

**April 2022 /
May 2022**

MINNESOTA LICA NEWS

LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA • MINNESOTA CHAPTER

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SIGNS OF SPRING!

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GREETINGS From Your PRESIDENT

Old sayings are all around us. Most of us have some crazy uncle or grandpa that is spouting stuff about leading horses to water or if it walks, looks and quacks like a duck, it's a duck. This week I was reminded that "history repeats itself".

Monday, March 14th a bill listed as HF4274 was introduced by Representative Todd Lippert, with Representative Rick Hansen as a coauthor. If made law, the Board of Soil and Water Resources would be required to establish and maintain an electronic database where the public could easily access all petitioned and non-petitioned repair documents.

What does this mean for those of us that work on public ditches or tile? Every so often there is a spur on a tile system that gets replaced as the concrete degrades and starts making suck holes. Most of the time it's replacing an outlet, fixing a drop inlet or removing an obstruction, like a dead racoon or a beaver dam. The inspector is made aware of an issue and gets the repair done. I've done repairs of this type that are less than \$500.00. This bill says that the "public" wants to see the documentation behind that action. More likely it is an organization that wants to look at the paperwork.

The bill was introduced on Monday, MNLICA became aware of it through an email. This bill was forwarded to the executive director and the board of directors, and I personally called some people and invested 2-3 hours trying to see where this came from, what it would do and what MNLICA should do. It was on the agenda at the board meeting on the 17th and Karlen Nelson suggested that we go visit the capitol. His point is that we need connections with our legislators, especially when an issue like this pops up.

At this point several organizations have submitted letters urging that the bill be referred to the

Drainage Work Group for vetting. The bill does not have a companion in the senate, so for now it is stuck in the house.

An executive director of another organization mentioned that some of their members think they are not getting any benefit out of their membership. Looking at this bill, the cost of implementing this proposal outweighs the membership cost. There could easily be legal costs associated if a mistake is made on the documents. We agreed that membership is a bargain considering the possible long term costs.

This is one of the benefits of being a MNLICA member. There are people and organizations that notify MNLICA of things like this so we can act on them. If you want to step up your involvement, give one of the board members a call. So the "history repeats itself" comes because Board Member Mark Morreim said this was tried about 15 years ago, except back then it was to apply to all permits, on public and private systems. MNLICA's voice was heard back then, the proposal was stopped. That's a mighty valuable benefit!

MNLICA President, Stu Frazeur

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**BOARD MEETING WILL BE
HELD THURSDAY, JUNE 16TH, 2022
AT THE BEST WESTERN PLUS
HOTEL, NEW ULM AT 5:00 PM**

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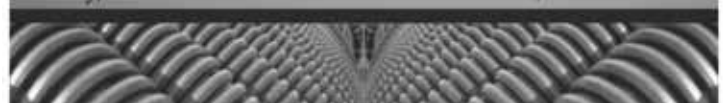
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NATIONAL WINTER CONVENTION—SAN ANTONIO, TX



Above: Minnesota Delegation; Jennifer Breberg, Executive Director, Dee Ann Larson, Delegate, Steve Vis, President, Kevin Bakken, Delegate, Don Loken, Delegate



**Left: Annual Meeting
at the Winter
Convention**



**Right: Minnesota members
in attendance at the
National Winter
Convention**

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WETLANDS



PUBLIC DRAINAGE



COMPLIANCE



PERMITS

MINNESOTA LICA EDUCATION CLASSES



*MSHA Class
held at Loken
Excavating &
Drainage,
February 8th in
Owatonna.*



*"Safety Class and
Drain Tile Safety
Coalition
Presentation
February 24th in
New Ulm"*

DON LOKEN, MINNESOTA LICA MEMBER, **REPRESENTS NATIONAL LICA**

Cinnamon Ridge Farms owner, John Maxwell of Donahue, IA and former Secretary of State under President Trump, Mike Pompeo, visit on the farm, Friday March 11, 2022. Pompeo's mission now is to promote other people into their respective offices. There could be updates on his political ambitions in the future.



"Former Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo and Cinnamon Ridge Farms owner, John Maxwell."



"Pictured is Don Loken with Iowa's Lt. Governor Adam Gregg and Joyce Johns at the Governor's visit in Scott County, Iowa, March 11, 2022"

Don Loken, a representative of National LICA is pictured below with Joan Maxwell of Cinnamon Ridge Farms, Donahue, IA, Iowa's Governor Kim Reynolds and Joyce Johns.

Loken presented information to the Governor and Lt. Governor, Adam Gregg, about LICA's interest in providing training to Military Veterans to become highly skilled equipment operators and assist in finding employment opportunities throughout the U.S. Also another concern is soil conservation and the need for nitrogen control in our soils.



FROM THE ARCHIVES OF LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS

Below is a page out of the "Land Improvement Contractors of the Midwest" newsletter from **February, 1957.**

The Minnesota and Iowa Chapters were combined at this time, calling themselves the "Midwest" chapter. This is still a benefit of being a LICA member, 65 years later!

Land Improvement Contractors

15

To Drainage and Land Improvement Contractors of Minnesota

The future of your work in Drainage in Minnesota is now at stake. In this year ('57) the Wetlands Committee is determined to stop drainage of additional wet areas. We don't condemn their keeping certain areas for ducks and muskrats, but we wholeheartedly condemn their efforts to cripple and stop drainage of surrounding areas.

We need legislative protection so that if 51% of the landowners in a watershed wish to install a drainage system or rebuild an old one, they cannot be stopped or hindered by a strategically located slough owned by the Wetlands group.

In this effort we need all the moral and financial support we can get from Contractors and alert landowners. You can help greatly in this by presenting personally our legitimate cause to your local state representative and state senator, also by talking with local Farm Bureau and Farmers Union leaders.

By joining with the Contractors Assn. to support a competent committee to argue our case before the proper legislative committees, your member-

ship in our organization will be the best insurance for future work that you can make.

With a united group we can bring about proper safe-guards to protect future drainage work from being stalled or stopped. If we contractors will not unite and fight our own battles, no one else will. We have many influential friends who are willing to stand with us, if we will awaken ourselves and lead the cause for future drainage.

It's squarely up to us. Will we lose a lot of drainage work because we didn't care about the future of our own businesses or will we break our silence, dispel the falsehoods used to degrade our industry, and join ranks to combat our opponents to insure we will have orderly and unhampered land drainage as it is required?

Send in your membership today and stand up and be counted along with the other competent land improvement contractors who sincerely wish to promote the drainage cause.

Sincerely,
Joe Derynck, President

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ Operating Member

☐ Associate Member

Your Name

Firm Name

Your Street, R. R. or Box No.

City State

Type of Work

Equipment (All of it):

Signature

SAFETY FEATURE: HAND PROTECTION



Of the many tools that we have available, our hands are the most valuable. They provide us with the dexterity necessary to perform precise maneuvers that even the most advanced technology cannot replicate. Even the simplest tasks are difficult for a person that does not have full use of his or her hands.

Many everyday tasks put your hands at risk. Hand injuries on the job are quite common, but many are preventable. There are many things you can do to keep your hands safe, and here are a few of the most common.

Make Use of Machine Guards

Never operate machinery that does not have a working guard to protect your hands. Always use a lockout device on machinery when you have to reach into it for any reason. Immediately replace guards when you remove them. When safety guards are missing from machinery, hands, fingers and arms can easily be caught, amputated or crushed.

Wear Gloves

Always protect your hands by wearing work gloves when handling rough materials or performing operations where you are using your hands to lift or move objects. An Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) study revealed that 70 percent of workers experiencing hand injuries were not wearing gloves. The remaining 30 percent were making use of damaged, inadequate or inappropriate types of gloves for the job.

Choose the right gloves for the task and inspect them thoroughly before use.

Be Cautious of Sharp Objects

Utilize the correct safety procedures when handling knives, box cutters and other sharp objects. Never attempt to pick up broken glass, nails or other sharp objects not meant for handling with bare hands; always use appropriate gloves or a broom.

Remove Rings

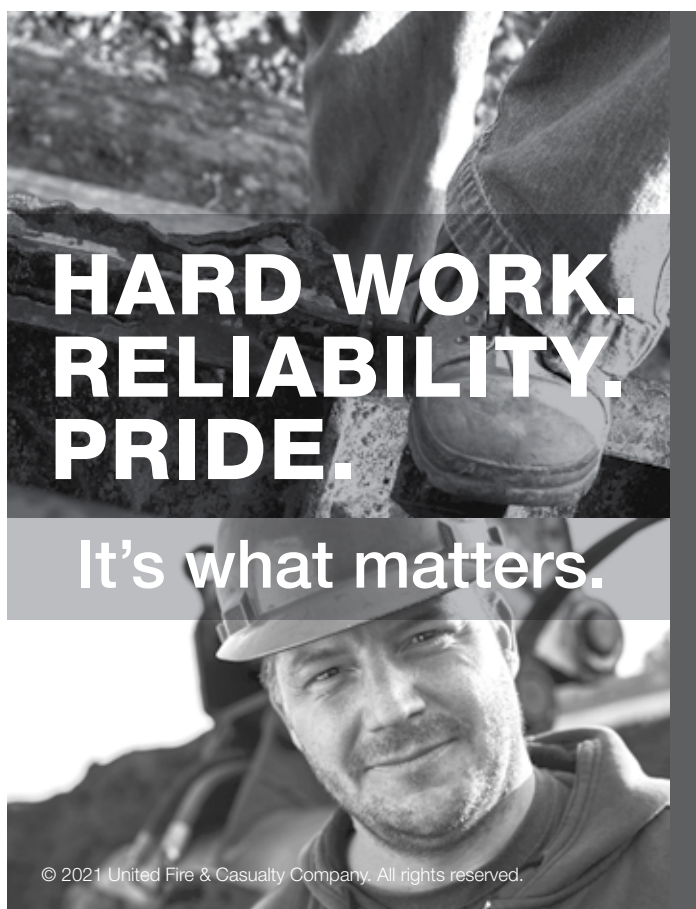
No matter how much sentimental value they carry, rings put your hands in grave danger on the job. They can very easily catch on machinery and other objects, resulting in lacerations, amputation or broken bones. Always remove rings before beginning work.

Stay Alert for Pinch Points

When using your hands to move an object, whether it is on a hand truck or you are carrying it, be sure your path is wide enough for you to move through safely before you start the job. When you set a heavy object down, be aware of the placement of your hands. Always be alert for possible pinch points.

Speak Up

If you are unsure about the type of gloves to wear to adequately protect yourself, or if you have any other issues regarding the protection of your hands on the job, talk to your supervisor.



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Travis Albers is a representative from TC Energy and in conjunction with Drain Tile Safety Coalition are looking at safety for installing farm drain tile. Michigan and Minnesota were selected as states that TC Energy wants to focus on. He was not very knowledgeable about farm taps and Don had a few minutes to inform him of the issues we have when they aren't located. He was very interested and is going to learn more about the situation. (Pictured below; Travis Albers and Don Loken)



READY TO TILE? KNOW WHAT'S BELOW.

Each drain tile project is as unique as the land itself.
Don't be surprised by an underground pipeline or utility.

Call 811 or visit www.clickbeforeyoudig.com in the planning process to identify the location of underground pipelines. It's a free service and only takes about three days.

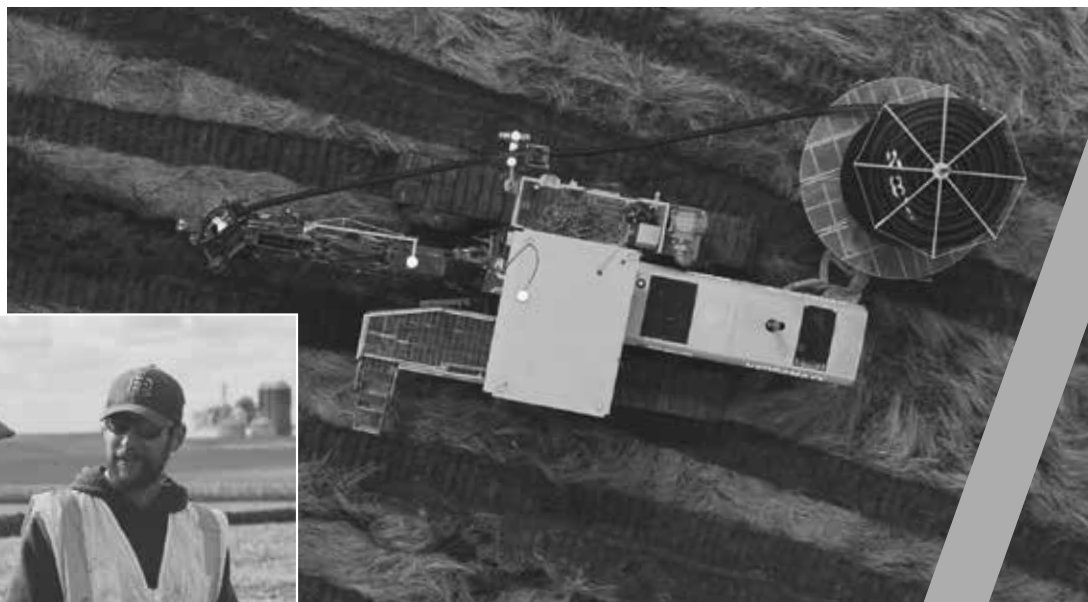


© 2021 Drain Tile Safety Coalition // Photo Credit: Bob Clark

Executive Directors Report

As we approach the Spring season, everyone is preparing for another construction season. Always remember to think safety first. I have been busy as well since the last newsletter. I attended the National Winter Convention in San Antonio. Again, there was a lot to see and learn from the convention. All Minnesota members that attended the convention were involved in committee meetings and planning what this organization needs to work on in the coming year. I attended the Executive Directors meeting in which we discussed what each state is doing within their own State Chapter. Discussion was had on things to better promote our group and the upcoming events within each state. While at the Convention, the Minnesota group was invited to dinner by the Drain Tile Safety Coalition group. We had a great discussion about what they are doing for the industry and what they hope to accomplish. See the information and picture in this newsletter. This will be a great resource for LICA in furthering the safety of working around these pipelines. The Drain Tile Safety Coalition representative, Travis Albers also spoke after the safety training in New Ulm, in February. The Board of Directors met in March. Plans are being made to again hold the Sporting Clays and Golf Day Scholarship Fundraiser on September 18th. We are working on a location for this event yet, but please keep this date open. We are also keeping up with issues at the legislature and how it might effect our members.

Jennifer Breberg, Executive Director



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Your Wellness Matters
Stress

What is stress?

Stress is your body's natural response to any type of demand. It is a feeling of emotional or physical tension in response to an event or thought that causes you to be angry, nervous or frustrated. For example, you may feel stressed out about meeting a deadline or when traveling. Short-term instances of stress are not typically harmful to your long-term health. Prolonged stress that is not addressed can become a serious health concern and can lead to burnout. Examples of chronic and long-term stress include financial troubles and heavy workloads. Stress that is left unchecked can contribute to health problems like heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity.

What are the symptoms of stress?

Stress affects your mental health, but it can show itself in other ways too. Back pain, poor focus and headaches can all be symptoms of stress. Here are some other signals that you may be feeling stressed:

Trouble sleeping or fatigue

Feelings of anxiety, depression, irritability, restlessness or anger

Upset stomach

Change in appetite

Social withdrawal

Chest pain

How can you address stress?

While it may not be possible to eliminate all of the stressors in your life, there are plenty of ways to reduce its effects on your life. Recognizing the signs of stress is the first step to improving your health. Consider these tactics to keep stress at bay:

Plan and prioritize your most important responsibilities.

Limit interruptions so you don't have to refocus each time you're distracted. Some ways to limit distractions include using a Do Not Disturb function on your phone or blocking off time on your calendar to finish a project.

Take breaks away from your workstation to mentally regroup. Consider going for a short walk to reenergize your mind.

Listen to relaxing music to help you calm down.

Take time off from work to clear your mind.

Avoid caffeine, as this stimulant has been proven to exacerbate feelings of stress.

Get some exercise to work off your stress. Exercise releases endorphins that can help you relax.

Try meditating. Meditation is an activity that can calm your mind and keep you focused on the present.

Learn to say no. Often, we overschedule ourselves, which can lead to feelings of stress. Don't be afraid to say no to taking on a project or going to an event if you need a break or time for yourself.

Where can I learn more?

If you still have trouble coping with stress, talk with your doctor about treatment options. Don't wait too long before seeking help, or you'll risk letting the stress pile up.

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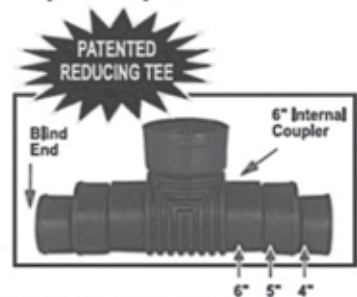
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2022 Board Member Meeting Attendance

Area/Director	Jan	March	June	Aug	Dec
Pres Stu Frazier	P	P			
VP Dallas Loken	P	P			
Tres Mark Olsen	P	P			
Chrmn Steve Vis	P	P			
Mark Morreim	P	A			
Karlen Nelson	A	P			
Everett Garlich	P	P			
Brad Herickhoff	P	A			
Mike Lehmann	P	P			
Doug Breberg	P	P			
Dee Ann Larson	P	P			
Jesse James	A	P			
Don Loken	P	P			
Assc Tim Dahl	A	A			
Ex Dir Jennifer Breberg	P	P			

A = Absent P = Present C = Cancelled Meet



MNLICA WEB
www.mnllica.org

Check out the MNLICA web-site:

Membership: Benefits: Applications:

Directory & Map

Scholarship Application:

Ladies Activities Newsletter Archive:

Contact Information Calendar of Events:

Legislative Issues: National LICA

Check out Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/MNLICA/>

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CHECK OUT THE LICA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR VETERANS FIRST ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GOLF OUTING INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE NATIONAL LICA WEB SITE. THE EVENT WILL BE HELD MAY 2, 2022, AT THE CANTIGNY GOLF COURSE, WHEATON, ILLINOIS.





**Doug Breberg, shown receiving the
National CNA Safety Award.**

(The Gold Hard Hat)

**Doug of Larson Tiling, Dawson, MN, received
this years National LICA Safety Award. Along
with continuing safety protocols he
implemented "THINK" distracted driving safety
program.**

**Pictured below is Doug's wife, receiving the
award at the National Winter Convention in
Doug's absence from
MN LICA Member, Don Loken**



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Tim Dahl - ADS

Mike Kluck—WA Group

**2022 UPCOMING EVENTS MNLICA**

Web-site: www.mnlica.org

June 16, 2022, Summer Board Meeting, Best Western Plus, New Ulm, MN, 5:00PM

July 12—16, 2022 Summer National LICA Convention, St. Charles, MO

August 18th, 2022—Fall Board Meeting—TBD

September 18th, 2022—Scholarship Fund Raiser Event—TBD

December 8th, 2022—Winter Board Meeting—TBD

January 11th, 12th and 13th, 2023—Winter Convention—Best Western Plus, New Ulm, MN 0

March 14-18, 2023, National LICA Convention—Las Vegas, NV



MNLICA

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*Land, the foundation of the nation,
the basis of all wealth,
the heritage of the wise, the thrifty and prudent,
the poor man's joy and comfort,
the silent partner of man,
the producer of food, fiber and fuel,
the basis of factories,
the foundation of banks.*

*All that man builds is from the land.
We often take it for granted, or even abuse it,
and yet many unthinkingly and unknowingly pass the land by.
What man finally does with the land
will be the deciding factor in his survival.*