Update

A Monthly Newsletter of the Common Ground Alliance

December 2017

Happy Holidays!

President's Corner

I hope everyone had a great Holiday! I would like to extend a big thank you to our members for making 2017 a success! To our committee co-chairs, thank you for your commitment to CGA, and helping us ensure we are spreading the message about the importance of preventing damage to underground infrastructure. Your work helps us continue to reduce damages and keep those who work and live by these assets safe.

Our collaborative work with the Texas Association of Broadcasters in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey continues to progress. The PSA's reminding those affected by Hurricane Harvey to call before they did and not make an already stressful situation worse have aired more than 4200 times – equating to more than $430,000 in advertising equivalency value! A big thank you to all of those who contributed to this effort. The PSA's will continue to run through January 2018.

You may have seen 811 on the hardcourts recently. A partnership with Shell Pipeline Company LP, Energy Transfer, Julie, Inc., and Northern Natural Gas brought the important safety message to the airwaves during the MGM Main Event, Valley of the Sun Shootout and the UNLV vs. Illinois NCAA basketball game. 811 was visible on the courts and benches, as well as dominating the airwaves, as PSA's aired multiple times throughout the nationally televised broadcasts.

The 2018 CGA Excavation Safety Conference and Expo will be here before you know it! You can register by clicking here. We look forward to seeing you in Phoenix, Ariz., March 6-8. The CGA annual meeting will begin at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 7, 2018, and we will once again host a networking event that evening.

On behalf of the entire Common Ground Alliance team, I'd like to wish everyone a safe holiday season and a happy 2018.

Be Safe,

Sarah K. Magruder Lyle

Sarah K. Magruder Lyle
President & CEO

CGA Members Partner to Earn Exposure for 811 at Nationally Televised NCAA Basketball Games

As Sarah briefly mentioned in the President's Corner letter at the beginning of this month's newsletter, 811 was all over national television in November and December as part of a comprehensive package that included several games televised nationally on the ESPN2 and ESPNU and regionally on AT&T Sportsnet.

This exposure was the result of a partnership with Shell Pipeline Company LP, Energy Transfer, Julie, Inc., and Northern Natural Gas.

The 811 safety message was shown at two early season tournaments – MGM Main Event in Las Vegas and Valley of the Sun Shootout in Phoenix – as well as during the UNLV vs. Illinois stand-alone game.

Exposure included courtside LED signage, floor decals, signage on the pads of the basketball goals and public service announcement airings during commercial breaks.

According to a national phone study commissioned by CGA earlier this year, nearly half (48 percent) of all respondents who planned to personally dig on their property in 2017 said they had watched NCAA men's basketball on television during the previous year, making these events strategic targets for the 811 message.

Thank you, Shell Pipeline Company LP, Energy Transfer, Julie, Inc., and Northern Natural Gas for working with CGA to make this national exposure for 811 possible!

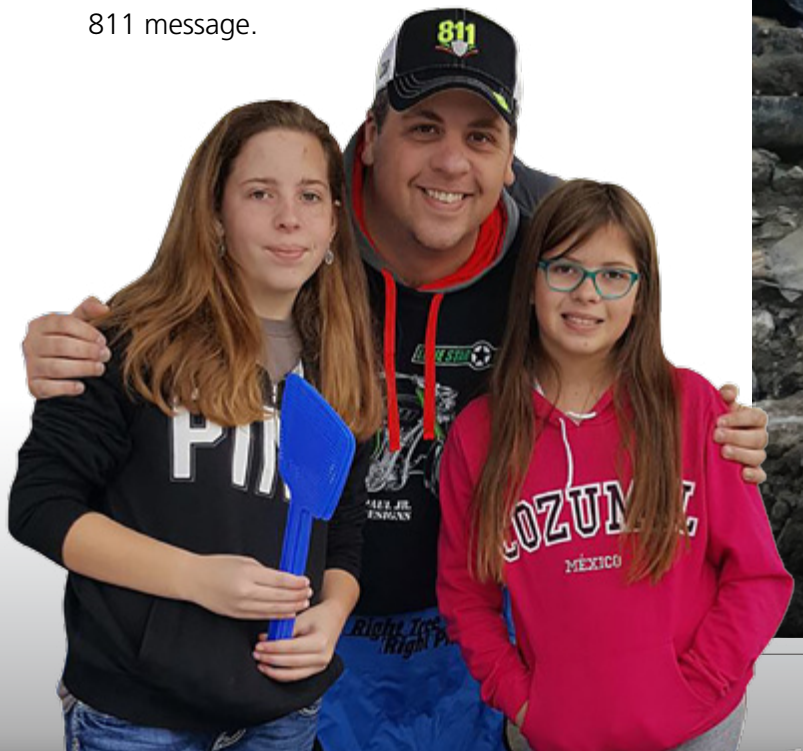
News Briefs

Damage Prevention Liaisons from 13 States Attend National Liaison Meeting

Damage prevention outreach/training liaisons from one-call centers representing 13 states gathered in Atlanta last month to share tips and conduct demonstrations on how they connect with audiences to share the damage prevention message. *(News briefs continue on next page)*

Lone Star 811 Partners with CenterPoint Energy for Tree Planting Event

On Nov. 11, Lone Star 811 and CenterPoint Energy attended and volunteered at the Trees for Houston event. This event's mission is to plant, promote and protect trees all over the greater Houston area, making a perfect connection to the 811 message.



Louisiana 811 Promotes Damage Prevention on Bourbon Street

The City of New Orleans is conducting massive work on Bourbon Street – one of the most famous streets in the world. A special thanks to Consolidated Infrastructure Group for supporting Louisiana 811 and showing everyone first hand why it's vitally important to call before you dig!

Oregon Stakeholders Promote 811 at Event in Eugene

Lane Utility Coordinating Council members came out to sponsor and support the Run to Stay Warm race in Eugene, Ore. All proceeds benefit Eugene Water and Electric Board's Customer Care Program.

Texas811 Annual Summit Returns in February

The annual Texas811 Damage Prevention Summit CGA Regional Partner Event returns Feb. 12-14, 2018!

Location again is the Embassy Suites in San Marcos, Texas. You can get all the information and pre-register here: texas811.damageprevention-summit.com. Workshops this year include competent person training and utility locator training, among many more, as well as the annual golf tournament.

TEXAS811 damage prevention summit
A CGA REGIONAL PARTNER EVENT

The Value of Volunteering for a CGA Committee

By Louis Panzer, North Carolina 811 Executive Director

As a 17-year member of the Common Ground Alliance I have an interesting perspective on the direct benefits realized through participating in the CGA. Over the years I have found myself in different industry jobs and a common thread that remained was being an active CGA member. Participation began in Best Practices Committee and honestly it took me about a year of observation to finally muster the courage to chair a task team.

As any newcomer to the BP committee knows, it can be a little overwhelming as you try to understand the process and sit listening to the passionate arguments over rationale and fine points of the language presented. My personal experience is that membership, and more importantly participation, in the CGA has provided me with incredible opportunities.

The knowledge gained through working with the professionals on committees was invaluable. It also provided a way to "wear the shoes" of different stakeholders and really understand why they took positions that they did. Working on task teams also provided me with the experience of working through language with these stakeholders. That experience was critical when I was asked to assist with the law changes in NC.

Networking with colleagues also introduced me to employment opportunities and references that helped my career move forward. And probably most importantly, the work brought about a satisfaction in knowing the end product of the Best Practices book was helping protect people.

The underground damage prevention industry is built on the passions of people from all walks of life that feel a calling to help improve the process. The CGA provided an important education in what shared responsibility means and offered an outlet to truly engage and give back. I would encourage all members to take stock of what the CGA has meant to them in terms of friendships made and the impact to their careers by networking with like-minded peers.

For new members I would say "welcome aboard!" and know that the organization lives or dies by the participation of its members. Your contribution awaits. Jump in and become a part of a thriving community of damage prevention professionals.

North Carolina 811 and Local Pipeline Operators Hold First Mock Line Strike

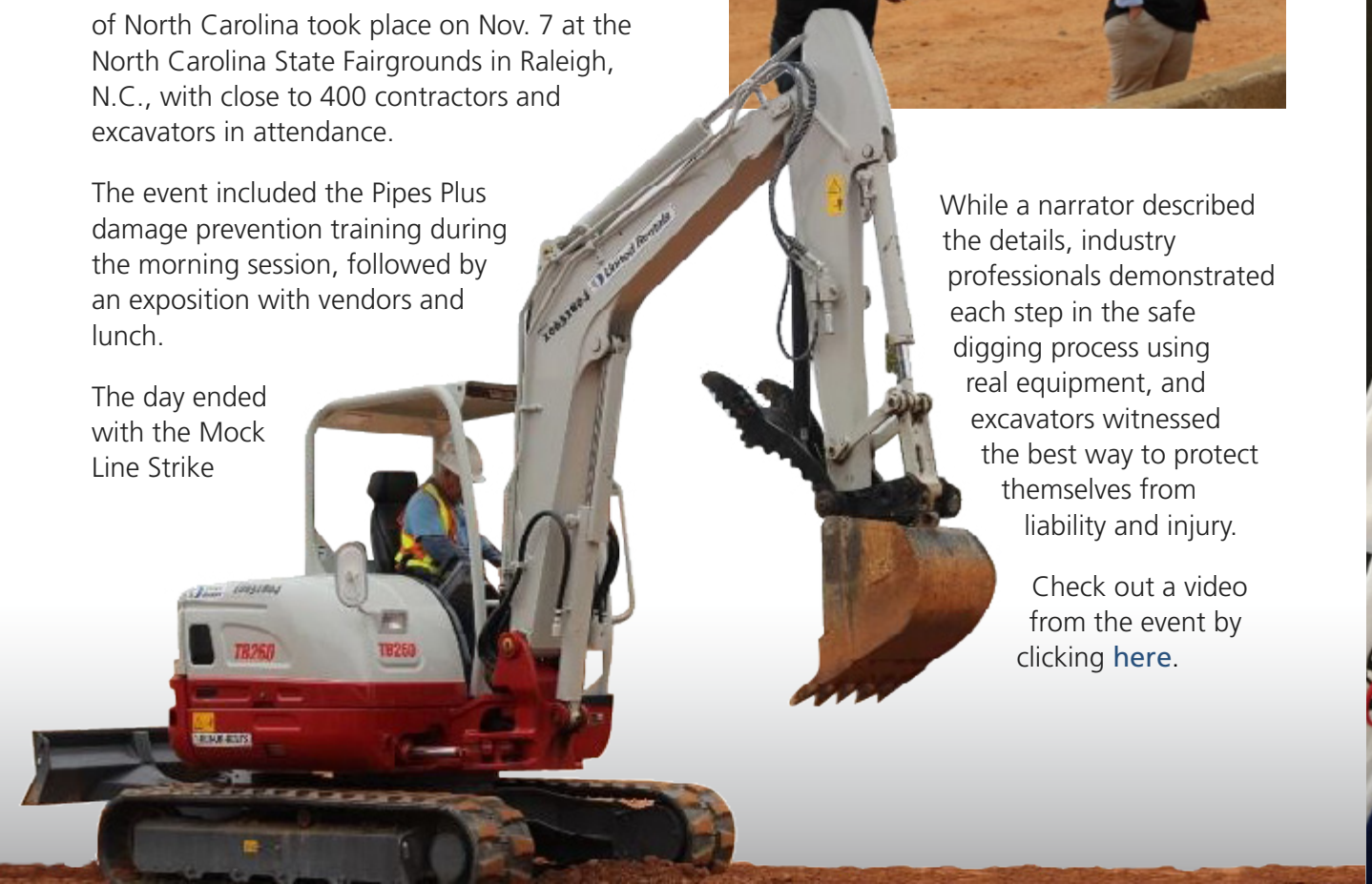
The first mock line strike to occur in the state of North Carolina took place on Nov. 7 at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, N.C., with close to 400 contractors and excavators in attendance.

The event included the Pipes Plus damage prevention training during the morning session, followed by an exposition with vendors and lunch.

The day ended with the Mock Line Strike demonstration, which covered a complete excavation lifecycle from making the one-call request, line locating and proper excavation tactics, followed by a demonstration of a natural gas line strike and emergency/operator response to the line strike.

While a narrator described the details, industry professionals demonstrated each step in the safe digging process using real equipment, and excavators witnessed the best way to protect themselves from liability and injury.

Check out a video from the event by clicking here.



Color Code Holiday Hats

Common Ground Alliance "marks" this holiday season with some special safety Santa hats.

5th Annual

Call before You Divot *Classic*

March 8, 2018

Costs
$150 (single) $600 (foursome)
Mulligans available for purchase

Format
Four-man scramble/best ball

Schedule
1:00PM shotgun start

Team Prizes
Awarded to 1st, 8th & 11th place teams

Skill Holes & Prizes
Longest drive, closest to the pin
and much more

Awards Reception
Following end of play at course

The LEGACY Golf Club

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CGA
EXCAVATION SAFETY 811
CONFERENCE & EXPO

PHOENIX
Arizona
MARCH
6-8, 2018

Space is Limited!

For more information and to register, visit

CGAconference.com

866.279.7755

Enhance Your Experience at the Conference!

This is the perfect opportunity to further hone your skills in one of our innovative, in-depth workshops led by recognized industry experts.

DAMAGE INVESTIGATION

Sponsored by: PRG PROJECT RESOURCES GROUP, VACMASTERS

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 | 8:00am – 2:00pm

- Jeff Law, KorTerra, Inc.
- Ron Peterson, Ron Peterson Consulting, LLC
- James J. Proszek, Hall Estill Attorneys at Law

GNSS UTILITY LOCATE & MAPPING

Wednesday, March 7, 2018 | 1:00pm – 5:00pm

- Mike Bellrose, Tri-Global Technologies, LLC
- Mark Drew, Vivax-Metrotech
- Dennis Heath, Tri-Global Technologies, LLC
- Brady Hustad, ARGIS

GPR FOR THE LOCATING TECHNICIAN COURSE

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 | 8:00am – 4:00pm

- Ron Lester, Sensors & Software

LOCATING THEORY DEMYSTIFIED!

Wednesday, March 7, 2018 | 2:00pm – 5:00pm

- Christopher Koch, ZoneOne Locating

SUBSURFACE UTILITY LOCATING & MARKING

Sponsored by: FLAG SHOOTER The Best way to Paint, Flag and Profit...Guaranteed!, URG UTILITY RESOURCE GROUP, LLC, VACMASTERS

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 | 8:00am – 3:30pm

- Bob Nighswonger, Utility Training Academy

93% of surveyed workshop attendees believe the information obtained will help them implement change at work

Workshops can be purchased separately and do not require a full Conference registration.

Make History

Join fellow colleagues from several Oceania nations for the inaugural damage prevention industry conference to educate stakeholders on damage prevention and safe excavation.

OCEANIA
DAMAGE PREVENTION CONFERENCE

August 20-23, 2018

Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre

Queensland, Australia

- 20+ 50-minute Breakout Sessions
- Plenary Sessions
- Networking Functions

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Oceania Damage Prevention

CGA Safety Materials Now Available for Ordering

CGA Best Practices 14.0, 2016 DIRT and 811 Safety Education Videos

To get your copy of the Best Practices 14.0 **click here** or for DIRT **click here** and look for the appropriate buttons to order.

To order any of our videos please **click here**.