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# FROM THE TRENCHES

Wisconsin Underground Contractors Assoc., N16 W23250 Stone Ridge Drive, Waukesha, WI 53188 • (414) 778-1050  
Robert J. Bartel, Executive Director

FALL ..... 2018

## WUCA 2019 Midwinter Conference scheduled for Aruba



WUCA is heading the Guanacaste region of Costa Rica for our 31st annual Midwinter Conference February 6 -10, 2019. Guanacaste has become one on the most exciting places to discover. Located in the North Pacific area of Costa Rica, this province of 10,141 square kilometers captures far-fetched natural jewels and ocean marvels. Its natural parks, marvelous beaches and spectacular sunsets create a unique environment for luxury and exclusive properties. Featuring a tropical weather all year round, the region has a pleasant summer, characterized by lively landscapes of dry forest.



Delegates will enjoy group meetings, dinners, island tours and sailing and snorkeling at the brand new W Hotel.

Registration information is available at [www.wuca.org](http://www.wuca.org).



# Year in Review

## New President Elected

**Keith Alexander**, Visu-Sewer Inc was elected president of the Wisconsin Underground Contractors Association, Inc. (WUCA).

Keith was born in Milwaukee and raised in the Sussex / Hartland area. He is married to Sandy (27 yrs) and they have two daughters Brianna (25) & Makayla (22) and a son Brad (15). When Keith is not working he enjoys spending time with the family, athletics and any outdoor activity.



**Keith Alexander**  
Visu-Sewer Inc.  
262-695-2340  
keith@visu-sewer.com

Keith has worked for Visu-Sewer, Inc. for 29 years. He is currently the President of Visu-Sewer head quartered in Pewaukee and manages branch offices in IL, MN, IA, MO & VA . Keith began working in the shop at Visu at age 15 during summer break and continued to work summers in the construction industry thru high school and college. In 1989 he came on board at Visu full time working as part of the sales team, became sales manager in 1994 and became president in 2003. Visu has grown thru the years and Keith has lead several acquisitions which lead to currently managing six offices and over 200 employees.

Keith is a member of the following associations: Wisconsin Wastewater Operators, Wisconsin Rural Water, APWA, NASSCO, WEF and ASTM. His mission it to, “provide customers with the peace of mind that their job will be done correctly the first time”.



**WUCA supported the 2018 annual CONEX show held at State Fair Park February 7 & 8, 2018.**



**We are always searching for additional WUCA members. For a membership application, please visit [www.wuca.org](http://www.wuca.org)**



*Aruba Marriott Resort*

## **Conducted the 30th Annual WUCA Midwinter Conference**

WUCA conducted its 2018 Annual Midwinter Conference at the Aruba Marriott Resort February 7-11, 2018. The conference included outdoor receptions, group dinners, live entertainment, tour of the island, catamaran boat ride with 2 stops for snorkeling, quality educational seminars, and much more. It was beautiful under sunny skies in the 80's. Miller-Bradford & Risberg sponsored the big dinner including great food, open bar and entertainment. R & R Insurance sponsored entertainment for the opening night reception. The 2018 WUCA Midwinter Conference was a great success.



# 2018 Year in Review

WUCA conducted frequent Safety & Insurance Committees throughout 2018 including:



On January 19, 2018 **Jeff Olejnik** from WIPFLI, LLP, discussed cyber security issues for work, home and personal devices. His handout provided “30 tips in 30 days”. Jeff also discussed avoiding cyber attacks and also how to respond should you become a victim. **Carla Borda**, R & R Insurance, discussed insurance options against cyber attacks.



On March 16, 2018 **Chris Zortman**, Milwaukee OSHA Area Director, discussed recent OSHA developments including a disturbing increase in Wisconsin work place fatalities. She answered questions regarding enforcement issues of the new silica standard.



On February 16, 2018 **Andrew LaTona**, WE Energies, Operations Supervisor Damage Prevention & Locating, discussed utility locating and excavation issues including the Diggers hotline system and legal requirements.



On April 20, 2018 **Jim Canfield**, All Material Handling, Inc. discussed proper rigging and equipment to safely lift and place materials. He reviewed sling inspection, types of slings, proper utilization of slings, and record keeping requirements.





On May 11, 2018, **Andrew Guetler** and **Adam Lawson** presented technical information on the new Stihl TS 440 cutoff saw designed for cutting sewer pipe. The meeting was held at Esch Construction Supply, Inc.

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On the same date, **Brian Dreesen**, USIC, discussed current issues in timely locating underground utilities and how the industry can address scheduling issues.

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On August 24, 2018 attorney **Tom Olson**, discussed how to handle construction accidents, particularly hits of underground gas lines. Tom is the founder of Olson Construction Law in West St. Paul, MN.



On September 21, 2018, **Brian Bean**, R & R Insurance discussed best practices for investigating, photographing & documenting underground utility hits. He also provided advice on how to review and contest damage claims from utility companies.

# 2018 Year in Review

On October 19, 2018 **Tony Bell's**, Senior Risk Control Consultant, UFG Insurance, presentation was entitled, "WORTH IT. Life is worth it. Distracted Driving is not." A compelling power point and video presentation of the choice drivers make in becoming distracted behind the wheel.



## WUCA 2017 Safety Awards

On May 11, 2018 WUCA Safety & Insurance Committee Chair, **Steve Olson** and Vice-chair **Dan Scheider** presented 2017 Safety Awards to the following firms:



- Townsend Construction, Inc.
- Visu-Sewer Inc.
- McHugh Excavating & Plumbing, Inc.
- Wanasek Corporation
- Willkomm Excavating & Grading, Inc.
- Globe Contractors, Inc.
- Super Excavators Inc.
- R.J. Underground, Inc.
- Wisconsin Utility Exposure Inc.

Congratulations to all !



On the same date, **Andrew LaTona**, WE Energies led a discussion on how to improve Diggers Hotline systems and utility locating issues.

On December 7, 2018, **Chris Zortman**, Milwaukee OSHA Area Director, discussed recent OSHA clarifications regarding safety incentive pay systems and drug testing issues for work related accidents, as well as other OSHA updates.





## WUCA Contractor/ Associate/Engineer Luncheon Held

WUCA conducted its annual luncheon on March 16, 2018 at the Thunder Bay Grille Restaurant in Pewaukee.

**Tim Van Vooren** Sports Director for WITI-TV Fox 6 was the guest speaker. He is a West Bend native and graduate of Marquette University. Since joining WITI-TV in 1990, Tim has been named Wisconsin Sportscaster of the Year three times (1995, 2001 and 2015). He is married and has four children.

Tim shared his insights into what to expect from the Brewers, Bucks and Packers.

Over 50 people attended the event.

## Scholarship Award

**Alex Doering**, an intern with Super Excavators, received a scholarship award from the Public Works Industry Improvement Program for his college studies at UW – Whitewater.

**Clayton Thorp**, whose father is employed by Super Excavators, received The John Drake Memorial Scholarship award for his college studies at UW – Platteville.

2018

Year in Review



# 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Golf Classic

July 16, 2018

Westmoor Country Club • Brookfield

## WUCA Golf Outing – Another Great Success!

The Wisconsin Undergruod Contractors Association, Inc. conducted its 51st annual golf outing July 16, 2018 at Westmoor Country Club in Brookfield, Wisconsin. There were 132 golfers and additional people for food and beverages afterwards. R&R Insurance sponsored a \$25,000 hole-in-one contest. WIPFLI sponsored a putting contest that helped raised money for Make-a-Wish. Esch Construction Supply held a chipping contest on the course.

**1st PLACE:** Ted Jorgensen, Allison Hill, John Staehler, guest

**2nd PLACE:** Gregg Rehak, Steve Garlock, Pete Forseth, Jeff Tauger

**3rd PLACE:** Steve Berg, Andy Cote, Tyler Sternat, Michelle Born





## Thank You Sponsors!

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# 2018 Year in Review



## WUCA Event Raises Over \$33,000 For Make-A-Wish Wisconsin October 25, 2018

According to their mission Make-A-Wish Wisconsin (MAW) can be a game-changer for a child with a life-threatening medical condition. MAW's mission is to grant wishes that change the lives of the kids they serve. It's the founding principle of their vision to grant the wish of every eligible child. Wishes impact everyone involved - wish kids, volunteers, donors, sponsors, medical professionals and communities. The impact varies. For wish kids, just the act of making their wish come true can give them the courage to comply with their medical treatments. Parents might finally feel like they can be optimistic. And still others might realize all they have to offer the world through volunteer work or philanthropy. Whatever the odds, whatever the obstacles, wishes find a way to make the world better.



In an effort to make the world better, the Wisconsin Underground Contractors Association conducted a fundraiser October 25, 2018 at the Golden Mast Okauchee, Wisconsin to benefit MAW. WUCA has done so for over 20 years raising over \$750,000 for MAW. Money that we could not raise without the support of the full WUCA membership.



The event's theme was an Oktoberfest Celebration. Esch Construction Supply sponsored entertainment by the Brewhaus Polka Kings. Kids received face paintings and balloons.

Many thanks to our donors and to everyone's support of this great charity.

## Some of our Make-A-Wish donors...

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Bore Master	Laborers Local 113
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The Wisconsin Underground Contractors Association (WUCA) board of directors is responsible for the overall performance of the association. When time permits from their busy business activities, they schedule and conduct a meeting where all agenda items are reviewed and industry-related issues and concerns are discussed and resolved. WUCA dates back to 1937 for a total of 81 years.

## **New Members**

- First Citizens Bank, Milwaukee, WI
- Etna Supply Co., Grand Rapids, MI
- Olson Construction Law, West St. Paul, MN

### **Notice to WUCA Member Contractors:**

Whenever you can, please support associate members providing equipment, services, supplies, insurance, bonds, legal advice, banking and accounting services. After all, they support our industry and the underground contracting association. When buying goods and services, buy first from WUCA associate firms.

## **Mark Your Calendar**



# **Feb. 6 - 7, 2019**

**Wisconsin Expo Center, State Fair Park,  
West Allis, Wisconsin**



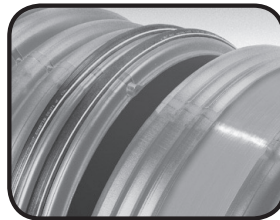
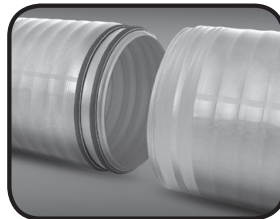


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The Public Works IIP was formed in 1965 for industry promotion, legislative initiative, scholarships, safety seminars, specification book preparation and sales, and more.



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For information on  
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WUCA encourages its  
contractors to purchase  
from member firms.

## Please attend monthly WUCA Safety & Insurance Committee meetings!

## In Memoriam

### Ramon E. "Ray" Olson

passed away peacefully on January 17, 2018, at age 86. Ray founded Globe Contractors in 1971, and additionally, Bore Master in 1997. He cherished his employees and recognized that they were the key to a successful business. His work was his passion and retirement was an option he never considered. He served as President of WUCA, and was a trustee for Laborers Health Fund and for IIP. Ray was awarded the WUCA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012 for his tremendous impact in the industry over many years. He also served his country during the Korean War.



## In Memoriam

### John H. Mielke

July 5, 1918 – January 1, 2018

John passed away peacefully on January 1, 2018, at the age of 99. John was one of the founders of the consulting engineering company, Ruekert and Mielke. John was active in his engineering profession including the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers, where he was recognized as the first Engineer of the Year. He served as the chairman of the board that developed the City of Waukesha building code. He was also active in the American Waterworks Association. And he was proud to be an active member of the Waukesha Elks Club for over 50 years.

## Help WUCA Solicit Additional Member Firms

With the upcoming New Year, this is a perfect time to solicit additional members into the association. WUCA dates back to 1937, and represents approximately 110 firms involved in water, sewer, tunnel, gas distribution, paving and related services. Membership applications can be downloaded from our Internet website [www.wuca.org](http://www.wuca.org)

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## In Memoriam

### Brian W. Mullins

July 6, 1955 – February 17, 2018

Brian began his distinguished legal career focusing on construction and real estate law in 1980. In 2006, Brian joined the Madison-based law firm of Axley Brynson, LLP and became a co-founder of their construction law group. Brian enjoyed every day he worked in the office because of the wonderful culture for not only practicing law but also making close and deep friendships.



Throughout his life, Brian was consistently active in many legal and engineering professional organizations and contributed to the betterment of the professions. He was a strong supporter of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Civil and Environmental Engineering department.



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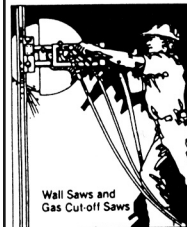
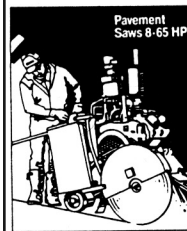
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