



May 2008

NUTSEA Newsletter
Mike Bird, Chairman

66th Conference – 2008 – Tucson, AZ

The planning is complete for the 66th Annual NUTSEA Conference to be held September 28 through October 1 at the Tucson Hilton El Conquistador hotel. The El Conquistador is at the base of the Santa Catalina Mountains – a beautiful location for a meeting. The Executive Committee has prepared an agenda with lots of interesting programs and a few changes.

Sunday, September 28 there are a couple of options for attendees; option 1 is a group trip to Tombstone where there are tours, gunfights and the Boot Hill Cemetery. This will be a fun trip with lots of things to see and do. Option 2 is the annual NUTSEA golf outing. Semi-professional golfer Jim Ed Burris will be lining up the golf event. Information will be provided in the registration package that you will be receiving soon. The spouses' program on Monday the 29th will include a welcome to Tucson program plus a discussion and showing of silver and turquoise from the American Southwest.

For those of us there for the educational programs, the keynote speaker is Dave Fitzsimmons, a political cartoonist for the Arizona Daily Star. A Pulitzer Prize nominee, I am confident he will present a great program, particularly in an election year. There are sessions on Hearing Loss with Mary Burton, Arc Flash Protection (really relevant topic) with Hugh Hoagland, Communication with Generation X & Y presented by Lonnie Stockwell and Defensive Driving for Commercial Vehicles by some members of the Arizona Highway Patrol. Of course, the NUTSEA reception and awards banquet will be Tuesday night.

On Wednesday, we have scheduled the JT&S, G&T, and Distribution and Operations Roundtables. We'll also have our Regulatory update after the roundtables.

There are many things to see in the Tucson area. I understand the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is definitely worth the trip. Other sites are the Pima Air and Space Museum and the San Xavier del Bac Mission.

Arizona's G&T Cooperatives are the 2008 sponsor of the NUTSEA conference. Shari Di Peso, Revonda Laws and Tina Edwards make up the host committee. These ladies have

done a great job picking a location for the conference. Shari tells me that you will be receiving your registration packets around July 1. Make plans to attend and join the fun.

He's Back

At the conference last year in Louisville, I gave a report about CSM Danny Hayes and his deployment to Afghanistan with the Tennessee National Guard. Danny and I communicated maybe a couple of times a month by email while he was serving his country. My last email to him read "Where are you"? I had not heard from him in over a month. To my pleasant surprise, I received a telephone call from him on April 22. He was sitting in the airport in Kansas City on his way home to Tennessee. By the time you get this newsletter, Danny will be retired from military service after 40 plus years serving Tennessee and the United States. It was a great relief to welcome Danny home. A simple thank you for his service seems insufficient but is the best I can do until I see him in person, shake his hand and give him a hug! Please put all of our soldiers serving in harms way in your thoughts and prayers.

Next Year

Next year, the leadership will fall into the able hands of Vernon Shearer with East Kentucky Power. Under Vernon's leadership, we will attend the 67th conference at the Hilton Inn, downtown Minneapolis. Planning for this meeting is up to the equally able Pat Whalen of Great Rivers Energy. Do you have a topic for the 67th conference? Do you want to present a program? How about a committee assignment? Let your wishes be known at the conference in Tucson. The conference planning is the job of the executive committee. The committee needs input from the membership. In order for the organization to be worthwhile, it needs to have your input. We spend a lot of time on the internet in discussions about our safety work. But nothing beats face to face discussion with your peers. The networking at the conference has always provided a great benefit for me in my work with Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange. The conference is an opportunity to share in a more personal setting. Take advantage and choose to participate in the organization. Don't think it is always the same people working in the organization – work to get involved.

Finally....

I've been a member of NUTSEA since 1987. I've attended just about every conference since then. I've been a committee member, a committee chair, and a member of the executive committee and now NUTSEA chair. I'm proud of my association with NUTSEA and especially happy with the lifelong friends I have made along the way. Make the organization work for you. You'll enjoy it.

See you in Tucson.....

Mike