them running for living.

"Everything is hands-on, and it prepares them for the real world," program instructor Stephen Bridges explained.

Bridges teaches the Heavy Equipment Services Technician program at [Immokalee Technical College, or iTECH.](#)

He works with 25 students five days a week in the classroom and in the lab.

Those break down, clean and put back together engines for semi-trucks, agriculture equipment and equipment that builds roads, buildings and homes.



iTECH says 100 percent of the students that come out of this program have found jobs.

For a small area and a rural area like Immokalee, it's hard to get those kind of opportunities, so it's huge," said Bridges.

Each student lands a job at one of several companies that sponsor the program including Caterpillar and John Deer.

Talk about demand...Bridges said Caterpillar needs 44,000 technicians and John Deer needs 12,000.

Angel Vega Perez could be one of them soon.

"It'll help you a lot in the future, obviously, and that's what's going to make you successful. It's not just like something to do just because you wanna do it. It's like your future," Perez said.

The program costs \$13,000.

However, The Immokalee Foundation, which helped start the program at iTECH, gives each student a scholarship that includes, tuition, tools and work boots.

She said, "A training that no one can take away from them," said Foundation CEO Noemi Perez. "Once they learn this, they have that knowledge you know for life."



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*“Building Southwest Florida From The Ground Down”*

## **Scholarship Applications**

Furthering education is a subject that NUCA of Southwest Florida, NUCA of Florida and Construction Angels can proudly stand behind by offering scholarships to individuals who strive to pursue a higher level of knowledge within their desired field.

These opportunities are available to members of NUCA of Southwest Florida, and their immediate family members such as a spouse or child.

NUCA of Southwest Florida, NUCA of Florida and Construction Angels will have applications available for technical or trade school students, high school students, and college undergraduates. Applications will be available this May.

Please check our website in May @ [NUCASWFL.com](http://NUCASWFL.com) or contact us via email @ [nucaswfl@gmail.com](mailto:nucaswfl@gmail.com)

Thank you to our Members for their support in contributing to this incredible advancement in all areas of education!



*Membership Certificate issued to:*

## Acentria Insurance

On behalf of the NUCA of Southwest Florida Board of Directors, it is our honor to recognize Acentria Insurance as a valued member since 2017.

Thank you for your unwavering support and significant contributions to the only Association dedicated to representing the Underground Utility and Excavation Industries.

***“Building Southwest Florida From The Ground Down”***



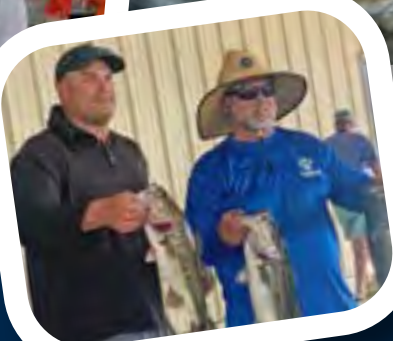
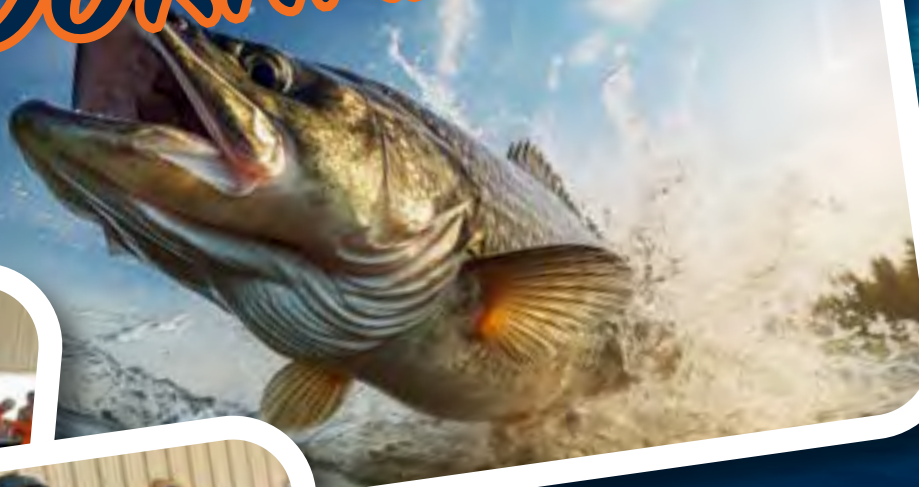
**NUCA OF SOUTHWEST  
FLORIDA'S  
ANNUAL FISHING  
TOURNAMENT  
2025**

**TWEEN WATERS ISLAND RESORT AND SPA  
CAPTIVA, FL  
MAY 2ND-3RD, 2025**

**CALL 1-800-223-5865  
TO BOOK YOUR ROOM NOW!  
ASK FOR MARISSA SAVARD**

25TH ANNUAL  
NUCA FL / ASJMSE 25TH ANNUAL

**BASS FISHING**  
**TOURNAMENT**



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**MAY 2-4, 2025**

**GET READY FOR THE 2025 ANDREW SCOTT JOHNSON MEMORIAL BASS TOURNAMENT MAY 2-4!**

THE TOURNAMENT WILL BE HELD IN OKEECHOBEE CITY ON LAKE OKEECHOBEE  
WITH THE WEIGH-IN AT SCOTT C. DRIVER PARK.

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS:**

Hotel reservations may be secured at our NUCA FL discounted rate at Days Inn/  
Wyndham by Lake Okeechobee by calling 863-623-4704.

**REGISTER NOW**

Note: Sponsorships are 100% tax-deductible.





## 2025 Legislative Session and Legislative Update Calls

The NUCA FL Advocacy Team hit the ground running during the first interim-committee week of the new year before the 2025 Legislative Session. Kari and Lucas met with 26 different legislators last week, a list that included veteran and freshman lawmakers alike, House Majority Leader Tyler Sirois (R-Merritt Island), a dinner with Senate President Ben Albritton (R-Wauchula), drinks with Senator Stan McClain (R-Ocala) and sushi with Representative Borrero (R-Sweetwater). Discussions with lawmakers included our expansion of scope issue, as well as priorities for the construction industry at-large such as, greater restrictions regarding local governments increasing impact fees, mitigation banking regulation and enhancing contractor fraud penalties.

We will begin having our Legislative Update Calls for the 2025 Session on Fridays at 11:00 AM beginning in February, where we will discuss our legislative priorities as well as updates on many of the issues above and statewide issues affecting all Floridians.

## NUCA FL 2025 Legislative Sponsors

We are proud to announce that after speaking with several lawmakers about expanding the scope of the Utility Contractor under Section 489 of the Florida Statutes, to include the duties of a Contractor V, we have secured a House and Senate sponsor for our bill. Longtime friend of NUCA FL, Senator Clay Yarborough (R-Jacksonville) and freshman lawmaker, Representative Judson Sapp (R-Green Cove Springs) have both agreed to sponsor the bill and advocate for the issue in front of their respective chambers on our behalf. We are excited to work this issue this year!



Senator Clay Yarborough



Representative Judson Sapp



## SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS SCHOLARSHIP

The office is accepting applications for the 2025 Florida Supervisors of Elections Association Scholarship. The statewide professional organization, comprised of county supervisors of elections, is awarding three \$1,200 scholarships to Florida undergraduate students as part of its commitment to furthering education and civic engagement.

Applicants must be registered Florida voters and have lived in the state for at least the preceding two years. They must also attend a university or college majoring in political science, public administration, business administration, or journalism/mass communication.

The deadline to apply for a scholarship is **March 7, 2025**. Applications are available at [WWW.LEE.VOTE](http://WWW.LEE.VOTE). Students can submit applications via e-mail, mail or in person.



Register Today



# NUCA

**2025 National Convention**  
**Orlando, FL**

March 18–21, 2025 | Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress

## Where Contractors Meet!

NUCA's annual member extravaganza is your gateway to unlocking new business opportunities, expanding your professional network, and gaining cutting-edge industry insights.

Our 2025 National Convention is built to be the utility contractor's best-in-class business and networking experience. Stay ahead of the curve with sessions and meetings featuring industry experts who'll share the latest products, trends, technologies, and regulatory updates. Our popular industry social events return, and we'll cheer on the winner of the first-ever National Equipment Operator Championship!

Enjoy the perfect blend of business and pleasure at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress. With its world-class amenities and proximity to Orlando's top family attractions, this venue offers a unique experience for both you and your guests.

Register today and join us in Orlando in March 2025 to imagine the possibilities ahead for your construction business.



### 2025 Keynote Speaker

**JASON REDMAN**

(Retired) Navy SEAL

*Sponsored by Core & Main*



### Join Us For NUCA's Premier Event!

- National Partner Networking Events
- Inaugural National Equipment Operator Championship
- Silent Auction & Raffle
- Member & Chapter Excellence Awards
- Industry Committee Meetings
- Profit Pipeline Roundtables
- Educational Sessions on Business, Workforce, Technology & Politics
- Inspiring Speakers, Social and Team Events, And So Much More!

Registration is now open!  
For more information visit

**NUCAadigs.com**

**#NUCA2025**

## *Breaking News: Grant, Loan Funding Temporarily Halted*

President Donald Trump's budget office on Monday, Jan. 28 ordered all federal agencies to temporarily block disbursement of grants and loans other than for Social Security, Medicare and other programs providing direct aid to individuals. This could impact our industry's EPA clean water infrastructure funding.

**The memo** says the temporary pause is intended to ensure agencies are complying with Trump's executive orders and are in line with the Administration's priorities.

It is not immediately clear how wide-ranging the pause will be in practice, due to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) ability to grant exceptions on a "case-by-case basis," language exempting direct aid to individuals and a clause that states the pause is subject to what's "permissible under applicable law."

NUCA has contacted the White House and OMB for clarification on funding disbursements, especially for projects currently underway, and will be working with coalition partners to push for a swift resolution.

Reports from each agency on all accounts subject to the pause are due back to OMB on Feb. 10.

## Trump Administration's Executive Orders: Construction & Business

Since taking office on Monday the Trump Administration has released a flurry of a flurry of Executive Orders, some affecting our industry and projects underway.

NUCA National has received several queries about the potential pause of funds appropriated under the NUCA-supported 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) or the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act.

NUCA shared with members last week a new **White House memo** clarifying that Section 7 of the "Unleashing American Energy" executive order (EO) issued on Jan. 20 by President Trump pausing certain IIJA/IRA funds pending review does NOT apply to water infrastructure, road, or broadband funding. It only applies to the energy and electric funding specifically identified in the order.

Other notable industry EOs signed on his first day in office include, but are not limited to:

\* **"Regulatory Freeze Pending Review"** states all rules unpublished in the Federal Register have been withdrawn, and all published rules are postponed for 60 days pending review.

\* **"Unleashing American Energy"** opens up new possibilities for new energy infrastructure such as pipelines, and promises further regulatory review to remove "undue burdens" on developing domestic energy resources.

\* **"Temporary Withdrawal of All Areas on The Outer Continental Shelf From Offshore Wind Leasing..."** NUCA has concerns with this EO, as it questions this industry's advocacy for developing all resources for generating electric power, including wind and solar. There are many solutions available to achieve U.S. energy

independence, and all must be explored and utilized. Our industry has adopted an “**All of the Above**” energy policy, and continues to advocate for policies that encourages production of all forms of American energy.

NUCA’s government affairs staff and committee are reviewing these EOs and the many others issued or in the process of being issued by the White House. We will release more information in the days and weeks ahead about them to our members, including our interpretation of possible impacts upon our industry.

## Biden-Era Regulations Could Face CRA Repeal

The Congressional Review Act (CRA) carryover period, the window during which the next Congress can target Biden administration regulations for repeal using the CRA’s expedited procedures, is likely to end on May 12, 2025. Several industry regulations may face repeal.

Under the CRA, Congress has 60 days to overturn a rule by enacting a joint resolution of disapproval that withdraws the rule and prohibits the agency from issuing a rule that is “substantially the same.” Senators may introduce CRA resolutions starting around January 23, 2025, and Representatives may introduce CRA resolutions starting around February 5, 2025.

Trump Administration opponents estimate at least 50 rules, issued toward the end of the Biden administration’s term, are vulnerable to repeal and likely to be targeted. The May 12 end date for the carryover period could be revised depending on the number of days the Senate is in session.

Several EPA rules enacted under the Inflation Reduction Act, U.S. Treasury rules for energy investment credits, new USDOL rules on PPE, as well as an EPA rule finalizing requirements for drinking water systems to replace

lead service line, may face repeal under CRA. At this early stage of the session, nothing has been introduced under the CRA for repeal.

NUCA is watching these potential CRA votes closely. While we support efforts to remove lead from drinking water pipes, we urge the incoming administration and Congress to provide appropriate funding and flexibility for this valuable program to avoid creating an unfunded mandate.

The CRA carryover period in Trump’s first term ended on May 11, 2017, with 14 Obama-era rules struck down by Congress.

## WRDA Signed Into Law

President Biden signed the Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (WRDA) into law on Jan. 6. NUCA strongly supported this bill, writing in our December media statement, “In a time where fiscal austerity is being discussed, it is important for both House and Senate lawmakers to remember that thousands of American communities depend on federal resources that NUCA members use to build modern subsurface infrastructure systems that deliver clean water and sewer services to tens of millions of Americans.”

Both the House and Senate passed in early December the final version of the NUCA-supported WRDA, which was approved as bill S. 4367.

## NUCA Government Affairs Committee Meetings: In Person and Virtual

The next in-person NUCA Government Affairs Committee meeting will take place at the National Convention Board of Directors Meeting in Orlando, Florida, Monday, March 18, 2025, at 4:00pm. All NUCA members are welcome to attend.

Committee members can participate in the monthly online meetings. Please email the Government Affairs office or NUCA's Zack Perconti for more information about these meetings and their logon details at [zackp@nuca.com](mailto:zackp@nuca.com).

### FHWA Announces Its Updated BABAA Highway Construction Requirements

The USDOT's Federal Highway Administration issued on Jan. 14 its update to the "Build America, Buy America" (BABAA) rule, introducing a new 55 percent domestic content requirement for a host of construction materials. This new rulemaking rescinds a 42-year old "general applicability waiver" for manufactured products.

The rule will be rolled out in two phases.

\* For projects obligated on or after October 1, 2025, final assembly of all manufactured projects must occur in the U.S.

\* For projects obligated on or after October 1, 2026, in addition to the final assembly requirement, the cost of components of products that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the U.S. must be greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product.

The new rule does not change the Buy America requirements that currently apply to iron or steel products.

Some trade groups are seeking a CRA reversal of this rule in the new Congress. NUCA has been following this issue and other BABAA rulemakings in the Biden Administration, and remains concerned these rules and continuing supply issues for certain materials and manufactured products will slow construction timelines on many projects.

**More here.**

### USDOT Releases \$5B in IJA Program Funds

In its final days, the Biden Administration announced it has awarded another \$5 billion in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act grants to states, localities and other recipients for a variety of construction projects.

The grants, announced on Jan. 10, will go to more than 560 projects located across the nation. The grants come from seven IJA programs. The largest funding source is \$1.32 billion from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program.

### 118th Congress: Final Results

Since it's our job and our pleasure to follow Congress, the NUCA Government Affairs office wanted to share some statistics of the overall 118th Congress (2023-25) which just concluded.

Out of 18,656 pieces of legislation introduced (as of December 9), only 139 became law. That's 0.75%. Of the 139 new laws, 119 (87%) bills were short or very short and contained only a single issue.

This Congress also sent an additional 12 bills to the President, who then vetoed them. Those vetoes were not overridden by Congress.



# Tampa Bay Construction Career Days

Thursday, April 7, 2022 (7:00 AM - 3:00 PM) (EDT ((GMT-05:00) Eastern Time))

## Description

Tampa Bay Construction Career Days introduces High School Students in the Tampa Bay Area to various areas of construction including: highway, bridges, engineering, utility, vertical construction, geotechnical and more. The purpose is for students to learn from industry professionals about potential career paths and job opportunities through hands on experience. The learning labs serve as the foundation of the event and provide the students exposure to multiple facets of our industry during their scheduled day. Our goal is to coordinate learning labs with companies and organizations in our industry that are committed to opening doors for youth.

There is no cost to participate in a learning lab, only the donation of your time and any equipment to facilitate your presentation. If so inclined, please complete the attached learning lab form and return to the Tampa Construction Career Days learning lab co-chairs: Jonathan Knudsen (<https://fcpa.org>)

JKnudsen@universalengineering.com Leigh Lilla

llilla@nelson-construction.com Construction Career

Days is a very rewarding event that contributes directly to the development of the future work force in our region. We hope you will consider continuing your participation in our 2022 event!

Thursday, April 7, 2022 (7:00 AM - 3:00 PM) (EDT ((GMT-05:00) Eastern Time))

# NUCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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