

THE FLOW

**Jan 2026
INSIDE THIS
EDITION**

NUCA OF NORTH FLORIDA, INC.



HAPPY NEW YEAR! Upcoming Events

**January 15th- Installation of
Officers, Maggiano's**

**January 27th & 28th - Legislative
Days, Tallahassee**

**February 10th-13th - NUCA
National Convention, Tucson
Arizona**

February 28th- Icemen

**March 5th - Sunshine 811 Meeting,
Aloft**

**March 11th -Young Professional
Networking Event, Strings at the
Beach, Tentative**

April 14th -Annual Golf Tournament

**April 25th - The Catty Shack Ranch,
Tentative**

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NUCA
REPRESENTING UTILITY & EXCAVATION CONTRACTORS
NORTH FLORIDA

Presidents Message

January Flow Presidents Letter

Dear Friends and NUCA Members,

As we close out 2025 and look ahead to the excitement of a new year, it's a time to give thanks for the many successes of the past year and to appreciate the lessons learned along the way.

Thank you to all our members, and a special thank you to our monthly sponsors. Your continued support plays a vital role in making NUCA of North Florida the strong and successful organization it is today.

Through the support of our membership, we enjoyed many successful events this year. Two of our signature events will feature new venues in the year ahead. Our ever-popular Golf Tournament will be held at the beautiful Eagle Harbor Golf Club, and after many years, the Fishing Tournament will return to Sisters Creek Marina.

With the 2026 mid-term elections approaching, our legislative team will continue to closely monitor developments in Tallahassee and stay ahead of any changes that may impact our collective interests.

On behalf of our members, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to Jennifer Puff. She has taken the ball and run with it full steam ahead, and her eagerness and fortitude are exactly why I am excited for 2026 and the many years to come with her serving as our Executive Director.

I look forward to serving you as your President in the coming year and hope to see you all at our Officer Installation on January 15 at Maggiano's Little Italy. I am honored to build upon the strong foundation established by past leadership, and I extend a sincere thank you to Paul for a great 2025.

Please know that if there is anything NUCA of North Florida can do to support you or your company, don't hesitate to reach out.

Best Wishes



Alvaro A Rios

Vice President, T.G. Utility Company, Inc.

2026 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Upcoming Events

January 15th
Installation of Officers

January 27th & 28th
Legislative Days

February 10th - 13 th
NUCA National Convention

February 28th
Jacksonville Icemen

March 5th
Sunshine 811 Meeting

March 11th
**Young Professionals Net-
working Event –Tentative**

April 14th
Annual Golf Tournament

April 25th
The Catty Shack Ranch
Wildlife Sanctuary-
Tentative

The Law and Your Business

The Law and Your Business- **Foreclosure on Construction Lien**

Anthony (Tony) Zebouni, Lindell & Zebouni, P.A.

HLPM hired Verzura Construction (“Verzura”) to act as general contractor overseeing renovation who later filed a lien on the property for unpaid expenses related to the project and eventually obtained a judgment of foreclosure. After the time to discharge the lien had expired, the court set a date that the hotel would go to judicial auction. That date was memorialized in an order served on the parties through counsel. Verzura Co. purchased a property in Miami Beach at a foreclosure sale. The foreclosed former owner, Hotel La Petite Muse, LLC, (HLPM), objected and moved to set aside the sale. HPLM argued that it had been “deprived of an opportunity to bid” due to its attorneys' failure to notify it of the sale and the sale price was grossly inadequate.

As to the issue of lack of notice (opportunity to bid), HLPM's owner and manager testified that she never knew about the foreclosure sale because one of her lawyers had not told her about it and that the property was worth significantly more than the final sale price.

An inadequate sale price, even a grossly inadequate one, cannot alone justify setting aside an otherwise proper foreclosure sale. This is because the amount of the bid is “conclusively presumed to be sufficient consideration for the sale.” § 45.031(8), Fla. Stat. An objecting party must raise an additional factor, like a “mistake, accident, surprise, fraud, misconduct, or irregularity” that impacted the sale and caused the price to be grossly inadequate.

There is, also, a presumption that an attorney, as an officer of the court, is duly authorized to act for a client whom he/she professes to represent. In the absence of some pleading questioning the attorney's acts the presumption is conclusive. An attorney is the agent authorized to bind the client for purposes of the action, hearing, or proceeding.

The law does not intervene in cases of unilateral mistake in which the mistake is the result of a lack of due care. An attorney acting within the scope of his/her authority represents his client and his acts of omission as well as commission are to be regarded as the acts of the person he represents, and therefore his/her neglect is equivalent to the neglect of the client himself.

In cases like this, the contractor may be able to obtain both ownership of the property and a deficiency judgment against the former property owner.

VERZURA CONSTRUCTION, INC., Appellant, v. HOTEL LA PETITE MUSE, LLC,



Industry News and Advocacy

PERMIT Act Passes U.S. House

Legislation that cuts red tape, reduces costly project delays and litigation, and makes permitting under the Clean Water Act (CWA) more efficient, consistent, and transparent was passed by the U.S. House on Dec. 11. H.R. 3898, the Promoting Efficient Review for Modern Infrastructure Today (PERMIT) Act, passed on a 215-211 vote. The modernized permitting processes provided by H.R. 3898 will reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens and costs for infrastructure builders, home builders, water utilities, energy developers, farmers, small businesses, and many others.

The NUCA-supported PERMIT Act is sponsored by Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Chairman Mike Collins (R-GA), with Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Sam Graves (R-MO) as original cosponsor. The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.

2026 National Convention: A Full Slate Of Exciting Events!

Join your fellow industry leaders, peers and innovators at our 2026 National Convention for inspiring sessions, networking and insights that will shape the year ahead.

David Stillman and Jonah Stillman — the dynamic Gen X and Gen Z duo behind groundbreaking insights into generational collaboration — will be our keynote speakers this year, sponsored by Core & Main. Our educational sessions include operational best practices with FMI's Tyler Pare, workplace culture with Firestarter's Wally Adamchik, and the popular 2026 economic forecast with Continuum Capital's Mark Bridgers. There is also a full calendar of networking and social events, including the second Annual Equipment Operators Challenge, too, sponsored by U.S. Pipe. Plan to attend NUCA's 2026 National Convention Feb. 10-13, 2026, at Tucson's beautiful The Westin La Paloma resort hotel. Please visit nucadigs.com for registration and hotel room information. (P.S. Our golf tournament is *back!*)

Back To Work For Uncle Sam, For Now

The 43-day U.S. federal government shutdown, the longest in history, concluded on Nov. 12 President Trump signed a bipartisan continuing resolution (CR) restoring funding through January 30, 2026. The impasse furloughed 670,000 federal workers and disrupted many services, including environmental permit approvals, food assistance, and air traffic operations. Congress resumed its work, reopening negotiations on the nine FY2026 appropriation bills not yet passed, but with the delay there is increased pressure on December's lame-duck session.

Our industry must play catch up on delayed federal contracts and permitting delays affecting project pipelines, underscoring NUCA's urging Congress to find a better way to address its appropriations process than playing political games with the nation's infrastructure. Members should note: if Jan. 30 arrives without another funding bill, another shutdown could occur.

NUCA Webinars On Demand Via NUCA's YouTube Channel

NUCA's YouTube channel is the place to go for industry webinars that you missed because you were out on the jobsite working hard. We've posted there our newest webinars, "Preventing Damages Before They Happen—Simplifying 811 Ticket Management for Contractors," by NUCA National Partner 811spotter, "Building Better Routines: Connecting Operations & Finance," featuring NUCA National Partner Assignar, and "Craft Your Pre-Bid and Pre-Con Questions The Right Way," presented by NUCA Legal Committee's Tom Olson. Watch all of them on NUCA National's YouTube channel, found at www.youtube.com/@nucanational184.



Association News

Your NUCA membership delivers business benefits that will help your bottom line. Are you or your employees taking advantage of them?

NUCA Assurance: Get more control over your business insurance program

Join like-minded NUCA contractors who have taken control of their claims, managed their risk, and secured better, more focused insurance services for their businesses. NUCA Assurance is a construction-focused group captive owned by NUCA members and designed by insurance experts to deliver the claims control and risk-management support smart construction business owners need. This cost-effective association benefit helps your company purchase workers' compensation, general liability, and auto liability insurance. Find out how to get more control over your utility construction company's insurance needs by starting at **NUCAAssurance.com**.

NUCA Benefits: Why NUCA Members Should Rethink Their 401(k) Strategy

Managing a 401(k) plan often creates more work than it should especially for NUCA members already stretched thin. That's why NUCA has now partnered with Voya, AMP Administrator, and Greenline Wealth Management to create the Voyager 401(k) Pooled Employer Plan (PEP), built specifically for utility contractors and their employees.

Voyager simplifies plan administration by pooling multiple NUCA companies into a single structure unlocking access to economies of scale and service. Greenline also conducts a no-cost benchmarking review for NUCA members to identify savings and help reduce fiduciary liability through full outsourcing. Whether you're offering a plan today or considering one for the first time, Voyager offers a compliant, cost-effective solution designed around your construction business. Schedule your free plan review today by calling 561-405-6609 (option 7), or email **info@greenlinewm.com**.

NUCA Benefits: Stay On Track This Season With UPS Savings

As a NUCA member, you can discover the advantages our member-only UPS savings program has to offer. Save 65% on domestic UPS Next Day and 42% on UPS Ground. No code needed! Take advantage of incredible savings today by signing up for a new account or enrolling your existing one to access exclusive new member savings incentives! UPS is here to help you deliver reliably with a single integrated network, advanced automation, and flexible services. Make sure you're aligned with the 2025 UPS Holiday Calendar to avoid delays and keep your operations running smoothly. Go to **savewithups.com/nuca** to start your UPS savings program today.

NUCA Benefits: NUCA-WINS--Now Featuring AI-Powered Report Generation

We're excited to announce a major new feature in NUCA-WINS -- AI-Powered Report Generation! With this new tool, you can now generate detailed reports instantly using natural language. NUCA-WINS new AI report generator understands your request in plain English and produces accurate, ready-to-share results in seconds -- no need for filters, formulas or complex queries. Each report may be immediately exported to your choice of a PDF, CSV or Excel file. This means you can now get insights faster, save hours on manual report prep and share data-driven updates instantly with your team.

It's live now! Just log in to your NUCA-WINS account and look for the "AI Reports" button in your "Outputs" section. Go to **www.nucawins.com** to start today.

SAFETY NEWS



By Khalifa Barr, Chair, NUCA Safety Directors Forum.

A strong start:

New Year Safety Reminder

As we welcome the New Year, it's crucial to prioritize safety at home, on the road, and at work—especially on construction sites. Celebrate responsibly by using fireworks only in permitted areas and keeping a close watch on children. To avoid impaired driving, plan ahead for safe transportation. Remain vigilant when using candles, cooking, and handling electrical decorations to prevent fires.

In construction zones, be sure to follow all safety protocols, wear the proper personal protective equipment (PPE), and use tools and machinery safely while being aware of potential hazards. Drive cautiously near work zones, obey all signs, and stay alert to changing weather conditions.

By starting the New Year with good safety habits, we can protect ourselves and others. Wishing you a safe and prosperous New Year!





Commercial Insurance Insights

Tanner Brewer, Commercial Insurance Advisor

AssuredPartners a Gallagher Company

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Proper Incident Reporting & Claims Documentation

For Underground Utility & Construction Contractors

Proper incident reporting and claims documentation play a critical role in controlling workers' compensation, general liability, and auto claim costs. What happens in the first 24 hours after an incident often determines how expensive the claim becomes and how it impacts your experience modification factor (E-Mod).

Why Incident Reporting Matters

- Delays in reporting increase claim severity and costs
- Incomplete information leads to higher claim reserves
- Poor documentation weakens claim defense
- OSHA investigations and third-party claims rely heavily on initial reports

The First 24 Hours: What Contractors Should Do

1. Ensure medical care is provided immediately
2. Secure the scene if safe to do so
3. Notify management and your insurance carrier promptly
4. Begin documentation while details are fresh

Key Documentation Every Incident Should Include

- Date, time, and exact location of the incident
- Employee(s) involved and job duties being performed
- Description of what happened (facts only)
- Witness names and statements
- Photos or videos of the scene, equipment, and conditions
- Job Safety Analysis (JSA) or trench inspection logs if applicable

Why Photos & Written Statements Are Critical

Clear photos and written statements help adjusters understand conditions at the time of the incident. They can prevent disputed claims, control reserve increases, and protect against fraudulent or exaggerated claims.

Tip: Take photos from multiple angles and include wide shots and close-ups.

Near-Miss Reporting: Prevent the Next Claim

Near-miss incidents should be documented just like injuries. Tracking trends allows us to correct hazards before a serious injury occurs. Carriers view strong near-miss programs as a positive risk management practice.

Final Thoughts

Consistent incident reporting and thorough documentation protect your employees and your business. Strong reporting practices lead to faster claim resolution, reduced claim costs, and improved insurance pricing over time.


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NUCA OF NORTH
FLORIDA

INSTALLATION OF
OFFICERS
AND
GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING

JANUARY 15, 2026

STARTING AT 06:00PM



MAGGIANO'S
ST. JOHNS TOWN CENTER,
10367 MID TOWN PKWY,
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32246

LEGISLATIVE DAYS 2026



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The 2026 Legislative Session kicks off on January 13th. NUCA of Florida is hosting Legislative Days on January 27-28, 2026, at Residence Inn—Tallahassee Universities at the Capitol. On January 27th, 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 Contractor V licensure, permitting, lien law, sales tax exemption on infrastructure and more are on the table. In the evening, we'll network at a cocktail reception.

On January 28th, the Executive Committee begins meeting at 8:30 a.m. and the Board of Directors convenes at 10:30 a.m. Be sure to join us in Tallahassee to advocate for YOUR underground utility industry!

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NUCA NATIONAL CONVENTION

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*Join NUCA's 2026 National Convention
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Supercharge your business at the 2026 NUCA National Convention, February 10-13, 2026, held in the luxurious Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa.

Discover cutting-edge trends, tools, and tech from NUCA National Partners, gain insights from top industry leaders, and build valuable connections.

Enjoy fun extras like our thrilling golf tournament and the 2nd Annual National Equipment Operator Championship!

Register today for the 2026 NUCA National Convention and elevate your utility construction business in the year ahead.

Registration is now open!

Find more information at **NUCADIGS.COM**



Keynote Speakers

David Stillman and
Jonah Stillman



2026 Economic Outlook

Mark Bridgers



Workplace Culture

Wally Adamchik



Operational Best Practices

Tyler Pare