

April 2023/  
May 2023

# MINNESOTA LICA NEWS

LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA • MINNESOTA CHAPTER

2570 130th St.  
Dawson, MN 56232

www.mnlica.org  
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## MINNESOTA LICA MEMBERS AT WINTER CONVENTION & CON-EXPO

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## GREETINGS From Your PRESIDENT

Years ago I was planning to take the tile robot to the local parade. He mounted in the loader bucket and waved and shot water at people. We had started doing septic systems so I thought, "I have this old toilet in the barn, I can set it in the backhoe bucket with a sign so people know we do septic systems." But plans changed and the hoe stayed home, with the toilet sitting by the shop door. We didn't have an office yet, and I thought that we could build a restroom. I mean, we already had the toilet. Halfway there, right? So I told my guys the plan, and Steve says, "Yeah, except for that crack in the bowl." I didn't remember any crack so I knelt by the toilet and inspected the outside – looked okay there. I lifted the lid and stuck my face up close only to find that someone had "used" the toilet. I was totally grossed out, Steve and Dan are laughing and falling over each other. Then, it got worse. Steve walked to the toilet, pulled out the "evidence" and took a bite out of it! The movie Caddyshack came back to me, as I realized it was a Baby Ruth bar. They had laid it on the dash of the truck for a couple days in the heat. UFF-DA.

I was often the target of Steve's jokes. They were hilarious, and I made sure they were always safe, and not on the job site. But safety on the job is never a joke. Part of why I belong to MNLICA is for the safety meetings, like the one on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April. Of course, you can always use the "Toolbox Talks", also part of your MNLICA benefits. As we head into the busy spring season, remember to make safety job one or your business might get flushed down the drain!

Stu Frazier, MNLICA President



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**MNLICA Web-Site; [www.mnllica.org](http://www.mnllica.org)  
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HELD THURSDAY, JUNE 15TH, 2023  
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## MINNESOTA LICA MEMBERS VISIT THE CAPITOL

Members in attendance were: Stu Frazier, Dallas Loken,  
Mark Morreim and Everett Garlisch

Topics for Discussion included: 24 Week Paid Leave, Carbon Free by 2040, Gov. Waltz's Electric vehicle mandate by 2035, Budget Surplus, Recreational Marijuana, Drainage Work Groups work on the new registry with BWSR and also WOTUS.



Above: Stu Frazier, Rep. Dawn Gillman, and  
Everett Garlisch



Above: Dallas Loken, Sen. John Jasinsky  
and Mark Morreim

On February 9<sup>th</sup> four MNLICA members went to the state capitol and met with 11 legislators. We met with Representative Dawn Gillman of Dassel. As a freshman representative she is just getting to know how things work up at Saint Paul. Everett Garlisch and Stu Frazier met with her, going over the list of issues. We learned that she was appointed to the committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy. This was a good thing as that committee was the first committee that heard House File 2354. The first hearing was on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Since MNLICA had met with Representative Gillman, President Frazier called Representative Gillman's office on the 1st and reiterated that "repairs" must be excluded from the bill. HF2354 will require the BWSR to establish a searchable database of public drainage projects (basically county tile/ditch improvements) going on in the state. It is based on a bill that was introduced last year that would have included repairs in the portal. MNLICA does not expect this year's version to affect contractor members. Other groups such as the Farm Bureau note that this will be a step towards more push back on drainage and agriculture from the environmentalist groups and oppose the bill.

Submitted by Stu Frazier

The first person I met with was Marj Fogelman (21 B) from Jackson, MN. She said that the Republicans would like to cut the tax rates. But there was no way to reason with the Democrats. The next best thing was to give it back in grants for people that really need it, like small cities, counties and townships for infrastructure. Then Dallas Loken had mentioned that it would be nice to help local fire departments and ambulance services in small communities, which was a very good idea. When meeting with Chris Swedinski and Paul Torkelson, Paul had said that they had a small cities grants for communities of more than 5,000 people a few years ago, so the municipality under 5,000 was left in the dust. So, it would be nice to help them out this round. The most interesting legislator was Dawn Gillman from Dassel. She had a big NRA sign hanging above the door to her office, ring in her nose if I remember right and tattoos all over. First thing she says is, I'm not your normal looking republican, I believe in God and I drive a Harley Davidson. Stu says ALL RIGHT. We are on the same page. She and her husband owned a boat lift company with 40 - 50 employees, they understood struggles of small business and how legislation can impact us. I think it was nice to let them know how our organization feels that proposed legislation would affect us. Whether we accomplished anything or not that's in God's hands. At least we tried.

Submitted by Everett Garlisch



Above: Stu Frazier, Mark Morreim, Rep. Peggy Bennett, Dallas Loken & Everett Garlich



Above: Sen. Gary Dahms and Stu Frazier



Above: Dallas Loken, Stu Frazier, Rep. John Petersbur  
Mark Morreim & Everett Garlich



Above: Mark Morreim, Everett Garlich, Rep. Paul Torkelson, Stu Frazier, Rep. Chris Swedinski & Dallas Loken

MNLICA was also featured on the "Linder Farm Network" radio program concerning the capitol visit and the organizations views on the Carbon Free Energy by 2040 bill.



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## NATIONAL WINTER CONVENTION & CON-EXPO

The 2023 National Convention was held in Las Vegas at Harrah's Resort, March 11<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup>. MNLICA was represented by Executive Director Jenny Breberg, President Stu Frazeur, and Delegate Don Loken, and Delegate and Past National President Nordis Estrem. Joyce Johns was also in attendance.

The executive board met on the 11<sup>th</sup> with the full convention beginning on the 12<sup>th</sup>. During this day the committees met and discussed various issues. Director of Government Relations Nick Yaksich led the Legislative Committee. Other committees met on the topics of Education and Technology, Water Table Management, Executive Directors, By-Laws, Conservation and Excavation, Ladies / Devotions, Nominating, Convention, Long-Term, On-Site Waste, and Safety and Insurance. Don Loken was the chairman of the Safety and Insurance Committee.

On the afternoon of the 12<sup>th</sup> saw the membership and policy meetings, followed by Region Meetings, of which Minnesota is in Region 4. There was discussion concerning the Wisconsin Chapter which currently does not have an executive director. It was decided that while the leadership in Wisconsin remains in question that the neighboring states will offer the Wisconsin members the ability to register for seminars and functions at in-state member rates.

Monday, the 13<sup>th</sup> the Delegates Meeting with Nordis Estrem and Don Loken acting as delegates was held followed by the Board Meeting. Later at the President's Reception Dave Gallahan of Virginia was installed as the new National President. Tony Cain of Indiana was installed as Vice President.

Con-Expo started on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March. LICA had a booth right inside the entrance of the west hall. Jerry Busio, Allison Hack, and Caroline Krug were in the booth along with a number of members.

It was agreed that this was one of the best conventions in years, with spirited discussion occurring in all of the committee meetings. The next LICA meeting will be in Lincoln, Nebraska from July 11<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Submitted by Stu Frazeur, MNLICA President

### Below: Group picture of Members attending Con-Expo





View of the LICA booth at Con-Expo



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### *Executive Directors Report*

As I am preparing this newsletter, we are yet again digging out from the most recent snow-storm. Question now is when will it end? Although we have seen the first Robins of spring, they didn't bring the warm weather with them. But, remember now is the time to prepare your equipment for the summer season ahead and have the safety talks with your employees. LICA members have been busy since our Convention. There was the Capitol trip, the National Convention in Las Vegas, followed by Con Expo and the upcoming safety meeting. We will be awarding our scholarships shortly so be watching for that in the next newsletter. Members that attended the State Capitol brought attention to many of the issues facing our industry and the people of the state of Minnesota. Plans are underway for our next event, the Fall Fund-raiser Sporting Clay and Golf Day. As soon as plans are finalized I will get that information out to the members. Make sure to also check out the Golf Day to raise funds for the Veterans' Education Foundation. Remember to utilize the benefits that are part of your membership. These benefits can be viewed on the National LICA web site. Lets hope that the snow goes away soon, but not too fast to cause flooding issues.

Jennifer Breberg, Executive Director.

# IT HAPPENED TO HIM. IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU.



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# SAFETY MATTERS

## Minimizing Caught-in or -between Hazards

Caught-in or -between hazards may cause injuries if a person is squeezed, caught, crushed, pinched or compressed between two or more objects, or between parts of an object. Such accidents can occur in any industry. Common workplace conditions that can lead to caught-in or-between hazards include:

- Working with unguarded moving parts
- Working in unprotected excavations or trenches
- Working near heavy equipment (e.g., bulldozers, forklifts, dump trucks, excavators, compactors or cranes) that can tip or fall
- Working near collapsing walls during demolitions
- Working between moving and stationary objects

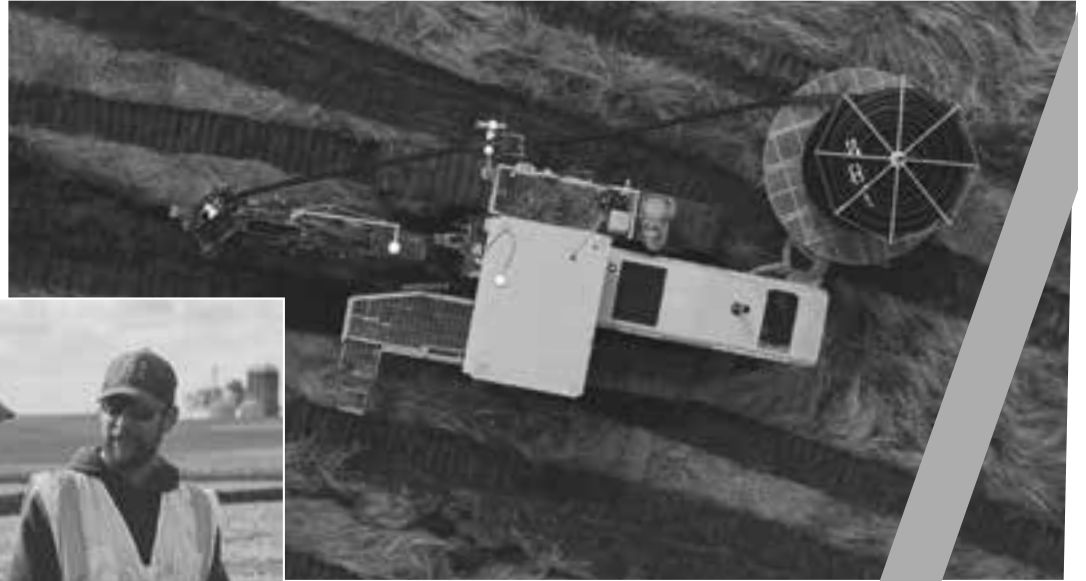
Caught-in or -between hazards can be as dangerous as falls or electrocution incidents, and may result in serious injuries or death. Common outcomes associated with caught-in or -between hazards include:

- Amputations
- Broken bones
- Internal injuries
- Strangulation
- Suffocation

To avoid injuries from caught-in or -between hazards on the job, keep these safety tips in mind:

- Use equipment only once all safeguards are in place and properly adjusted.
- Remain at a safe distance from machinery and equipment when it's in use.
- Avoid walking through designated work areas.
- Refrain from wearing loose clothing or jewelry while using machinery or heavy equipment.
- Report any fallen, loose or damaged barriers.
- Avoid positioning yourself between moveable materials and immovable structures.





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## COMMON SENSE & SAFETY

Serious accidents can happen when you take safety for granted. Consider this situation: A man was adding fuel to his lawnmower. He poured some gasoline, then took a step back with the open fuel can in his hand. Meanwhile, his neighbor walked up behind him with a lit cigarette. The can touched the cigarette and the explosion burned both men.

This accident was due to a lack of safety awareness. The man with the fuel can should have ensured there were no open flames in the vicinity, while the man with the cigarette should have checked that there were no flammable materials present. Taking things for granted often involves multiple safety violations, such as poor communication, not being alert and taking unsafe risks. Making assumptions when it comes to safety leads to serious accidents and injuries.

### **Check and Double-check**

Always check for proper safety precautions and mechanisms, and double-check when necessary.

Check tools for flaws or malfunctions before using them. Do not assume they are fine just because they were yesterday.

Look before you step out into an aisle, even if power trucks and other equipment do not usually travel there.

Never assume a situation is safe unless you verify for yourself. For instance, do not trust that a ladder that you come upon is secured properly unless you double-check it yourself.

### **Personality Traits Can Lead to Accidents**

In a recent study of characteristics of

accident-prone employees, one of the personality factors associated with repeated injuries was self-assurance. These individuals are too confident that nothing will go wrong, rather than making sure safety procedures are followed. Confidence is good while working in hazardous conditions, but overconfidence can make someone take unnecessary chances, which often leads to accidents and injuries. Another accident factor was found to be the desire for dominance. Accident repeaters tend to have decided opinions of their own, and comparatively little regard for the opinions of others or for safety rules. Just because you are experienced or knowledgeable in a certain area does not mean it is okay to ignore safety precautions.

### **Safety for Everyone's Sake**

People who take safety for granted and think that they know best are often the most prone for accidents. It is important to remember that safety is a group initiative, and that everyone needs to follow safety precautions and avoid taking risks to maintain a safe workplace.

If any misunderstandings or questions develop concerning your job, clear them up right away by consulting your supervisor.

### **NEVER TAKE SAFETY FOR GRANTED!**





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 Her love is unconditional her heart has no bars.  
 A Mother teaches her children to be confident and bold,  
 Her special love to her children is more valuable than silver or gold.  
 A Mother picks up her children and wipes away life's tears,  
 She chases away monsters in the night and silences their fears.  
 A Mother celebrates her children's accomplishments if life,  
 She hurts and cries with them when life brings times of strife.  
 A Mother shares her love freely with her tender loving way,  
 She grows more beautiful to her children with each passing day.

This is Memorial Day,  
 In our land of the Free.  
 It's because of those who sacrificed,  
 Who's graves you're here to see!  
 They fought on foreign lands,  
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 Which we have dedicated  
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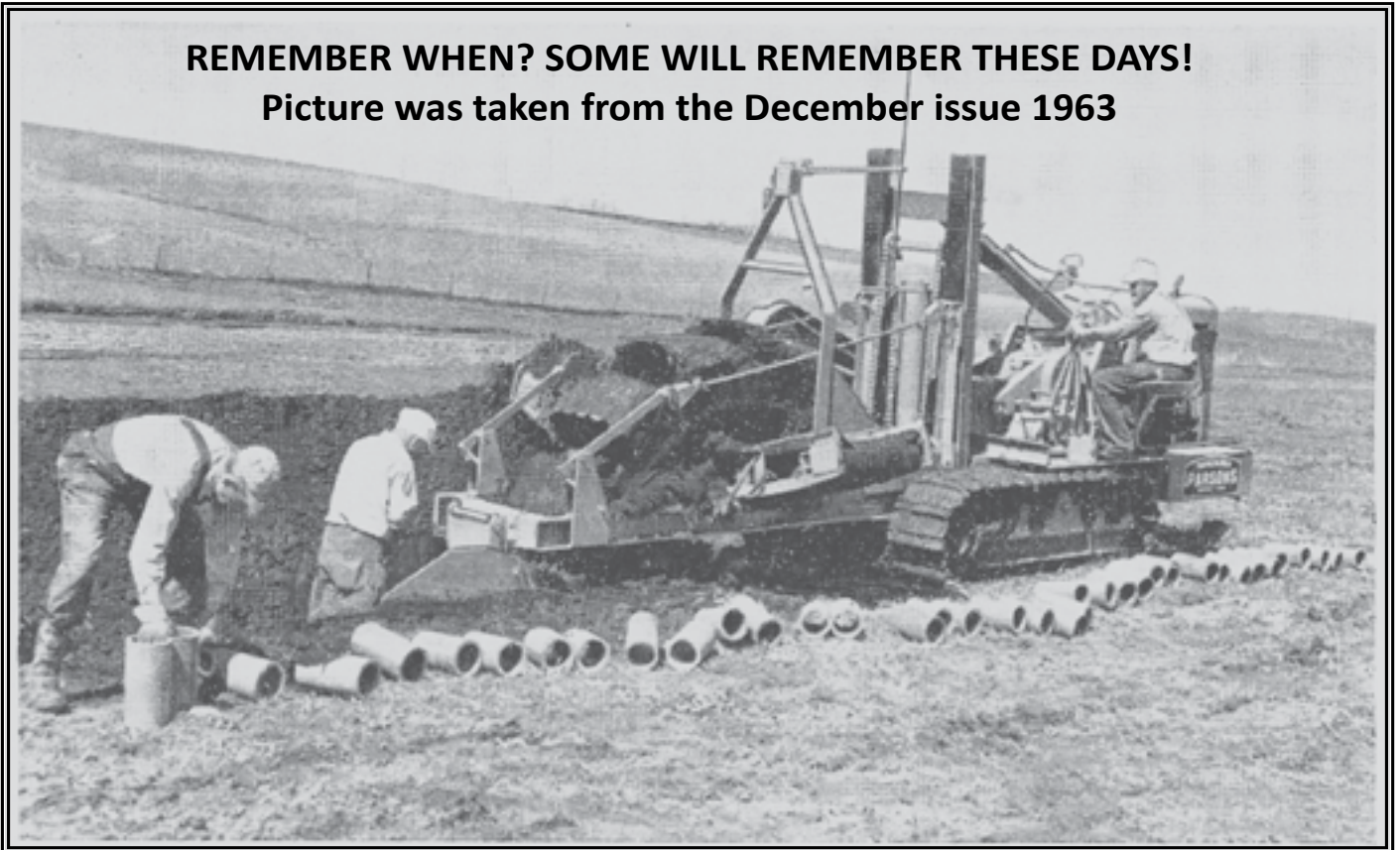
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**REMEMBER WHEN? SOME WILL REMEMBER THESE DAYS!**  
Picture was taken from the December issue 1963





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**2023 Board Member Meeting Attendance**

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

**A = Absent P = Present C = Cancelled Meet**



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**Doug Breberg**

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Dawson, MN 56232

**Associates:**

Tim Dahl - ADS

Mike Kluck—WA Group

**2023 UPCOMING EVENTS MNLICA**

Web-site: [www.mnlica.org](http://www.mnlica.org)

**March 23rd, 2023 - Spring Board Meeting, Best Western Plus, New Ulm 5:00 p.m.**

**April 3rd, 2023 - Safety Training, 8:30 a.m., Best Western Plus, New Ulm**

**June 15th, 2023, Summer Board Meeting, TBD**

**July 11th—15th, 2023 Summer National LICA Convention, Lincoln, NE**

**August 17th, 2023—Fall Board Meeting—TBD**

**September 2023—Scholarship Fund Raiser Event—TBD**

**December 7th, 2023—Winter Board Meeting—TBD**

**January 10th, 11th and 12th, 2024—Winter Convention - Best Western Plus,  
New Ulm, MN**

**February 13th—17th, 2024, National LICA Winter Convention  
Virginia Beach, VA**



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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.*