



# Ditchmen

Online

Underground Utility Contractors of Florida, Inc.

FEBRUARY 2010

## 2010 Pre-Legislative Session Report

*(see page 4 for details)*



## UUCF 2010 Convention ... 30th Anniversary Cruise

*(see page 7 for details)*

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# Pre-Session Review of 2010 Legislative Session

The big cloud hanging over this Legislative Session will be budgetary issues and how to address the basic needs of our state with the \$3 billion budgetary shortfalls that has been estimated by the state's budgetary gurus. Some budget analysts, including **Governor Charlie Crist**, have suggested that state revenues are slowly increasing and that the shortfall will not be as severe. Crist has included expenditures in his recommended budget that neither House nor Senate leadership are convinced we can fund. To make those expenditures, **Crist** sweeps more trust fund dollars and includes revenues from gambling that are yet uncertain. We heard that the Feds will give us our full share of Medicaid dollars despite our refusal to adopt federal mandates. That will certainly help fund one of Florida's largest expenses, but both state and local coffers are low and the budget will remain the major focus of the 2010 Legislative Session. We will see issues debated such as how to deal with constitutional requirements for shrinking class size in the face of a shrinking budget. **Senator Don Gaetz (R - Niceville)** and **Representative Will Weatherford (R - Wesley Chapel)** have proposed a constitutional amendment to relax the constitutional class size requirements passed by the voters, citing bussing of students and cuts in elective classes as some of the negative impacts that we can expect without a chance.

## Unemployment Compensation

For the business community at large, the severe increase in unemployment compensation rates that became effective January 1 are a major issue. **House Speaker Larry Cretul** has released a schedule that would have the House poised to pass unemployment compensation tax relief for Florida businesses by the end of the first week of the 2010 session. The increase was automatic after the number of unemployed spiked, but

businesses have complained that they weren't prepared for how steep the increase was. **House Speaker Larry Cretul** is pushing a plan to delay much of the tax increase for the next two years, and wants the fix approved by the first full week of session in early March, to beat the tax payment deadline of April 1.

The House Economic Development and Community Affairs Council has already approved the short-term fix moving the measure to the House Finance & Tax Council.

## Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

A Senate committee has unveiled a 115-page draft version of its "Jobs for Florida" bill that would make changes to both economic development incentive programs and state regulatory activities. The price tag for the legislation, which has not yet been developed, is

expected to be "significant" and could be as much as \$200 million.



Included in the measure is a recommendation to delegate permitting authority now held by the Department of Environmental Protection to local government and extend permit extensions granted in last year's growth management bill, **SB 360**, for another three years.

The legislation would also include a host of tax breaks, tax credits and incentives including: Expanding a tax incentive for manufacturing, placing a cap on sales tax collected on sale of aircrafts or boats, giving a tax credit to businesses that hire out-of-work people, increase the amount set aside for tax incentives used to lure businesses to the state and create a revolving loan program to provide low-interest loans to Florida businesses having less than 50 employees.

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The following is a list of other issues that UUCF will be working on during the 2010 Legislative Session:

**HB 691 and SB 982 – Relating to Underground Facility Damage Prevention & Safety (Murzin/Bennett)**

Sunshine State One Call of Florida, Inc.'s (SSOCOF) Legislative ad hoc Committee finalized revisions to the Underground Facility Damage Prevention and Safety Act, Chapter 556, F.S., and have secured legislative sponsors for the proposal.

The Underground Utility Contractors of Florida (UUCF) is represented on the committee by Mike Woodall, John Woody, Inc. of Jacksonville and UUCF Vice President, who is the excavator representative on the SSOCOF Board, along with R. Bruce Kershner, UUCF Executive Vice President. Both Woodall and Kershner are pleased with the final product.

Though there are numerous proposed changes to the "one call law" in the upcoming Legislative Session, 85% or better have nothing to do with underground utility contractors. Some of those changes entail cleaning up old language and getting rid of a few items that have never been used. Many of the controversial issues have been removed such as the removal of marks by the excavator, mandatory white lining and others. One issue that UUCF was able to preserve was the life of a locate ticket. It will

remain 30 days.

UUCF has worked with SSOCOF to include in the proposed changes the creation of an alternative dispute resolution process. The proposed arbitration suggestion came to UUCF from some of its members. It is also one of PHMSA's nine elements. The program would be available to excavators and member operators regarding disputes arising from excavation activities including loss of service, down time, delays or loss of use of facilities.

Other changes include:

- increasing non-criminal penalty from \$250.00 to \$500.00.
- establishing low-impact marking practices.
- excavators shall pre-mark (white line) the proposed area of the excavation if the site cannot be adequately described.
- "High-priority subsurface installations" has been added to the definitions and are limited to gas and petroleum facilities. Excavators will be required to provide notice of the planned excavation start date and time and will communicate with the operator of the facility a mutually agreed-upon excavation plan.

**SB 1056 – Relating to Local Government Prompt Pay (Baker)**

It has been several years since the legislature has made any substantial changes to the Local Government Prompt Pay Act. However, recent

reports of local governments not paying on time and using loop holes in the statute to delay payment has begun to surface. This bill attempts to plug those loopholes by requiring the local governments to include the requirements for a "proper invoice" to be included in the bid documents. In addition, the "agent" who is required to review the payment request must be identified in the bid documents as well.

**Other Issues UUCF Will Monitor**

**HB 693, SB 1048 and SB 510 – Construction Liens & Bonds (Plakon/Baker/Wise)**

These bills are similar, have received their committee assignments in the House and Senate and are ready to be heard. These bills are similar to those filed during the 2009 Session but do contain edits and updates since last year. A main focus of the bill is to improve the information provided to consumers to provide a thorough explanation of their rights and obligations under the lien law along with the tools to protect themselves and to ensure delivery of the information. To that end, the bill creates a "General Statement of Owners Rights and Responsibilities Under Florida's Construction Lien Law," requires them to sign a receipt that they have received the information and requires the receipt to be filed with the building official when the permit is applied for. In addition, the bill implements

*(Continued on Page 14)*

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**UUCF**

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Watch future issues of the *Ditchmen*  
for additional information.

## Contractor V License Renewals

Just a reminder that the Contractor V license from the State Fire Marshal's office is up for renewal on June 30, 2010. Current law requires Contractor V licenseholders to obtain 14 hours of continuing education with at least one hour in fire protection discipline.

Reciprocity was established between the State Fire Marshal's office and the Construction Industry Licensing Board (CILB). Any hours obtained through CILB approved courses can apply towards your Contractor V license. The same applies to courses obtained through the State Fire Marshal's office.



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## UUCF 2010 Convention . . . 30th Anniversary Cruise

We at the Underground Utility Contractors of Florida (UUCF) are excited about celebrating our 30th Anniversary. This year, we are making the 2010 Convention special by having a 30th Anniversary Cruise. The cruise will be departing from Fort Lauderdale on Thursday, July 22, with stops in Key West and Cozumel, and arriving back in Fort Lauderdale on Monday, July 26. We hope you and your family will join us for this wonderful event.



When it comes to beautiful beaches and sparkling blue waters, the Caribbean is really in a league of its own. And beneath their tropical paradise settings, these islands are home to rich culture and complex histories.

The tentative 2010 Convention and sailing itinerary are as follows:

### **Thursday, July 22, 2010**

#### **Executive Committee Meeting**

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

#### **Registration**

3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

#### **Hospitality Room**

3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

#### **Depart from Fort Lauderdale, Florida**

5:00 p.m.

#### **Thursday Reception**

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

#### **Thursday Dinner**

8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

### **Friday, July 23, 2010**

#### **Arrive in Key West, Florida**

7:00 a.m.

#### **Registration**

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

#### **Hospitality Room**

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

#### **Depart from Key West, Florida**

2:00 p.m.

#### **Friday Reception**

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

#### **Friday Dinner**

8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

### **Saturday, July 24, 2010**

#### **Arrive in Cozumel, Mexico**

10:00 a.m.

#### **Continuing Education Seminar (Continued on Sunday)**

7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

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### **Registration**

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### **Hospitality Room**

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### **Depart from Cozumel, Mexico**

7:00 p.m.

### **Saturday Dinner**

8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

### **Sunday, July 25, 2010**

#### **Cruising all day**

#### **Continuing Education Seminar (Continued from Saturday)**

7:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

### **Registration**

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

### **Hospitality Room**

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

### **Board of Director's Meeting**

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### **Registration**

2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### **Hospitality Room**

2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### **Sunday Reception**

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

### **Sunday Dinner**

8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

### **Monday, July 26, 2010**

### **Arrive in Fort Lauderdale, Florida**

7:00 a.m.

### **Disembark**

9:00 a.m.

This year's Convention Committee is being chaired by Flo Woodall of John Woody, Inc. in Jacksonville. This year's Convention Theme is *Journey to the Future. Don't Stop Believin'*.

The Platinum and Gold Sponsors from the 2009 Convention have been solicited for the 2010 Convention. Once UUCF hears back from those companies, the UUCF office will start soliciting for additional Platinum and Gold Sponsors.

The Convention Committee has established that UUCF will be holding three receptions during the cruise. There will also be continuing education classes for contractors.

A Cabin Registration Form will be finalized and sent to all UUCF members in February. If you plan on joining us for the 30th Anniversary

Cruise, please complete and submit your Cabin Registration Form, along with payment, to the UUCF office as soon as possible. **Cabins will be on a first-come, first-serve basis and will not be reserved until payment is received.**

In February, UUCF will also be sending out a Convention Registration Form which will cover the registration fee for all private UUCF functions during the cruise.

Please note: Due to the heightened level of security in 2005, **ALL** passengers are required to have a passport. A passport at embarkation is strictly enforced. Anyone arriving at the port without a passport will be denied boarding and NO REFUND will be issued. No exception will be made, per Royal Caribbean. Everyone **MUST** have a passport when taking a cruise to any foreign port of call. If you do not have a passport, go to the U.S. Department of State website at [http://travel.state.gov/passport/forms/forms\\_847.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/forms/forms_847.html).

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# "Amendment 4" Likely to Cost 267,247 Florida Jobs, Major Economic Study Says

**F**lorida business, civic and labor leaders gathered in Tallahassee on Tuesday to hear the report of a top Florida economist showing that Amendment 4 — a proposed change to the state constitution — would lead to heavy job loss and higher costs for Floridians.

"The losses of Florida jobs under the 'Most Likely Scenario' are very high," reported Tony Villamil, economist for Washington Economics Group, the organization that conducted the study. "Amendment 4's passage will have potentially devastating consequences to Florida's economy at a time when the economic situation at both the state and national levels is uncertain and at a time when attracting new businesses to Florida is essential for the future recovery and prosperity of the state and its residents."

The study considers a "Modest" and a "Most Likely" economic impact scenario. The study does not predict a "Worst Case" scenario. According to the study:

Under both scenarios, Florida's economic dynamism is lost. This would permanently impact the economic growth potential for Florida, causing a steady decline in the standard of living of all Florida residents. Further, permanently impacting employment and growth within major industries and job-generating activities.

"If you like the recession, you'll love Amendment 4," said Mark Wilson, President of the Florida Chamber of Commerce. "This amendment will cost jobs, hurt taxpayers and make it more expensive to live in Florida."

In an unprecedented show of unity,



labor and business leaders agreed to jointly oppose Amendment 4.

"It's not too often that a union leader and a business leader agree on something," said Frank Ortis, President of the Florida State Council of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. "But we can all see how much Amendment 4 would hurt Florida's working families. And we are working together to defeat it."

Ortis and Wilson serve together on the board of Citizens for Lower Taxes and a Stronger Economy, Inc., the group formed to defeat Amendment 4. That organization is chaired by former South Bay Mayor and National League of Cities President Clarence Anthony.

"No single item on the 2010 ballot has the potential to weaken Florida's economy and hurt Florida's taxpayers more than Amendment 4," said Anthony. "If passed, this amendment will trap Florida's communities in gridlock."

The economic study indicates that Amendment 4 will also have a major impact on Florida taxpayers. According to the study:

Additionally, Florida's tax revenues would sharply slow as a result of Amendment 4's passage as fewer commercial and residential properties will be developed due to the

increased costs and uncertainty associated with each comprehensive land-use plan referendum. This would force local and state governments to either raise taxes or cut services. Public schools, public safety and local health care services would suffer from both the direct impact of Amendment 4 (delay construction until the next election) and the indirect impact of fewer tax revenues from which to fund needed operations and capital investments.

If Amendment 4 is adopted, Florida would become the guinea pig for a measure that has never been adopted in any other state in the country. However, the small Florida town of St. Pete Beach adopted a local version of Amendment 4 in 2006. Since then, the town has seen fewer jobs, higher tax rates and endless litigation at taxpayer expense.

"Our experiment in Amendment 4 has turned St. Pete Beach into a battleground for special interests," said Ward Friszolowski, the former Mayor of St. Pete Beach. "And at a time of economic hardship, it has caused extraordinary damage to our economy."

"I ask the voters of Florida to learn more about St. Pete Beach — and to learn from our mistakes," said Friszolowski. "Amendment 4 supporters promise that they'll give you a 'say on growth.' Don't believe it. Don't let them do to Florida what they already did to my hometown."

To download press packet: [http://florida2010.org/docs/20100125\\_Press\\_Packet.pdf](http://florida2010.org/docs/20100125_Press_Packet.pdf).  
To download study: [http://florida2010.org/docs/20100121\\_Amendment4\\_Impact\\_Scenario.pdf](http://florida2010.org/docs/20100121_Amendment4_Impact_Scenario.pdf).





# NUCA Elects 2010–2011 Officers and Restructures Board of Directors

During Utility Construction EXPO '10, NUCA members voted unanimously to streamline the association's Board of Directors, which now includes 27 contractor and associate member leaders from around the nation and from all segments of the excavation and utility construction industries. NUCA members also unanimously elected and installed the 2010–2011 Officers (Executive Committee) and Directors for 2010–2011:

The 2010–2011 Officers (Executive Committee):

- Chairman of the Board: Dan East, Reynolds, Inc., Albuquerque, NM;
- **Chairman-Elect: Ryan Schmitt, Petticoat-Schmitt Contracting, Jacksonville, FL;**
- Vice Chairman: Alex Paris, Alex E. Paris Contracting, Inc., Atlasburg, PA;
- Treasurer: Jim Barron, Ronkin Construction, Inc., Joppa, MD;
- Secretary: Florentino Gregorio, Anchor Construction Corporation, Washington, D.C.
- NUCA CEO Bill Hillman serves as permanent (unelected) Assistant Secretary.

The 2010–2011 Board of Directors:

- Lane Berg, PipeCon Corporation, Boynton Beach, FL;
- Kevin Cripps, Distribution Construction Co., Greensboro, NC;
- Virginia DiCristofaro, A.E. Bragger Construction Co., Inc., Warwick, RI;
- Chuck Dimick, Dimick Development Co., Las Vegas, NV;
- Alan Gravel, Willow Construction Inc., Powder Springs, GA;
- Richard Harp, Richard Harp Excavation Inc., Fayetteville, GA;
- Albert Heckmann, Heckmann Sales

- and Leasing, Inc., Dayton, OH;
- Tony James, CNA Insurance, Chicago, IL;
- Roger Mohr, John Deere Construction Equipment Co., Moline, IL;
- Ron Nunes, R.T. Nunes & Sons Inc., West Warwick, RI;
- Chad Reed, Teal Construction Inc., Dover, DE;
- Dave Rice, Rice Construction, Henderson, NV;
- Jeff Rumer, Underground Infrastructure Technologies, Lafayette, CO;
- Mark Scoccolo, SCI Infrastructure LLC, Pacific, WA;
- Mike Smith, Hydro-Systems Inc., Albuquerque, NM;
- Keith Steen, P.F. Moon and Company, Inc., West Point, GA;
- Brad Wegner, Midlands Contracting, Inc., Kearney, NE;
- **Bruce Wendorf, Forsberg Construction Inc., Punta Gorda, FL;**
- Andy Wolf, Foley Construction Company, Davenport, IA;
- Kirk Woodward, Fierro Utility Construction, Phoenix, AZ.

The Board of Directors works closely with NUCA's staff management team to implement the association's operational and program goals, which focus on advocacy, knowledge transfer to members and the improvement of member-company proficiency and financial performance. Some of the Board's top priorities this year include continued new chapter development, membership growth, association rebranding and legislative activities in Washington, D.C.

## NUCA Accepting National Community Service Award Submissions

Through the donation of equipment, materials, manpower and money,

NUCA members continue to demonstrate their commitment to addressing needs in the communities where they work and live—everything from tackling house repairs for a low-income homeowner to performing site preparation and cleanup for a charity athletic event. Because the scope and breadth of this volunteerism is a source of pride for the industry, NUCA's National Community Service Awards will again honor those members that have demonstrated exemplary community service. The awards for projects completed in 2009 will be presented during the NUCA Washington Summit, which will be held Monday, May 17 – Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, DC.

Any contractor, associate or institutional member of the National Utility Contractors Association may submit a project(s). A panel of judges selected by the Awards Committee will evaluate the entries and choose the overall winners in each of four categories based on the number of company employees. All complete entries will be recognized in Utility Contractor magazine. The deadline for entries is Friday, April 2, 2010. [Click here to download the application.](#)

# Be Safe

# Think Safe!







# OSHA Update

## **U.S. Department of Labor's OSHA Proposes Recordkeeping Change to Improve Illness Data**

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is proposing to revise its Occupational Injury and Illness Recording and Reporting (recordkeeping) regulation by restoring a column on the OSHA Form 300 to better identify work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). The rule does not change existing requirements for when and under what circumstances employers must record musculoskeletal disorders on their injury and illness logs.

Many employers are currently required to keep a record of workplace injuries and illnesses, including work-related MSDs, on the OSHA Form 300 (Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses). The proposed rule would require employers to place a check mark in a column for all MSDs they have recorded.

The proposed requirements are identical to those contained in the OSHA recordkeeping regulation that was issued in 2001. Prior to 2001, OSHA's injury and illness logs contained a column for repetitive trauma disorders that included noise and MSDs. In 2001, OSHA separated noise and MSDs into two separate columns, but the MSD column was deleted in 2003 before the provision became effective. OSHA is now proposing to restore the MSD column to the OSHA Form 300 log.

"Restoring the MSD column will improve the ability of workers and employers to identify and prevent work-related musculoskeletal disorders by providing simple and

easily accessible information," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA Dr. David Michaels. "It will also improve the accuracy and completeness of national work-related injury and illness data."

For more information, view OSHA's proposal at: [http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=FEDERAL\\_REGISTER&p\\_id=21314](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=21314).

This notice was published in the January 29 edition of the Federal Register.

Interested parties may submit comments on the proposed rule electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, the federal e-rulemaking portal; or by mailing three copies to the OSHA Docket Office, Room N-2625, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20210; or by fax at (202) 693-1648 if the comments and attachments do not exceed 10 pages.

Comments must include the agency name and docket number for this rulemaking (Docket Number OSHA-2009-0044). The deadline for submitting comments is March 15. OSHA will hold a public meeting on the proposed rule March 9.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to assure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov>.

U.S. Labor Department releases are accessible on the Internet at [www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov). The information in this news release will be made available in alternate format upon request (large print, Braille, audiotape or disc) from the COAST

office. Please specify which news release when placing your request at (202) 693-7828 or TTY (202) 693-7755. The U.S. Department of Labor is committed to providing America's employers and employees with easy access to understandable information on how to comply with its laws and regulations. For more information, please visit [www.dol.gov/compliance](http://www.dol.gov/compliance).



**Mark your calendar now for the UUCF 2010 Convention. UUCF will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary aboard the Royal Caribbean Grandeur of the Seas on July 22-26, 2010.**

**Watch future issues of the Ditchmen for additional information.**





# Contractor Article of the Month: Callaway Contracting, Inc.

**C**allaway Contracting, Inc. was founded in 1988 by Pat Callaway, a University of Florida Civil Engineering graduate born and raised in Jacksonville, FL. After college, he worked for local asphalt and construction companies learning the construction business. When given the opportunity, he leaned on his faith in God, the support of his family and key personnel and began to build a company. His vision was to build a construction company whose focus was on civil infrastructure and whose principles were integrity and quality. Starting out with three employees, Callaway began to slowly build a reputation of standing behind his word to supply every customer with quality work and a caring attitude. Building relationships, reputation and qualifications, Callaway began working for many

municipalities around Florida installing roads, underground utilities, storm drain, runways, site work, parking lots, streetscape and the like.

After twenty one years, Callaway is proud to still have some of the same key personnel as part of the team and to see the next generation playing a part as well. Callaway is proud to be a family business and have so many families as a part of the team. Callaway constructs projects ranging from large to small, residential to commercial and is certified as a General Contractor and Underground Utility Contractor.

Whether working on a twenty million or twenty thousand dollar project, Callaway's focus has been safety. The safety program has grown over

the years to include an in-house Safety Director whose full time responsibility is ensuring each jobsite is as safe as possible. Building safety into the company culture has built confidence and accountability. Callaway is proud of the safety awards it has received, and the team that attained them.

Callaway enjoys the challenges of problem solving on each project and actively pursues design-build work. Callaway has found that teaming up with local engineers and working together on the best solution for each endeavor offers the customer the best value and quality of work.

Callaway is grateful to have been a part of the improvements made around Florida and looks forward to what the coming years will bring.

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## Associate Article of the Month: Constangy, Brooks & Smith, LLP

Phillip B. Russell is a labor and employment lawyer that represents businesses only, including utility contractors in Florida. He helps clients comply with all laws impacting the workplace, stay union-free, and avoid and win lawsuits and respond to investigations by government agencies, including OSHA. He does this by providing advice and counseling services, reviewing and revising and training supervisors and key management personnel. Mr. Russell is a managing partner with the labor law firm of Constangy, Brooks & Smith, LLP and he is a member of Suncoast Utility Contractors Association (SUCA) and Underground Utility Contractors of Florida (UUCF).

Constangy, Brooks & Smith, LLP has counseled employers on labor and employment law matters, exclusively, since 1946. A "Go To"

Law Firm in Corporate Counsel and Fortune Magazine, it represents Fortune 500 corporations and small companies across the country. Its attorneys are consistently rated as top lawyers in their practice areas by publications such as Chambers USA, Super Lawyers and Top One Hundred Labor Attorneys in the United States. More than 100 lawyers partner with clients to provide cost-effective legal services and sound preventive advice to enhance the employer-employee relationship.

Mr. Russell has spoken at SUCA meetings on several occasions regarding such topics as staying union-free and complying with federal and state minimum wage and overtime requirements. He has also provided SUCA with updated information on legislative developments in workplace law.

One way Mr. Russell works with his clients is through a Hotline service for employers. Hotline clients enjoy unlimited phone calls and e-mails to Mr. Russell or one of his colleagues regarding difficult workplace issues that arise from time to time. The Hotline is billed at a flat annual rate so clients don't have to worry about the clock running when they need to take care of a tricky issue. Mr. Russell also offers a wide range of supervisor and manager training opportunities on topics such as discrimination, harassment, compensation, retaliation, hiring, discipline, discharge, documentation and the other things supervisors and managers must do in their jobs.

For more information on Mr. Russell and his firm's practice, please visit [www.constangy.com](http://www.constangy.com), contact him directly at (813) 222-1354 or [prussell@constangy.com](mailto:prussell@constangy.com).

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**(Pre-Session Review of 2010  
Legislation Session  
Continued from Page 5)**

numerous measures that ensure construction bonds are recorded and placed on file with building officials so that they are available to the general public, updates mailing provisions to include global express delivery for international mail, resolves issues of single liens on multiple lots and units in a condo or other development, eliminates the automatic expiration of notices of commencement and eliminates two improper payment traps for owners, makes warnings consistent throughout the statute, requires demands to include sufficient information to identify the project, gives permit officials the ability to reject incomplete and illegible documents and raises the exemption from notice requirements for small one-day projects.

**Sales Tax on Construction  
Materials to Schools and Other  
Tax Exempt Entities**

This has long been an issue for

UUCF and other construction groups. The collection burdens and liability to material suppliers under the current statutory scheme for tax exempt sales is unwieldy and unfair. Despite our best efforts, the revenue estimates that are attached to any solution which streamlines this process have prevented our previous success on this issue, with the exception of some simplification and cleanup to the rules which we accomplished numerous years back. With budget constraints this year worse than ever,

*(Continued on Page 19)*

## **Certified Contractor License Renewal Reminder**

Just a reminder that the Certified Contractor licenses from the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) are up for renewal on August 31, 2010. Current law requires licenseholders to obtain 14 hours of continuing education with at least one hour in workplace safety, one hour in workers' compensation, one hour in business practices, one hour in the advance building code module, one hour in laws and rules (Chapter 489) and one hour in wind mitigation (this requirement only affects general, residential, building, roofing and glass and glazing contractors).

Don't forget to notify the DBPR office of any address change. Section 489.124(2) gives sole responsibility to the licensee for notifying DBPR in writing of the licensee's current mailing address and phone number. Failure to notify the department of a change of address shall constitute a violation of this section. In addition, if your address changes and you do not notify the department, you may not receive important mailings from the department such as your renewal notice.

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# President's Message



I hope this magazine finds everyone thawing out from the record breaking cold weather that has

spread throughout the deep south including our sunshine state of Florida. Although historically in Northwest Florida February is the coldest month of the year and is usually a wet one. Hopefully, it does not compete with January.

This year, we will be utilizing a new tool, VoterVoice, to communicate with our members. VoterVoice is an on-line advocacy tool to help UUCF members send our state and national elected officials messages relating to our legislative issues. It will be as easy



as responding to an e-mail. Some of our main issues will be

Amendment 1, 2, 3 and 4, Florida Construction Lien Law, Sunshine State One Call of Florida, Inc. legislation and additional issues concerning Out-of-State Contractors, bid preference and immigration legislation. The Legislation Session will begin on March 2, and we will be holding our Board of Director's Meeting in Tallahassee on Monday March 22. Our chapters will be meeting with their representatives on March 23. We encourage everyone to attend.

March 5-6 is the Tenth Annual UUCF/Andrew Scott Johnson Memorial Scholarship Foundation Bass Fishing Tournament and will be held on Lake Toho in Kissimmee. This is a great tournament for a very worthwhile scholarship charity. On July 22-26, our 30th Anniversary Cruise promises to be a convention you don't want to miss.

With the economy like it is, please continue to do business with UUCF association members. Together, we can survive these tough times.

*Sincerely,*

*Bill Lee*  
UUCF President



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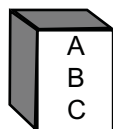
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# Shoring Equipment Renter Announces Opening of New Tampa Location

Leading renter of excavation shoring and structural support equipment, Mabey Bridge & Shore, Inc., announced Wednesday they will open their fourth Florida location in Tampa on Monday, February 15. The new yard is located at 7809 North Highway 301 in Tampa and will stock trench boxes, road plates, sheet piling, temporary roadway mats and other excavation and structural shoring equipment.

"In the past, we've been able to service our Tampa area customers from our Orlando depot," said Joe Atkinson, Mabey's regional sales manager for the area. "This new location means shorter delivery times to Florida's West Coast contractors and jobsites. The contractors will now



have better access to our engineering and site tech services."

Sheet piling and frames are ready now in varying sizes. Trench boxes are available in two or four sided configurations with panel lengths up to 24' and Mabey's 8'x14', interlocking roadway mats provide a stable work surface on some of Tampa's softest and wettest grounds. For product information, or directions to Mabey Bridge & Shore's new Tampa yard, direct inquiries to Scott Pontious at (813) 988-1033.

For over 20 years, Mabey Bridge & Shore, Inc. has carried the broadest

range of products available for bridges, excavation support, structural support and temporary roadways. From PE certified schemes to on-site support, Mabey carries what you need. Mabey products are available for sale or rent worldwide, and our prefabricated bridges are for temporary, permanent or emergency use. With multiple locations throughout the U.S., you can trust Mabey Bridge & Shore, Inc. to provide the most efficient and cost-effective solution when and where you need it.

To learn more about this topic, or to schedule an interview with a Mabey representative, please call Greg Richards at (407) 856-8283 or e-mail at [g.richards@mabey.com](mailto:g.richards@mabey.com).

<p>Linkhorst &amp; Hockin, P.A. Attorneys at Law</p> <p><b>ADAM C. LINKHORST</b> Board Certified Construction Law Attorney</p> <p><b>Palm Beach - Main Office</b> 4495 Military Trail, Suite 106 Jupiter, FL 33458 Tel. 561-626-8880 Fax. 561-626-8885 acl@floridahardhatlaw.com www.floridahardhatlaw.com</p> <p><b>Broward - By Appointment</b> Whitecliff Law Building 300 Southeast Thirteenth Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316 Tel. 954-776-5990 Cell. 954-562-9199</p>	<p><b>SHANNON &amp; WILSON, INC.</b> GEOTECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS</p> <p><b>MARK A. POPOVICH</b> VICE PRESIDENT Office: 904.223.6676 Fax: 904.223.6448 Cell: 904.728.3053 map@shanwil.com</p> <p>13400 SUTTON PARK DRIVE SOUTH SUITE 1001-4 JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32224-0235</p>	<p>Don't adjust your manholes with bricks anymore! Use precast concrete grade rings! Do the job faster- easier! Call for pricing! Delivery Available!</p> <p><b>SCP</b></p> <p>3702 OLSON DRIVE DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32124</p> <p>OFFICE 386-238-6020 FAX 386-258-3788</p> <p><b>SOUTHEAST CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS</b></p>
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**(Pre-Session Review of 2010  
Legislation Session  
Continued from Page 14)**

our approach must be dramatically different. Proponents have identified three issues of importance:

- 1) A statutory change to clarify in law (as opposed to rule) that the tax exempt transaction must be a direct one between the supplier and the tax exempt entity, with the tax exempt entity assuming responsibility for materials ordered on the account and billings and payment direct to the tax exempt entity with no middle-man;
- 2) A statutory change to shift responsibility for compliance with direct purchase requirements to the tax exempt entity to the extent that the entity controls the spirit of the transaction by contract, purchase order or the actions of its agents or employees; and
- 3) To participate in the efforts of the House and Senate to pass statutory changes to the methodology utilized by the Revenue Estimating Conference to determine the financial impact of legislation. **HB 93 by Crisafulli, HB 121 by Poppell and SB 1178 by Haridopolos** all seek to implement cost benefit analysis in making these determinations, creating a stronger requirement to look more closely at the long-term economic benefits of legislation rather than just the lost or expended revenues. Long term, the use of such a methodology could have a positive impact on our efforts to simplify the direct purchase process.

**HB 755 and SB 878 – Notice of Nonpayment Revisions (Holder/Thrasher)**

These bills were filed on behalf of the Florida AGC Council and would require a Notice of Nonpayment to be a sworn document accompanied by any and all documents evidencing the amount claimed, such as the contract or purchase order with amendments and change orders, invoices, pay requests, bills of lading, delivery receipts or similar documents and a statement of

account reflecting all payments requested and received. The bill as filed would also eliminate bond rights for any claimant who is deemed to have not complied with these provisions.

**HB 617 and SB 1338 – Life of the Mine Legislation (Bembry and Dean)**


These bills would extend to limestone mining the same “Life of the Mine” permitting that phosphate mines have. The bill also addresses the formula for wetland mitigation.

Every year, there are many and varied bills filed that affect construction contracting. We have identified those bills we believe have that potential and included them in a tracking list. That list is continuously updated as new bills are filed and identified and will be provided to you weekly during Session along with legislative updates. They include issues supported and/or opposed by other members of The Construction Coalition and others. If any of these issues rise to the forefront during the Legislative Session, we will be reporting on them in the weekly Legislative Reports. At the present time, those issues include:

- Preemption to local regulation of cranes and hoisting devices
- Bills that would prohibit a local jurisdiction from giving a local bid preference
- Bills that would prohibit any out-of-state employees on public projects
- Immigration
- Workplace safety

**And Don't Forget Amendment 4 (Hometown Democracy)!**

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growth in Florida does not come to a dramatic halt. Although not a legislative issue, this issue could have the single most negative impact on Florida's construction industry — more than any other measure in our history. We need to keep it in the forefront of our minds as the November elections draw closer. Educate your friends, neighbors and employees. Donate if you or your company can to the campaign to fight Amendment 4 being spearheaded by Floridians for Smarter Growth, a coalition of Florida businesses, the Chamber of Commerce and many others. Visit the website at <http://Florida2010.org>. When considering local candidates, find out if they support or oppose Amendment 4.

We should learn from the experiment of St. Pete Beach where a local version of Amendment 4 passed in 2006. Putting all growth decisions in the hands of the voters has cost that town dearly in jobs, higher tax rates and endless litigation. Although they have since revoked their local ordinance, they are still trying to recover from its devastating impact.







# Calendar of Events

## UUCF

Mar. 5-6 ..... UUCF/ASJMSF Bass Fishing Tournament,  
Lake Toho, Kissimmee  
Mar. 22 ..... Board of Director's Meeting, Tallahassee  
June 4 ..... Board of Director's Meeting, Orlando  
July 22-26 ..... 30th Anniversary Cruise  
Royal Caribbean Grandeur of the Seas  
July 25 ..... Board of Director's Meeting  
Nov. 5 ..... Board of Director's Meeting, Orlando

## Northwest Florida UCA

Feb. 11 ..... Board of Director's Meeting, Pensacola  
Mar. 11 ..... Board of Director's Meeting, Pensacola  
Mar. 18 ..... Membership Luncheon, Pensacola  
Apr. 8 ..... Board of Director's Meeting, Pensacola  
Apr. 8 ..... Golf Tournament, Pensacola  
May 13 ..... Board of Director's Meeting, Pensacola  
June 10 ..... Board of Director's Meeting, Pensacola  
July 8 ..... Board of Director's Meeting, Pensacola  
Aug. 12 ..... Board of Director's Meeting, Pensacola  
Sept. 9 ..... Board of Director's Meeting, Pensacola  
Sept. 18 ..... Fishing Tournament, Pensacola  
Oct. 14 ..... Board of Director's Meeting, Pensacola  
Oct. 22 ..... Clay Tournament, Pensacola  
Nov. 2 ..... Board of Director's Meeting, Pensacola  
Nov. 12 ..... Annual Meeting, Pensacola

## Southwest Florida UCA

Feb. 18 ..... General Membership Meeting, Holiday Inn,  
Gulf Coast Town Center, Fort Myers  
Mar. 18 ..... General Membership Meeting, Holiday Inn,  
Gulf Coast Town Center, Fort Myers  
Apr. 8 ..... Trade Show, Harborside Event Center,  
Downtown Fort Myers  
May 15 ..... Scholarship Golf Tournament  
June 24 ..... Scholarship Night & Dinner Meeting  
July (TBA) ..... Board of Director's Meeting  
Aug. 19 ..... General Membership Meeting, Holiday Inn,  
Gulf Coast Town Center, Fort Myers  
Sept. 17-19 ..... Fishing Tournament,  
'Tween Waters Inn, Captiva Island  
Oct. 21 ..... General Membership Meeting, Holiday Inn,  
Gulf Coast Town Center, Fort Myers  
Nov. 18 ..... Board of Director's Meeting  
Dec. 4 ..... Christmas Party

## SUCA

Mar. 4 ..... Board of Director's/General Membership  
Meetings, Columbia Restaurant  
Apr. 15 ..... Board of Director's/General Membership  
Meetings, Gator's, Madeira Beach  
Apr. 17 ..... Fishing Tournament, Gator's, Madeira Beach  
May 6 ..... Board of Director's/General Membership  
Meetings  
May 14 ..... Spring Golf Tournament  
June 3 ..... Board of Director's/General Membership  
Meetings  
July 8 ..... Board of Director's/General Membership  
Meetings (Scholarship Night)

Aug. 5 ..... Board of Director's/General Membership  
Meetings  
Sept. 9 ..... Board of Director's/General Membership  
Meetings  
Sept. 16 ..... Fish Fry, Largo Central Park  
Oct. 7 ... Board of Director's Meeting/Hall of Fame Night  
Nov. 4 ..... Board of Director's/General Membership  
Meetings/Installation of Officers & Directors,  
Rusty Pelican  
Dec. 2 ..... Board of Director's Meeting, Tampa Club  
Dec. 4 ..... December Banquet, Tampa Club

## UCA of North Florida

Feb. (TBA) ..... Bettering Your Business Series  
Feb. 9 ..... Executive Committee Meeting,  
Conference Room/UCA of North Florida Office  
Mar. 9 ..... Executive Committee Meeting,  
Conference Room/UCA of North Florida Office  
Mar. 18 ..... Board of Director's & General  
Membership Meeting Meetings  
Apr. 7 ..... Safety Director's Forum  
Apr. 13 ..... Executive Committee Meeting,  
Conference Room/UCA of North Florida Office  
Apr. 29 .. Jacksonville Suns vs. Mississippi Braves Game,  
Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville  
May 12 ..... Executive Committee Meeting,  
Conference Room/UCA of North Florida Office  
May 20 ..... Board of Director's Meeting  
May 25 ..... Annual Golf Tournament,  
Deerwood Country Club  
June 3 ..... Bettering Your Business Luncheon Series  
June 8 ..... Executive Committee Meeting,  
Conference Room/UCA of North Florida Office  
July 6 ..... Executive Committee Meeting,  
Conference Room/UCA of North Florida Office  
July 15 ..... Board of Director's Meeting  
Aug. 4 ..... Safety Director's Forum  
Aug. 10 ..... Executive Committee Meeting,  
Conference Room/UCA of North Florida Office  
Aug. 19 ..... General Membership Meeting  
Sept. 7 ..... Executive Committee Meeting,  
Conference Room/UCA of North Florida Office  
Sept. 16 ..... Board of Director's Meeting  
Oct. (TBA) ..... Fishing Tournament,  
Sister's Creek Marina/City of Jacksonville  
Oct. 6 ..... Bettering Your Business Luncheon Series  
Oct. 12 ..... Executive Committee Meeting,  
Conference Room/UCA of North Florida Office  
Nov. 3 ..... Safety Director's Forum  
Nov. 9 ..... Executive Committee Meeting,  
Conference Room/UCA of North Florida Office  
Nov. 18 ..... Election of Officers Meeting  
Dec. 14 ..... Executive Committee Meeting,  
Conference Room/UCA of North Florida Office

## NUCA

May 17-19 ..... Washington Summit,  
Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, DC

## 2011

Jan. 18-21 ..... Expo '11, The Executive Experience,  
The El Conquistador Resort, Las Croabas, Puerto Rico





**Sunshine State One Call of Florida, Inc.**  
**(SSOCOF) Meetings**

Feb. 18 .....	Committee Meetings, DeBary Call Center
Feb. 19 .....	Board of Director's Meeting, DeBary Call Center
Mar. 2-4 ...	CGA Excavation Safety Conference & Expo, San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, CA
Mar. 19 .....	Executive Committee Meeting, DeBary Call Center/Conference Call
Apr. 1-30 .....	National Safe Digging Month
May 20 .....	Annual, Board of Director's and Committee Meetings, DeBary Call Center
May 21 .....	Golf Tournament, Deland
June 18 .....	Executive Committee Meeting, DeBary Call Center/Conference Call
Aug. 19 .....	Committee Meetings
Aug. 20 .....	Board of Director's Meeting
Sept. 17 .....	Executive Committee Meeting, DeBary Call Center/Conference Call
Nov. 18 .....	Committee Meetings, DeBary Call Center
Nov. 19 .....	Board of Director's Meeting, DeBary Call Center
Dec. 17 .....	Executive Committee Meeting, DeBary Call Center/Conference Call

**2011**

Feb. 17 .....	Committee Meetings, DeBary Call Center
Feb. 18 .....	Board of Director's Meeting, DeBary Call Center
Mar. 18 .....	Executive Committee Meeting, DeBary Call Center/Conference Call
May 19 .....	Annual, Board of Director's and Committee Meetings, DeBary Call Center
May 20 .....	Golf Tournament, Deland
June 17 .....	Executive Committee Meeting, DeBary Call Center/Conference Call
Aug. 18 .....	Committee Meetings
Aug. 19 .....	Board of Director's Meeting
Sept. 16 .....	Executive Committee Meeting, DeBary Call Center/Conference Call
Nov. 17 .....	Committee Meetings, DeBary Call Center
Nov. 18 .....	Board of Director's Meeting, DeBary Call Center
Dec. 16 .....	Executive Committee Meeting, DeBary Call Center/Conference Call

**Construction Industry Licensing Board Meetings**

Feb. 10-12 ....	Crowne Plaza Tampa Westshore, Tampa
Mar. 10-12 ...	The Florida Hotel and Conference Center, Orlando
Apr. 14-16 .....	TBA
May 12-14 .....	TBA
June 9-11 .....	TBA
July 14-16 .....	TBA
August 11-13 .....	TBA
Sept. 8-10 .....	TBA
Oct. 13-15 .....	TBA
Nov. 10-12 .....	TBA

**Sunshine State One Call of  
Florida, Inc.**  
**2010 Holiday Calendar**

Memorial Day .....	05/31/10
Observance of Independence Day .....	07/05/10
Labor Day .....	09/06/10
Thanksgiving Day .....	11/25/10
Day after Thanksgiving Day .....	11/26/10
Christmas Eve .....	12/23/10
Christmas Day .....	12/24/10

SSOCOF's business hours are Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Please keep the above dates in mind when calling for locates two business days prior. The law now requires two full business days prior to digging.**



**2010 FDOT Letting Dates**

March 3	March 31
April 28	May 26
June 23	July 28
August 25	September 29
October 27	December 1

**2011 FDOT Letting Date**

January 26	February 23
March 30	April 27
May 25	June 22





# Chapter News

## **Northwest Florida UCA**

The Fifth Annual Northwest Florida UCA Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, April 15 at Marcus Point Golf Club in Pensacola. The format is a four man scramble. For sponsorship opportunities, please contact the chapter office at (850) 434-8328. Tournament details will be forthcoming.

## **Southwest Florida UCA**

The Southwest Florida Utility Contractors Association will be holding their 2010 Trade Show on Thursday, April 8 at the Harborside Event Center in downtown Fort Myers. With each passing year, the Southwest Florida UCA Trade Show becomes larger and more successful attracting hundreds of industry professionals in the Southwest Florida area. We expect the 2010 show to be no exception. The show provides a great opportunity for exhibitors to introduce new products and services and to offer selective show pricing to the attendees. Exhibitor space is on a first-come, first-reserved basis. Southwest Florida UCA is truly excited about the possibilities the 2010 show will generate for our members, visitors and exhibitors. We look forward to your participation as an exhibitor and in your attendance.

Our next Southwest Florida UCA Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, May 15 at the beautiful Crown Colony Golf and Country Club in Fort Myers. We always have great support and participation so please mark your calendar for this great event. Proceeds from the tournament benefit our annual scholarship awards program.

We encourage you to attend our next Southwest Florida UCA membership meeting on Thursday, February 18 at the Holiday Inn, Gulf Coast Town Center, Fort Myers. Our speaker will be Eben Wyman, NUCA

Government Relations. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. with a cocktail hour and then dinner follows at 7:30 p.m. Look forward to seeing you there.

## **SUCA**

The SUCA office has relocated! Please make note of the following new contact information:

P. O. Box 2740  
Zephyrhills, FL 33541

Our new phone number is (813) 355-4879, and the new fax number is (813) 355-4883. Our web address remains [www.suca.org](http://www.suca.org) and Executive Director Misty McKendree's e-mail remains [mtjader@suca.org](mailto:mtjader@suca.org).

SUCA's February Membership Meeting will be held Thursday, February 4 at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club in St. Petersburg, Florida. Registration and cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m., and dinner will be served at 7:15 p.m. Dinner will include roasted chicken breast with mushrooms & artichokes in a creamy chardonnay sauce, Mediterranean salad & balsamic dressing, rosemary roasted red bliss potatoes, vegetable medley, warm rolls & butter and French silk pie. The cost is \$32.00 per person. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Pinellas County Administrator Robert "Bob" LaSala. Mr. LaSala plans to discuss Pinellas County's 2010 Business & Construction Agenda, and members in attendance will also have the opportunity to participate in a question/answer session. Please plan to attend this important member meeting.

Hundreds of tickets have been mailed to SUCA members for the February 13 Annual Barbecue at Lupton's Boggy Bottom Ranch in Plant City. The fun will last from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and lunch will be served from noon to 2:00

p.m. Each year, over 300 people enjoy the beautiful park setting and great food Lupton's has to offer. This is one of our best attended events of the year. Florida Gas & Electric Corp. is again sponsoring a horseshoe tournament with cash prizes which begins at 11:00 a.m. For the kids, we will have a clown making balloons and painting faces, a moonwalk, sno-kones and popcorn, a track-less choo-choo train and more! There will also be a DJ for everyone's enjoyment. The cost is only \$15.00 per person, so bring your office staff, family and friends for lots of food and fun!

Barbeque Chairman James Adams of Ferguson Waterworks, Inc. would like to thank our sponsors for their extreme generosity: Acme Barricades, Inc.; Associated Construction Products, Inc.; David Nelson Construction Co.; Ferguson Waterworks, Inc.; Linder Industrial Machinery Co.; Mabey Bridge & Shore, Inc.; MWI Pump Rental; Michael James Developers, Inc.; Oldcastle Precast, Inc.; Raymow Construction Co.; Ring Power Corp.; Stuart Angelo & Co., CPA's; Technical Sales Corp.; U.S. Shoring & Equipment and Westra Construction Corp. Again, thanks to these members for their generous participation and support of this great event. Sponsorships are still available. If you are interested in joining the list of sponsors, please contact Misty McKendree at (813) 355-4879.

SUCA's March Membership Meeting will be held Thursday, March 4 at the Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City. Registration and cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m., and dinner will be served at 7:15 p.m. Dinner will include Ropa Vieja, '1905' Salad, Cuban Bread & Butter and Godiva Chocolate Cake. The cost is \$32.00 per person. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Tom Fass, P.E., Hillsborough County's Manager of







the Project Management section overseeing the Transportation & Stormwater Capital Improvement Program. Mr. Fass will speak to our members regarding some of the initiatives being discussed in PRIDE meetings and will provide an overview of the transportation referendum. This referendum has sometimes been referred to as the Transit or Light Rail referendum, when in fact it goes beyond transit as a funding source. You will not want to miss this meeting!

SUCA members and staff are now readying themselves for the March 22-23 trip to Tallahassee for the UUCF Board of Director's Meeting, Legislative Briefing and Capitol visits. This is a golden opportunity to meet your legislators one-on-one and informally discuss industry issues. If you are interested in attending, please contact Misty McKendree at the SUCA office.

Scholarship packets will be mailed out next month to all SUCA member firms. Our membership is very proud of this program, now in its twenty-first year. Scholarship Chairperson Linda Shutt of David Nelson Construction Co. anticipates a good number of applicants this year. The committee is looking forward to reviewing all applications received by the May 15 deadline. Presentation of the awards will take place on Thursday, July 8 at Scholarship Night. If you are a SUCA member and need an application packet, please contact our office.

We are happy to announce there will be a SUCA Fishing Tournament this year! Information is on the way regarding the April event. Tournament Chairman Mickey Bell of Wallace, Welch & Willingham is planning a great event. Keep an eye out for details and be sure to register early!

If you are interested in SUCA's projects or events, please contact

our office at (813) 355-4879 or visit our website at [www.suca.org](http://www.suca.org).

### **UCA of North Florida**

We recently returned from NUCA's Utility Construction Expo '10 at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Hotel. Our own Ryan Schmitt was sworn in as Chairman-Elect. Mark your calendar, and plan to join Ryan when he is sworn in as Chairman at the Utility Construction Expo '11 "The Executive Experience" on January 18-21, 2011 at El Conquistador Resort, Las Croabas in Puerto Rico.

The UCA of North Florida 2010 Officer Installation & Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, January 21 at the Jacksonville Marriott. At this meeting, we presented the family of the late Representative Don Davis a plaque to commemorate the establishment of the *Don Davis Excellence in Service Award*. Former Representative Dick Kravitz spoke about Don and his many accomplishments, especially his work to have movies filmed in Florida. Representative Charles McBurney was also present and announced that he had filed a bill to name the overpass at JTB and I-9 named in Don Davis' memory. Alan Mosley, Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Jacksonville, read letters from Mayor Peyton to the Davis family and also to the members of UCA of North Florida. Ryan Schmitt swore in our new slate of Officers and Directors. Ed Porter was sworn in as Chapter President. Outgoing President Lauren Atwell presented Steve Dempsey with the *Outstanding Board Member Award* in recognition of his continuous leadership as Chairman of the Fishing Committee and contributions to the Board of Directors. Ed Porter was presented with the 2009 *President's Award* in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and leadership within the association. Our 2009 Monthly Sponsors and 2009 Committee chairs were recognized with certificates of appreciation. 2009

Board of Director members Bill Bocchino, Beau Clark, Steve Dempsey, Steve Jensen, Tim Wheeler and Ryan Schmitt were recognized for their many years of service to the board.

We are in the process of scheduling training for Contractor V License with the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association. If you need this training, please contact the UCA of North Florida office at (904) 296-1230 so we can keep you updated.

Joe Mastanduno with John Deere will be our guest speaker at March General Meeting. Joe will be speaking on Emission regulations and Tier 4 Emissions.

Plans are already underway for our annual Golf Tournament & Vendor Showcase to be held on Tuesday, May 25 at Deerwood Country Club. This year's golf chairman is Rick Erickson with Industrial Tractor Company. Call the UCA of North Florida office for additional information.

## **Welcome New UUCF Members February 12, 2010**

### **Martin Marietta Materials**

William Dirico, Jr.  
Augusta, Georgia  
(706) 854-6340  
Associate  
Chapter: UCA of North Florida

### **Piertek Phillips Highway**

Steve Goulette  
Jacksonville, Florida  
(904) 657-6533  
Associate  
Chapter: UCA of North Florida





# UUCF to Hold Board and Committee Meetings in Tallahassee

The 2010 Legislative Session will begin on March 2. The Underground Utility Contractors of Florida (UUCF) Board of Director's and Committee Meetings will be held in Tallahassee while the state legislature is in session. The date is Monday, March 22, 2010. As with every board meeting, UUCF members are invited to attend. However, this is a special invitation to all UUCF members to attend this "legislative session" Board of Director's Meeting.

The UUCF Executive and Convention Committee Meetings and Board of Director's Meeting will be held on Monday, March 22, 2010 at

the Governors Club located at 202 South Adams Street in Tallahassee. The Executive and Convention Committee Meetings will be held from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, lunch will start at 12:00 noon and the Board of Director's Meeting and Legislative Briefing will be held from 12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, March 23, 2010, attendees are encouraged to walk the halls of the Capitol and meet with their local representatives and senators. Attendees will be briefed on the issues to discuss with their legislators during the Legislative Briefing on Monday, March 22, 2010.

UUCF has secured a block of rooms at the Doubletree Hotel Tallahassee. The rate is \$139.00 single/double occupancy. Information, along with a Hotel Reservation Form, was e-mailed to all UUCF members. Please feel free to contact the hotel directly at (800) 222-8733 or call the UUCF office for a Hotel Reservation Form. **The room block will expire on Friday, February 19, 2010**, so make your room reservations now. Tallahassee is busy this time of year.

Don't forget to make appointments with the senators and representatives from your district on Tuesday, March 23.

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## UUCF PAC Needs Your Help!

The UUCF PAC needs your help today if it is to continue contributing to candidates who are business friendly. During the 2008 Election, UUCF expended more than \$60,000 to candidates running for House and Senate seats. Candidates and the UUCF PAC now need to replenish their funds for the 2010 Election. The UUCF PAC is currently receiving solicitations from candidates. This is why we are asking for your support today.

Facts pertaining to the 2010 Election:

- For the first time ever, every member of the state's Cabinet will be up for grabs in the same election. Governor, attorney general, chief financial officer and agriculture commissioner will each be filled by new people.
- The U.S. Senate race will lead the parade.
- All 120 state House seats are up for grabs and more than half of the Senate.
- Qualifying for state office elections ends June 18.
- Primary elections are August 24. The general election is November 2.
- Independent voters, about one in five in Florida, will be a focus in all the statewide races.

Legislative actions have a major impact on our industry. It is important to elect members to the Florida Legislature who are willing to listen objectively to our concerns, understand them and act accordingly. Our opponents are powerful with seemingly unlimited resources. They spend big money to elect candidates who do not share our values and concerns.

UUCF has just come off another successful Legislative Session. The success was hard fought. These victories came because UUCF has worked hard to send elected officials to Tallahassee who will listen to our concerns.

UUCF has enjoyed much success over the years through its day-to-

day lobbying efforts. The reasons for this success are clear — we are visible, vocal and effective. The UUCF PAC is one vehicle we use to reach our goals. We need your help today to send Florida's best to Tallahassee.

One of the most important aspects of a successful legislative program is the ability to assist candidates financially during their campaigns. The UUCF PAC has been there in the past making contributions to "business friendly" candidates.

There are four UUCF PAC club memberships: President's Club — \$1,200.00 for the first year, \$1,000.00 for renewal years; Founders Club — \$500.00; Century Club — \$250.00; and Capital Club — \$100.00. The UUCF PAC also accepts donations in any amount that you are comfortable contributing. If you are interested in joining one of these clubs, please contact the UUCF office for a UUCF PAC Membership Form at (407) 830-1880.

## Division of Workers' Compensation Continues to Offers Free Classes

The Florida Department of Financial Services, Division of Workers' Compensation, continues to offer free classes regarding Florida's Workers' Compensation Laws and Workplace Safety to Business Owners, Licensed Contractors and Employers.

Workers' compensation topics covered include:

- Review of Key Statutory Definitions
- Contractor Responsibilities
- Exemptions
- Insurance Coverage Requirements
- Enforcement Provisions

Workplace safety topics presented by OSHA (U.S. Dept. of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration) include:

- Direct and Indirect Costs

- Inspections
- Florida Fatalities

The following is a list of class locations, dates and times for future sessions.

### **February 16, 2010**

Tampa  
9:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon (English)  
Park Trammel Building (State Office Building)  
1313 North Tampa Street, Suite 603  
Tampa, FL 33602

### **February 17, 2010**

Miami  
9:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon (English)  
State Office Building  
401 N.W. 2nd Avenue  
North Tower, Room 423  
Miami, FL 33128

### **February 17, 2010**

Orlando  
9:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon (English)  
State Office Building  
Hurst Building Complex  
400 West Robinson Street  
South Tower — Conference Room C&D  
Orlando, FL 32801

### **March 16, 2010**

Jacksonville  
9:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon (English)  
FL Department of Law Enforcement  
921 North Davis Street, Building E  
Jacksonville, FL 32209

### **March 23, 2010**

Pensacola (Workers' Compensation Presentation Only)  
9:00 a.m. — 10:30 a.m. (English)  
West Florida Regional Library  
200 West Gregory Street  
Pensacola, FL 32501

The Division of Workers' Compensation is an authorized provider (Provider Number: 0004354) for continuing education purposes through the CILB. Course Number: 0010118 — one hour satisfies the Workers' Compensation requirement and Course Number: 0010630 — one hour satisfies the Workplace Safety requirement.

Advanced registration is required. The form is available on the Division's website at [www.myfloridacfo.com/WC](http://www.myfloridacfo.com/WC). For additional information, e-mail [bocseminars@MyFloridaCFO.com](mailto:bocseminars@MyFloridaCFO.com), call (813) 221-6518 or Fax (813) 233-3742.







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Jacksonville, FL 32207  
(904) 737-6000

**Ocala**  
1841 N.E. Jacksonville Road  
Ocala, FL 34470  
(352) 671-4445

**Orlando**  
410 W. Taft-Vineland Road  
Orlando, FL 32824  
(407) 850-9614

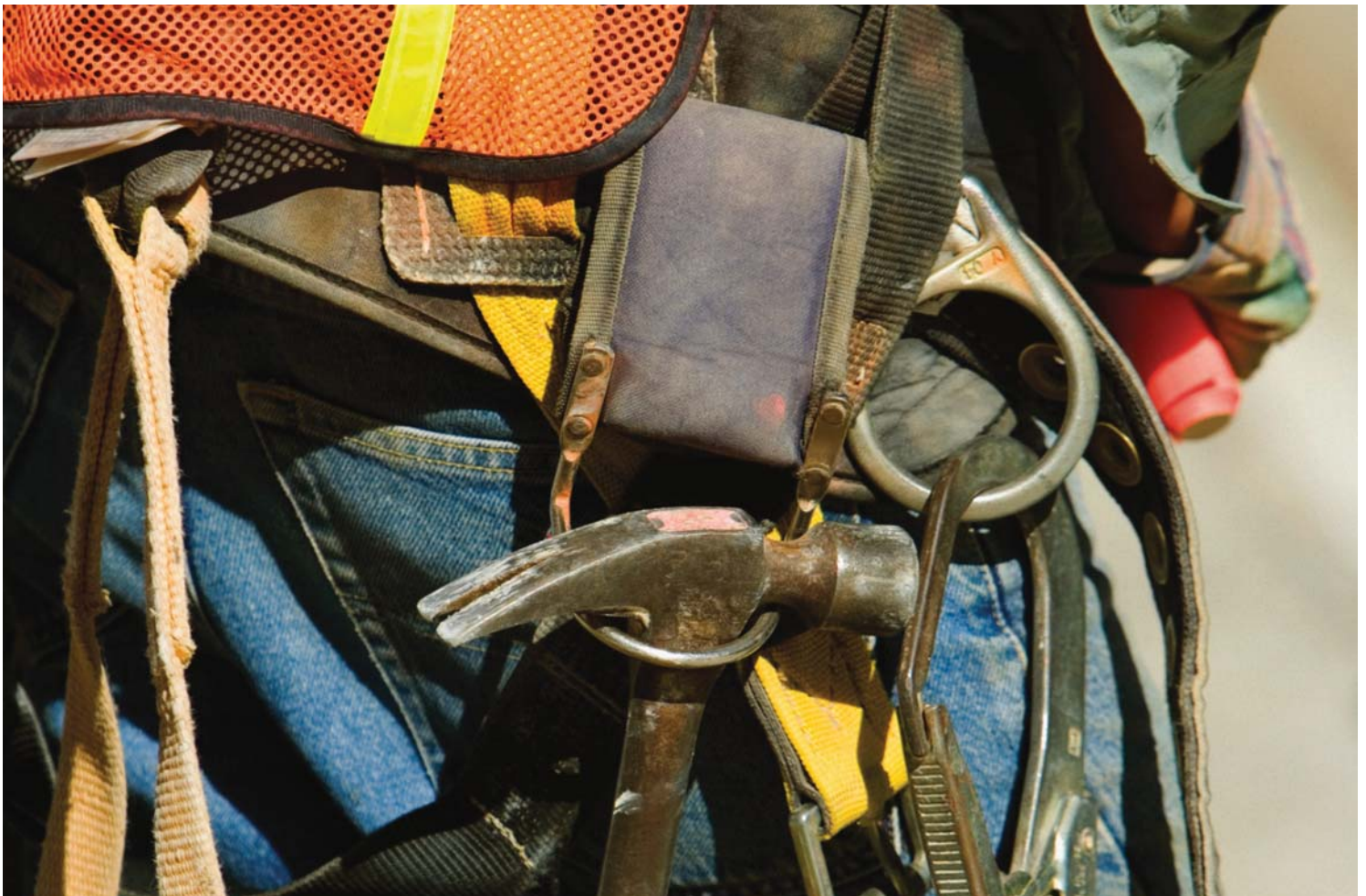
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