

April 2025/
May 2025

MINNESOTA

LICA NEWS

LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA • MINNESOTA CHAPTER

2570 130th St.
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mnlica2@gmail.com

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CONGRATULATIONS! LADY OF LICA NORDIS ESTREM



NATIONAL WINTER CONVENTION
IN JACKSONVILLE, FL
THE AWARD WAS PRESENTED BY HER
DAUGHTER DEE ANN LARSON



GREETINGS

From Your

PRESIDENT

Good Spring everyone, I think we are all ready to get back to work after this past winter of not knowing what each day has in store.

My wife Nicole and my daughter Alexis were able to accompany me down to the National LICA meeting in Jacksonville, Florida in February. The weather was great. We had some quality time together as we drove down and back. Lots of quality time!!

There were some very informative meetings. One new benefit to LICA members, a CDL program. National LICA has come out with the course curriculum for us as business owners to train our own employees in house. One more step for us to help keep the wheels of business constantly moving.

I would like to say thank you to Stu Frazier, Karlen Nelson, Everett Garlisch, Jay Engles and Mark Morreim for accompanying me to the Minnesota State Capitol. Special thanks to Mark for the emails and phone calls it took to get our meetings lined up for the capitol day.

Dallas Loken
MN LICA President



DAD

JOKES

What do you call
a well dress lion?

A dandy-lion!

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MNLICA Web-Site; www.mnllica.org
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MN LICA attending the Delegates Meeting

Outgoing President Tony Cain pinning New President Jeff Schnell



Executive Directors Meeting

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MN LICA BOARD MEETING

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MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL VISIT

LEGISLATIVE TOPICS BROUGHT TO THE CAPITOL

Minnesota Earned Sick and Safe Time and Paid Leave. The law is very costly for businesses. Potential for employee leave of 12 weeks. Who pays for the employees' wages and benefits during this time off. The confusing this causes employers. MN LICA recommends tightening reasons for using the leave and strongly questions the need for this program.

Gopher State One Call's law changes. The limit on refreshing option to one time and limit of the area to one mile total, measuring around the area. The rule interpretation that creates to small an area for most rural locate requests. This restriction creates the need for a meet and document submittal. Asking for modification to make rural areas easier to work with. MN LICA is concerned that the delayed locates will only result in increased costs to projects.

Taxes and wasteful spending – Minnesota can't afford to continue this trend. We went from an 18-billion-dollar surplus to a projected 6-billion-dollar shortfall. This needs to stop!

Electrical vehicle mandate needs to be removed, if not already.

DNR causing huge problems for farmers, landowners and contractors. They are delaying drainage projects by requiring very costly water retention designs and water control structures. MN LICA contractors have installed countless conservation projects and the wetland acres in Minnesota increase each year. Also, the prevailing wage laws required on conservation and county ditch projects now requiring contractors to pay union wages. This is a waste of limited resources that were enacted through past legislation. This hurt our businesses and limits the amount of work done because of limited funds.

Public Water Inventory; The DNR is in the process of reevaluating the state's public waters inventory. MN LICA's concern is that this will result in many additional miles of public waters, adding permit requirements from the DNR and opening routine maintenance to scrutiny and harassment by so-called environmental groups. MN LICA urges diligent oversight to ensure reasonable results.

Minnesota Lobby Laws. What are the laws now and does it affect us?



**Representative Peggy Bennet
with Mark, Everett & Dallas**



**Representative Erica Schwartz
with Karlen**



Representative Thomas Sexton with Mark and Dallas



**Senator John Jasinski
with Mark, Stu and Dallas**



Representative Chris Swedzinski with Mark, Stu & Dallas



**Senator Gene Dornink with
Mark and Dallas**



Representative Keith Allen with Karlen & Everett



Representative Bjorn Olson with Everett, Jay and Karlen



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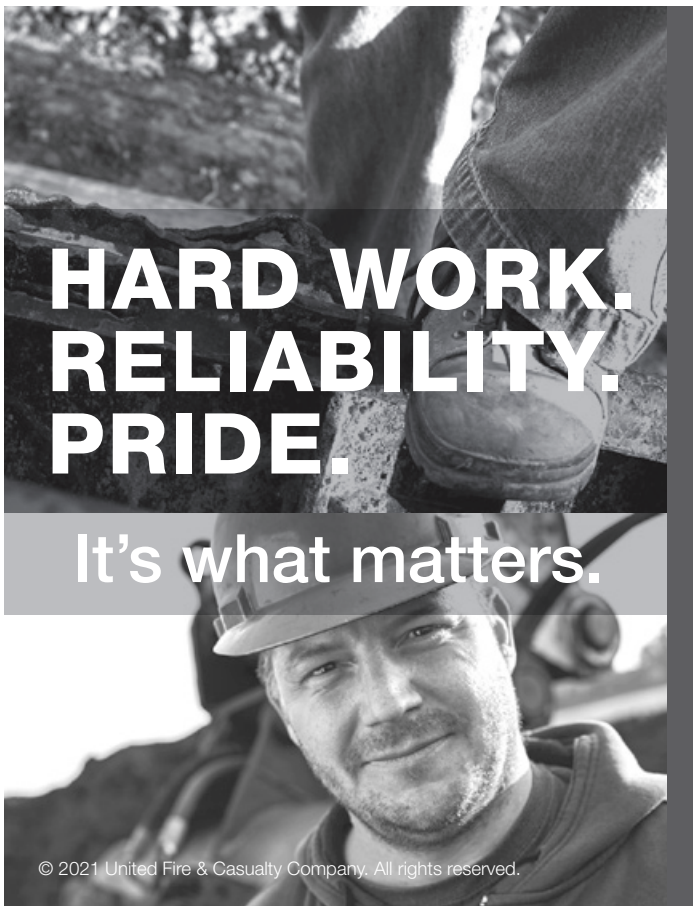


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Farmers, landowners, and land improvement contractors are becoming increasingly aware of the legal and permitting challenges created by wetlands, drainage, and conservation compliance. Working with a team of attorneys experienced in navigating the DNR, NRCS, Corps of Engineers, EPA, U.S. FWS, and county and local governments regulations adds value to the success of your project.



WETLANDS



PUBLIC DRAINAGE



COMPLIANCE



PERMITS

Executive Director's Report

Spring should be here to stay any day now! But what better time to get the employees gathered around for the all IMPORTANT safety meeting! You might ask yourself, but I need ideas on what to talk about and what do I need to cover in these safety talks. Well, all the information you need to conduct a good safety meeting can be found in the LICA Portal! What is the LICA Portal you ask? This benefit is for all LICA members and is brought to you by PRINS, Insurance. You will need to set up log in information with Prins Insurance and then the possibilities are endless. It not only covers safety issues, you can find everything there you need for your business, except maybe the kitchen sink. An example of what is available on this site, is in this newsletter, for example. The Safety Matters article on Mounting and Dismounting Equipment.

I know you might be saying, we don't need this stuff, but if just one accident is prevented by reviewing these safety guidelines; the money saved, avoiding lost time and maybe even saving a life, is more than worth it.

If you have questions, please let me know and I will help you get started or you can just contact Prins Insurance and they will help you, too.

This summer is your chance to attend a National LICA meeting. The Summer meeting is in Duluth, July 8-12. The first two days are exciting tours and activities, then there are meetings and time with friends. You can sign up for some or all of the events. Information will be emailed out to all members on how to register and a full agenda. The email will come out later this Spring! I'll see you in Duluth!!!

Jennifer Breberg, Executive Director

BRAND NEW BENEFIT THROUGH NATIONAL LICA!

As a contractor, chances are you already have the expertise to provide federally mandated Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) for employees seeking a Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

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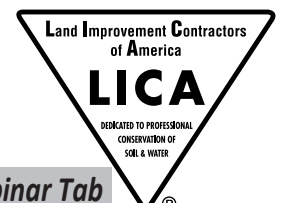
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A presentation of this new benefit can be viewed on the National LICA website under the Webinar Tab

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JULY 8-12, 2025***



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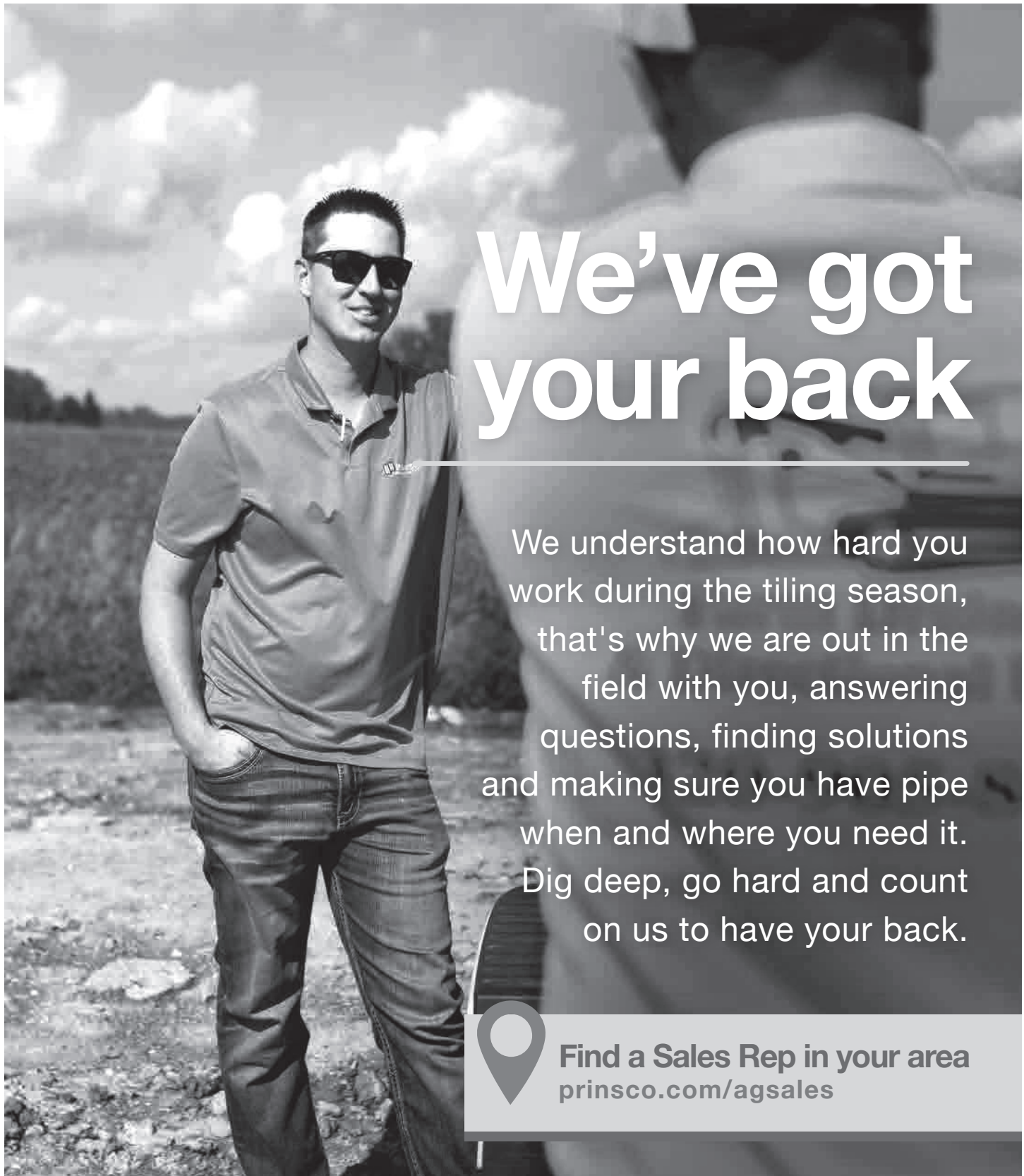
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 - ◆ CDL Entry Level Driver Training Program
-
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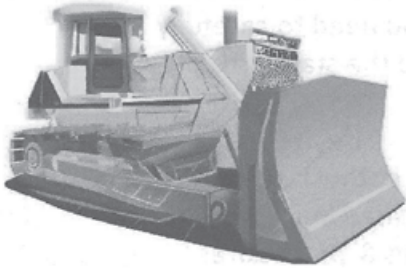
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Safety Matters



Mounting and Dismounting Equipment

Because jumping down off large equipment is a common practice for construction workers, it's no surprise that lower back, knee, ankle and neck injuries occur more frequently. Regardless of the type of equipment you work with, mounting and dismounting safely should always be top of mind.

What You Can Do

When a person jumps from a height of more than one foot, the force that goes through the body is about 14 times the person's body weight. In other words, a 165-pound person who jumps out of construction equipment or any other high surface is exerting 2,310 pounds of force on their body.

This can cause injury to bones, tendons and cartilage. And if you're doing this activity multiple times every workday, the damage to the body can be extensive.

To lessen your risk of injuries, follow these simple mounting and dismounting instructions for trucks and other tall equipment or machinery.

- When using a new piece of machinery, become familiar with proper mounting and dismounting procedures.
- When dismounting and mounting, maintain three-point contact. This means having contact with the equipment by either one foot and two hands or one hand and two feet. The smaller the triangle you form with

your body, the more stable you are.

- Always face the vehicle, both when mounting and dismounting.
- Look at the surface below before stepping and make sure it is even to prevent ankle and knee injuries.
- Never mount or dismount moving equipment.
- Do not mount or dismount with anything, including tools, in your hands. Not only does it throw the body off-balance, it also reduces your chance of recovering your balance if you do slip. Use a drop rope to raise and lower supplies, tools and equipment instead.
- Handholds and footholds are on the equipment for a reason—use them.
- Wear appropriate clothing. Loose or torn clothing can get caught on equipment when you are jumping down instead of climbing down. In slippery conditions, wear proper footwear to prevent slipping hazards.
- Proper vehicle maintenance also contributes to the safe mounting and dismounting of equipment. Make sure running boards, treads, steps, footholds and platforms are kept clear. Hazards like ice, snow and grease could cause slips, trips and falls.

For more safety tips, talk to your supervisor.



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**LICA Educational Foundation for Veterans
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To train military veterans to become highly-skilled heavy equipment operators and assist them in finding employment opportunities throughout the U.S.



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 1 medium onion, chopped
 1/4 cup chopped pecans
 1/4 cup celery
 1 Tbsp. chopped sweet pickles
 2-3 Tbsp. Mayonnaise
 1/4 tsp. salt
 1/4 tsp. pepper
 Mix all ingredients together and serve on a lettuce leaf or with crackers or toast.
 Makes four servings. ENJOY!

LICA
Educational Foundation
for Veterans

OUR MISSION

To train military veterans to become highly-skilled heavy equipment operators and assist them in finding employment opportunities throughout the U.S.

2025 Board Member Meeting Attendance

A = Absent P = Present C = Cancelled

Board Member	Jan	Mar	June	Aug	Nov
Pres Dallas Loken		P			
VP Jesse James		P			
Tres Mark Olsen		P			
Chrmn Stu Frazier		P			
Mark Morreim		P			
Karlen Nelson		P			
Everett Garlich		P			
Brad Herickhoff		P			
Mike Lehmann		P			
Doug Breberg		P			
Dee Ann Larson		P			
Debra Olsen		P			
Don Loken		P			
Assoc. Mike Kluck		A			
Ex Dir Jenny Breberg		P			

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Owatonna, MN 55060

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Owatonna, MN 55060

TREASURER**Mark Olsen**

Big Woods Excavating LLC
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Nerstrand, MN 55053

CHAIRMAN of the Board**Stuart Frazier**

Stu Frazier Tiling
Canby, MN 56220

MNLICA Executive Director**Jennifer Breberg**

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Dawson, MN 56232
mnlica2@gmail.com
Phone: 320-226-6398

STATE DIRECTORS**Mark Morreim**

Morreim Drainage Inc.
71610 263rd Street
Albert Lea, MN

Everett Garlisch

Eiden Farm Drainage
35127 746th Avenue
St. James, MN

DeeAnn Larson

Landscape Gal LLC
3343 Union Lake Trail
Northfield, MN 55057

Doug Breberg

Larson Tiling, Inc
812 Oak Street
Dawson, MN 56232

Retired:**Don Loken**

Loken Excavating & Drainage
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Karlen Nelson

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Nicollet, MN 56074

Brad Herickhoff

Ag Tech Drainage, LLC
40536 US HWY 71
Sauk Center, MN 56378

Michael Lehmann

Air-Row Surveying LLC.
19184 State Hwy 22
Mankato, MN 56001

Deb Olsen

Big Woods Excavating, LLC
12825 190th Street
Nerstrand, MN 55053

Associates**Mike Kluck - USI****NATIONAL LICA**

3080 Ogden Avenue
Suite 300
Lisle, IL. 60532
Phone: 630-548-1984

2025-2026 UPCOMING EVENTS

Web-site: www.mnlica.org



June 19, 2025, MN LICA Board Meeting, New Ulm, MN

**July 8th - 12th, 2025, National Summer Meeting
Duluth, MN**

August 14, 2025, MN LICA Board Meeting, New Ulm, MN

September 12, 2025, Annual Sporting Clays & Golf Day, TBD

November 20, 2025, MN LICA Board Meeting, New Ulm, MN

January 14-16, 2026, MN LICA Winter Convention, New Ulm, MN

**February 28 - March 2, 2026, National LICA Winter Convention
and CON/EXPO, Las Vegas, NV**



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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.*