

CGA 2011 Annual Meeting Highlights

CGA Members:

Over 670 attendees gathered today in Orlando for CGA's 2011 Annual Meeting and Breakfast making this the most well attended annual meeting to date. Thank you to all who traveled to Orlando and made the meeting a great success. The CGA announced the recipients of four awards during the meeting, heard from multiple guest speakers and announced plans for the fast approaching National Safe Digging Month.

Highlights are included below. Look for a complete recap of the CGA Annual Meeting and Conference in the upcoming "CGA Annual Meeting Update."

CGA Award Recipients:

- **President's Award:** Receiving the second annual President's Award was **John Deere & Company** for their outstanding support of the 811 campaign during 2010. John Deere, the second oldest publicly traded stock on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), aligned CGA with the opportunity to ring the closing bell on the NYSE in an effort to garner national exposure for 811. Candace Schnoor, Director of Public Affairs for Construction & Forestry for John Deere, accepted the award on the company's behalf.
- **Jim Barron Award:** Vic Weston, CGA Chair, presented **Corey Willson** with the 2010 Jim Barron Award. Corey was recognized for his efforts in securing the 811 logo on three distinct locations of the No. 16 Ford Fusion racecar driven by Greg Biffle at the Talladega Superspeedway last April. Corey is a Business Development Manager with 3M and also serves on the CGA Board of Directors in an At Large position.
- **Ron Olitsky - Member of the Year Award:** **Steve Blaney** was presented with the 2010 Member of the Year Award. Brian Tooley, Verizon, presented Steve with the honor citing Steve's "invaluable role in the production of the *DIRT Annual Report*." Steve is currently Chief, Gas & Petroleum Safety for New York State Public Service Commission. He has been an active member of the Common Ground Alliance since its inception serving in multiple committee leadership roles.
- **Hall of Fame:** The CGA awarded two recipients with the Hall of Fame designation.

- **George Glenn**, Executive Director of the North Carolina One Call System (now North Carolina 811), was awarded the Hall of Fame designation for his years of service to the One Call industry, Common Ground Study and later the Common Ground Alliance. Patti Lama, Portland General Electric, presented George with the award and added, “George will be retiring from his position as Executive Director this July. His contribution to damage prevention and to the CGA has been invaluable over the years and will be missed.”
- **Eben Wyman**, Vice President of Government Relations for the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA), also received the Hall of Fame award for his service to CGA. Jim Barron, Ronkin Construction, presented the award and recalled Eben’s dedication and great contribution to the original Common Ground Study. Eben has served in multiple leadership roles since the CGA’s inception and worked tirelessly to establish CGA’s Regional Partner program in 2003 which has grown to over 60 partners throughout North America.

Guest Speakers & Special Guests: The following guest speakers and special guests provided the annual meeting audience with various perspectives on damage prevention and the importance of shared responsibility.

- Secretary Ray LaHood: The meeting opened with a two-minute video from U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood.
- Timothy Butters, U.S. Department of Transportation Deputy Administrator, highlighted the Department of Transportation’s role in Damage Prevention and dedication to the agency’s partnership with CGA.
- Dan Martin, Senior Vice President of Pipeline Safety for El Paso Corporation, emphasized El Paso’s commitment to damage prevention and safety.
- Bud T. Joiner, Disney Photo Imaging and Walt Disney World Resort Survey Chief, & Jerry Sukkert, Walt Disney World Resort Manager Telecom Services, provided an overview of the vital importance of utilities and of damage prevention at the Walt Disney World Resort.
- Joey Logano, professional athlete, spoke about his partnership with several states involved in Mark-It Madness to promote 811.

Special Announcements:

- Shell Pipeline, who unveiled their No. 22 car live in the annual meeting pavilion, committed to placing the 811 logo on the No. 22 Dodge during EVERY race in April to promote 811 and National Safe Digging Month (NSDM).
- 3M announced that the No. 16 Ford Fusion car driven by Greg Biffle will feature 811 for the August 7th Pocono race just prior to 8/11 day.
- Verizon announced that the company will promote 811 during the closing bell ceremony at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) on August 26, 2011.

Congratulations to CGA's award recipients, and thank you to our guest speakers and to all who made this year's meeting a great success!

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