

September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6	7 8:30 am Cont. Ed	8 8 am Events	9	10
11	12	13 8 am Associates 9 am Executive	14 7 am Membership	15 UCA Annual Dinner Venuti's (Addison)	16	17
18	19	20 8 am Board 10 am Legislative	21	22 8 am Convention 10 am Const. Matl	23 IDOT Letting Date	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 4:30 pm Spider Group featuring NICOR UCA Office (Itasca)	6	7	8
9	10 Columbus Day	11 3 pm Executive	12 8 am Safety 10 am Risk Mgmt	13 8 am Events	14	15
16	17	18 8 am Board	19	20 Statewide Meeting	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 8 am Labor			8 am Convention 10 am OSPP		



Pipeline

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AUGUST 2011

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Tollway Plan
- Workers Comp Seminar
- Risk Management Program

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Save the Date for UCA's 2012 Convention!



January 22nd-27th

Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

Fiesta Americana Grand

Visit www.uca.org for more information.

Illinois Tollway Approves Major New Road Plan

At the recent August Tollway Board meeting, tollway directors approved the ten year "Illinois Driving the Future" roadway plan. This \$12 billion plan will rebuild major portions of the Tollway system, add new road sections, and improve overall access and travel flow.

Over \$8 billion will be committed towards rebuilding and widening existing tollroads:

- Reconstructing and widening **Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90)**
- Reconstructing central **Tri-State Tollway (I-294)** and **Edens Spur (I-94)**
- Repairing bridges and maintenance facilities

Nearly \$4 billion will be directed towards new construction projects:

- Building an **interchange** to connect **Tri-State (I-294)** and **Interstate 57** in the Southwest Chicago Suburbs
- Extending **Elgin O'Hare Expressway** eastwards up to O'Hare Airport

The Plan will also fund planning studies for the north extension of **Route 53** and the proposed **Illiana Expressway**.

In tough economic times an expected 120,000 jobs will be created, among them more than 13,000 construction related jobs positions. The Plan's ten year timeframe also provides these jobs for an extended period. Improved transportation alternatives will also benefit other Illinois businesses as well. Additional information can be found on the UCA website at:

http://www.uca.org/committees/Important%20Information/MOVEILLINOIS_FACT%20SHEETS.pdf

The Tollway will finance this program with a toll increase starting in January 2011. Average tolls for passenger vehicles would rise from 40 cents today to 75 cents. That equates to a rise from 3 cents per mile driven to almost 6 cents. Even with the increase the toll rate will still be among the lowest third in the nation. Also, tolls for passenger cars have not risen since 1983, as long as you are in-

cluded in the I-PASS electronic toll collection program. Tolls for commercial vehicles and trucks were increased in 2005 and are scheduled to be increased again in 2015.

After announcing the proposed program in July, the Tollway held a series of community meetings in every county served by the tollway system. UCA Legislative Director Scott Dworschak spoke on behalf of UCA members in support of the program and other UCA members commented directly to the tollway website in support as well.



UCA Members Visit Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Facility



John E. Egan Plant in Schaumburg.

On Thursday, August 25th, the Associates Committee hosted a tour of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD)'s John E. Egan Plant in Schaumburg. through the plant, reclaimed water is delivered to Salt Creek where it augments stream flow and supports the growth of various fish life as well as aquatic biota. A portion of the reclaimed water is utilized for plant process needs as well as to supply irrigation needs for plant landscaping, a local golf course and an adjacent driving range.

Along with a brief video presentation on the history of the MWRD, members were taken on a full tour of the facility. The plant utilizes an advanced treatment process designed to remove about 99% of pollutants from wastewater. Processing equipment includes Aerated Grit Chambers, Primary, Aeration and Final Tank, Filters, and Disinfection. Upon passing

The Egan Plant exemplifies a great advance in the art and science of wastewater treatment. It has a design capacity of 30 million gallons of wastewater per day. In 1982, the facility was selected as the "best operated and maintained" large plant in Region V by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

On May 18th MWRD's Commissioner Frank Avila and Richard Martinez participated in the Associates Committee's Spider Group. Among many topics, they touched on how contractors and associates can comply with their Affirmative Action Program to be included on their vendor list. They also presented a list of current and upcoming jobs.

UCA's Associates Committee plans to host one 'Behind the Scenes' Tour each year. Please send suggested tour sites to awicks@uca.org for consideration by the committee.

Interested in setting up your own MWRD tour? Visit www.mwrdd.org for more information.

Changes to the Illinois Workers Compensation Law Seminar, 9/15

Tim Conlon from Bunker Hill and UCA's Legislative Affairs Director Scott Dworschak will conduct an informational seminar at 4 p.m. on September 15th prior to the Annual Dinner at Venuti's in Addison. The seminar will cover the recently enacted changes to the Illinois Workers Compensation program.

Is it better for workers or your company? Come to the Seminar and find out!

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UCA Pipeline is a publication of the Underground Contractors Association of Illinois. UCA is a non-profit trade association of contractors and suppliers in the sewer, water, utility, and underground industry. UCA is active in market development, information, education, labor, and promotion of safety.

Editorial comments, articles and photographs are welcomed and encouraged. Please contact Amy Wicks, Events and Marketing Coordinator, for more information, (630) 467-1919 or awicks@uca.org.

President's Editorial

Dear UCA Members,

It's the end of August, and the fall is quickly approaching. While the temperatures were hot and steamy this summer, jobs were still sparse. As the news from Washington, D.C. and Springfield continue to frustrate and slow us, we have to stick together and fight for jobs. I like to think of UCA as a professional outlet that helps me stay connected to all of you and keep on top of this every changing industry.

Stay tuned for more information concerning the ten year Illinois Driving the Future roadway plan of \$12 billion in upcoming work including underground sewer, water, and utility projects. I cannot stress enough the importance of legislation in our industry, especially in this state. Please encourage your employees to vote as we need pro-construction legislators in Springfield. To find out which legislators are friendly to our industry, please contact UCA's Legislative Affairs Director Scott Dworschak at sdworschak@uca.org.

Once again, I'd like to thank the Golf Outing attendees for making the event such a great success. It was so encouraging to see individuals from all walks of the industry enjoying each other's company. I hope to see you again at the Annual Dinner Meeting taking place on Thursday, September 15th at Venuti's in Addison, IL. At this event, we'll recognize women's

contributions to the construction industry. Help us welcome Loretta Rosenmayer, CEO of INTREN. Loretta will address the membership on her many professional achievements. Prior to the reception, a FREE Workers Comp Update will take place with information on the how the recently passed workers comp legislation in Illinois will impact you, your company, and your employees.

UCA's newest committee – the Associates Committee chaired by Ginger Imes of DS&P Insurance – hosted a tour of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District's Egan Water Treatment Facility in Schaumburg on August 25th. I understand this free tour was well attended and enjoyed by all who participated. The Associates Committee plans to host another Behind the Scenes Tour in 2012. I give kudos to them for thinking outside of the box and engaging our membership with new opportunities. Keep up the great work!

The Construction Materials Committee is another group working hard to meet their objectives. This fall they will host a Sustainable Water Distribution Challenges & Solutions Seminar and Demonstration at the Laborers Training Facility in Caro Stream. While the seminar will target municipal managers, consulting engineers, and industrial manufacturers, UCA members are encouraged to at-



Elizabeth Perino, UCA President
Perdel Contracting Corp.

tend. This is a great way to network and find new business opportunities.

By attending any of these meetings and events, you'll connect with other professionals helping you to stay on top of industry trends, upcoming jobs, etc. There are so many exciting things happening at UCA and you're invited to be a part of all of them!

I would like to personally welcome UCA's newest members H&H Electric Company, Hamilton Kent, and Onward Technologies, Inc. Enjoy your experience at UCA!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Perino, UCA President
Perdel Contracting Corp.

Return-To-Work Programs Can Save Big Money Through Multi-Level Support Process (Part 1 in a Two-Part Series)

BUNKER HILL UNDERWRITERS
ENGINEERED RISK DIVISION

Finding a way to reduce the length of lost time injuries represents one of the single most important ways to curb claim cost and insurance costs overall. While many companies promote and embrace various forms of early "Return-to-Work" (RTW) programs it remains an important "bedrock" risk management principle that has a high reward/return ratio.

The importance of "top-down" management level endorsement of an effective RTW program directly helps reduce Work Comp claim costs. By stressing RTW at the senior management level the program will get the company-wide support needed to be successful. This sets the stage to make a RTW program a day-to-day reality. It also increases the chances that "transitional work" will be more productive and fulfilling both to the disabled worker and to other employees who are integrating them into the daily workload.

Full senior management support is truly the foundation of a successful RTW program. Once the RTW program is supported from a "top-down" management standpoint the rest is in the structure and implementation of the program. But before the plan is designed there are a few concepts that are important to consider.

There are 3 fundamental support concepts that are essential in order for any RTW program to be successful:

1. Employee Injury Support - these include the full range of managed care services and techniques that are a critical component of the traditional Work Comp service model

implemented by most large insurers in varying degrees. A critical distinguishing feature here is that the employer needs to be an active participant in the process. The abandonment of employee injury support responsibilities to the health care provider or the Work Comp claims and nursing service providers sets the stage for an extended period of disability instead of promoting an early RTW program. Bottom line – the employer needs to be involved for a good RTW to work.

2. Administrative Support – prompt and detailed communication and assistance between the employee and the Work Comp carrier and medical service providers goes a long way in fostering an atmosphere of goodwill and teamwork and can help ease stress and anxiety by the injured worker and his or her family members. Payroll and benefits issues and calculations and timely issuing of Temporary Total Disability (TTP) payments are extremely important in getting the WC claim off on the right foot and keeping on track.

3. Vocational Support – In addition to the vocational support provided through Work Comp claims and nursing services it is also essential to promote vocational support among the direct supervisors or manager

of the injured worker. This is equally true among any co-workers who may be assisting during the time-period in which the worker is performing progressive or transitional work duties. Studies have shown that appropriate buy-in and acceptance of this stage of the RTW is vital for its ultimate success in helping the injured worker reach full pre-injury work status.

One helpful way of looking at a long-term benefit of a good RTW program is that it promotes a culture within the company that resembles many self-insured programs. This lays the groundwork for eventually transitioning into other cost saving opportunities such as Self-Insured Retentions (SIR's) or other alternative insurance programs or risk retention groups. Regardless of what type of Work Comp program is right for your company; a good RTW program has been proven to save short-term and long term claim costs and to improve morale and teamwork within the entire organization.

In the next issue of Pipeline we will discuss the different types of Return-To-Work programs there are and how to build a custom program that best suits the needs of your company.

Welcome New UCA Members!

Hamilton Kent (A)
77 Carlingview Drive
Toronto, Ontario Canada M9W 5E6
(800) 268-8479 ext. 256
Fax: (888) 674-6960
Contact: Duncan Spence

Onward Technologies, Inc. (A)
200 West Madison, Suite 1020
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 795-9500
Fax: (312) 795-9525
Contact: Slava Rudermann or Scott Meeker

H & H Electric Company (C)
2830 Commerce Street
Franklin Park, IL 60131
(708) 453-2222
Fax: (708) 453-2851
Contact: Louie Veneziano

Introducing H&H Electric Co.



H&H Electric Co. strives to provide municipalities, schools, engineering firms, and other agencies and owners with extraordinary service and a quality of work that surpasses their expectations in terms of attention to detail, time, and budget. The family-run company offers an array of

services including transportation and traffic signal work, street lighting, underground work and small community-scale wind turbine installation. The company's strong relationships and financial stability gives them the ability to easily obtain the permits and bonds necessary for these installations.

For more information on the company, visit www.hh-electric.com or contact Louie Veneziano at louie.veneziano@hh-electric.com

Don't forget...

The companies listed in UCA's Directory are all UCA members and deserve your preference when looking for products and services.

UCA Develops Risk Management Program for Members

Since October 2011, UCA has partnered with Bunker Hill Underwriters to provide contractor members with a comprehensive commercial insurance program. An important give-and-take principle behind this strategic partnership was that Bunker Hill's insurable risk will benefit from UCA's ongoing commitment to safety. Members can take advantage of Bunker Hill's commitment to ongoing risk management education and innovative loss mitigation strategies and techniques.

In the upcoming month's, UCA and Bunker Hill plan to develop a Risk Man-

agement program that provides educational value to members and helps develop or improve an effective risk management program for companies. Hot topics of the program will include:

Stay tuned for a brief survey on Bunker Hill's Risk Management Program. For more information, please contact Tim Conlon at (800) 645-7707.

