

THE ROCK Bot tom

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The Newsletter for North and South Carolinas Utility Contractors

August 2003

Overhauled Web Site Revolutionizes the Carolinas' Construction Industry

On Tuesday August 5 Carolinas AGC (CAGC) unveiled what is arguably the best web site for contractors in the nation. The site is custom made and tailored for contractors in North and South Carolina.

The site, www.cagc.org, allows a user to access information, CAGC products services and all project information you will find in the *Weekly Bulletin* and all 11 CAGC plan-rooms throughout the Carolinas.

"The site is the product of hard work and responding to the needs of our members - GCs, subs, suppliers and others provided input," states Steve Gennett, CAGC President, "We have taken state-of-the-art technology and applied it to the Carolinas construction industry."

We encourage everyone who has access to the internet to visit the site. Members asked that it be easy to navigate and functional and we listened.

WWW.CAGC.ORG

Click on

**for
Utility
Contractors**



NC Unified Underground Safety and Damage Prevention Coalition

The North Carolina Unified Underground Safety and Damage Prevention Coalition (Coalition) has met monthly for the last 10 months making substantial progress in bringing safety and damage prevention stakeholders together to develop comprehensive amendments to the Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act of 1985.

The Coalition is working to have the safety practices incorporated into legislation that will protect the public and our workforce from the dangers associated with working in the vicinity of existing underground facilities.

These organizations represent utility owners, contractors, contract locators, state and local governments, engineers and others.

"Our goal is to have as many stakeholders as want to be involved – in-

Coalition Brings Stakeholders Together to Enhance Safety



(l to r) Justus Everett, Pres. ABE Utilities & CAGC Rep. On the NCOCC B.O.D, David Stike, VP Sanford Contractors & Coalition Co Chair and George Glenn, Ex Dir. NCOCC discuss safety after the July 30 Coalition Meeting in Greensboro.

involved," states David Stike Coalition Co Chair and Vice President of Sanford Contractors' Utility Division. "We have extended invitations to every quarter and participation is open to anyone who wants to be involved. Underground safety affects everyone who digs

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See 2003 Utility Division Meeting, page 3



Americans Believe Clean and Safe Water is a Right and a Legislative Must

Noted Pollster Frank Luntz has conducted an in-depth focus group survey and poll to evaluate the American people's support of federal funding for clean and safe water infrastructure. His results are clear. America needs clean and safe water and Americans expect the federal government to help provide it. AGC and Carolinas AGC is working with key Members of Con-

gress and Congressional Staff to encourage passage of water and wastewater funding legislation. Utility contractors will meet with key legislators at AGC's Legislative Conference in Washington September 14-17

This will be one of the major efforts when AGC contractors visit Capitol Hill

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Safety is NC Safety Coalition's Number One Issue

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whether they are a home owner, professional excavator or huge utility interest."

North Carolina's safety and underground utility damage prevention law was enacted in 1985 when cable TV was in its infancy and the Internet was still a government asset. Since then the installation of underground facilities and communication technology has exploded leaving our right of ways congested and dangerous. Everything from natural gas to international communications is transported just beneath our feet. Unfortunately our law and safety practices have remained stagnate.

If you would like to take part in this unprecedented effort contact the Coalition at NCSafetyCoalition@USA.com, your participation will help to make a safer environment for all utility contractors.

Locate Accurately
Dig Safely

Locate Accurately Continues to Catch-on

Locate Accurately continues to gain momentum as the nation's first construction industry website dedicated to underground utility damage prevention.

A joint effort between CAGC and AGC of America, the site contains information on underground utility damage prevention and associated links. The site and phrase are both considered two of the most valuable products of recent safety and damage prevention initiatives.

The Common Ground Alliance has decided to integrate the program into some of their educational initiatives and the website is being visited by individuals from all stakeholder groups.

The site contains links to numerous safety and damage prevention sites including all states' safety and damage prevention laws, USDOT, Office of Pipeline Safety and others. For more info got www.locateaccurately.com.

Americans Support Water Infrastructure Funding

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during AGC's Legislative Conference this September in Washington, DC.

In May Mike Murphy, CAGC Utility Division Vice Chairman, and Allen Gray Utility Division Director traveled to Washington to lobby Congress and attend the Water Infrastructure Network banquet.



L to R Mike Murphy, CAGC Utility Division Vice Chairman, Cong. John Spratt (D) South Carolina, Allen Gray, Utility Division Director

The Water Infrastructure Network (WIN) is a broad-based coalition of local elected officials, drinking water and wastewater service providers, state environmental and health administrators, engineers and environmentalists dedicated to preserving and protecting the health, environmental and economic gains that America's drinking water and wastewater infrastructure provides.

WIN is lobbying the US Congress to increase funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving by billions.

The Water Infrastructure Network reported in 2001 the total cost of solving the problem at \$1 trillion. The coalition's study said that an additional \$23 billion a year must be spent on the nation's 54,000 community water systems to meet all the requirements of the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act and replace aging and failing pipes and other infrastructure.

AGC in concert with members of WIN have recently conducted strategic planning sessions to come up

with a plan to increase federal funding for water and wastewater infrastructure in both the short and long term.

Several studies have put the need at over \$500 billion dollars over the next decade. While a short term (3-5



Rep. Sue Kelly (R-NY) discusses infrastructure funding with Mike Murphy and Allen Gray during WIN banquet.

year) boost in the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds (SRFs) is desirable, a growing realization is occurring in both industry and on Capitol Hill that a long term dedicated funding source is needed.

To find out more about the Luntz Survey and WIN go to

Utility Division Joint Building and Sub/Specialty Meeting Draws Nearly 200 People to the Isle of Palms

Nearly 200 people attended the 2003 annual Building/Utility/Subcontractor-Specialty Contractor Meeting that was held July 17-20 at Wild Dunes Resort near Charleston.

With the economy starting to show signs of picking up, our theme this year was "Coming Out of the Starting Block Ready." Highlights of the business meetings included:

Joint Meeting Highlights: Attorney Bob Burchette, Johnston Allison & Horde LLC, discussed legal issues affecting contractors, subcontractors and suppliers in the Carolinas; Attorney Mark Stuble, Ogletree, Deakins, Smoak Nash &



John Harris, *James E. Harris Construction* (NC) and Tim Propst, *Propst Construction* (NC) chat between meetings.



Mike Murphy, *Turner Murphy Co., Inc* (SC) and John Allen *Turner Murphy Co., Inc*, enjoy a laugh on the Isle of Palms

Stewart LLC gave a primer on labor relations; financial and construction consultant Don Hadley, what employers need to know to recruit, retain and retire good employees; and well-known motivational speaker Glen Ward gave the keynote address, mixing political humor and impersonations with a positive message. [Click here to see photos from the meeting.](#)

Utility Division Meeting : Chairman David Stike hosted presentations on water infrastructure funding; underground



Meeting attendees enjoy Don Hadley's presentation

safety and utility damage prevention; cooperative efforts with the American Water Works Association (AWWA); site engineering to identify existing utilities; small business/ MBE programs; fair bidding processes and Utility Division activities.



Donald Robinson, *T.A. Loving Co* (NC) and David Sharp, *James E. Harris Constr* (NC) discuss utility construction

Other highlights of the meeting included a dinner-dance in which most attendees stayed late into the night to enjoy the music and entertainment of DJ Barry Miller. Our golf tourney also was a hit, drawing about 70 players. The results of the annual golf tournament were:

- Long Drive Winner:** Harold Turner
- Closest To The Pin Winner:** Gary Welch
- 1st Place Net Winning Team:** Gary Welch, Paul Mashburn and Barry Gardner
- 1st Place Gross Winning Team:** Alan Amsler, Frank Elmore, Jerry Smith and Steve Gennett