

**August 2024/
September 2024**

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MINNESOTA LICA NEWS

LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA • MINNESOTA CHAPTER



SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER
**SEPTEMBER 13TH, AT GOOD SHOT,
GOLF AND SPORTING CLAY COURSE,
EMMONS, MN**
See page 3 for details!



WELCOME

New Member: Valley Earthworks, Inc.

Erik Stonestrom, Belview, MN

New Associate: Schaeffer's Oil

Bruce Freerksen, West Concord, MN



GREETINGS

From Your

PRESIDENT

I start this message off with a question. Which are you, the tortoise or the hare? It seems like all of us have plenty of catching up to do. Mother Nature has showed herself in so many different forms this year!

I can officially say we are in the hare mode currently trying to get caught up if it is even possible. As the summer month come and go. It's hard to believe our small town festivities and county fairs are in full swing.

Wishing everyone has opportunity to take a minute and take in some summer before the fall gets here. At that point we are going to be wondering how many more warm days we have left.

Our MN LICA Scholarship fundraiser is in September. A good time is always had by all who attend. Looking forward to dusting of the golf clubs one more time. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

MN LICA President Dallas Loken

A DAD JOKE!

What's Forest Gump's password?



1 forest 1

MN LICA BOARD MEETING

WILL BE HELD

AUGUST 15, 6:00 PM

BEST WESTERN PLUS

NEW ULM, MN

FEATURES

Presidents Report	2
MN LICA Board Meeting Notice	2
Scholarship Fundraiser Information	3
LICA Summer Meeting-Pittsburgh	5
Administration/Hill Hits Reset Button	6-7
LICA Benefit Spotlight	10
Membership Application	14
Member Benefits	15
Tool Box Talk - Safety Meeting	18-19
Executive Director's Report	20
MN LICA Upcoming Events	22
Board Member Contact Information	23

MNLICA Web-Site; www.mnlica.org
E-mail: mnlica2@gmail.com
We are also on Facebook



**MNLICA ANNUAL
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER
SPORTING CLAYS & GOLF DAY
Friday, September 13, 2024**

LOCATION OF THE EVENTS: GOOD SHOT

124 ARROWHEAD DR. EMMONS, MN 56029

PHONE: 507-297-5663

Come and join all your MNLICA friends and Associates for an exciting day of Sporting Clay shoot in the morning at 9:30 a.m., lunch will be at 12:30 p.m., then Nine Hole Best Ball Golf in the afternoon. No limit on number of participants!

Cost: \$70 per person for either event or \$130.00 for both events, participants need to supply their **own gun and ammunition as well as ear plugs, and** safety goggles. There is ammunition available on site for a cost. This includes lunch, complimentary beverages, and prizes. The sporting clay shoot will begin at 9:30 a.m. and consist of 9 stations, lunch will be served at 12:30 noon with golf to follow at 1:30 pm. (9 Holes Best Ball)

All profit from the event will be dedicated to the MNLICA Scholarship Fund. Since 1997, MNLICA has awarded over \$57,000 in scholarships to deserving high school seniors.

We have great events planned with prizes and awards. Come join us and spend time with an associate and show that you care. Questions, call 320-226-6398. **Please register by August 31, 2024.**

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Tel: _____ e-mail: _____

I/We will be attending LUNCH (number of people attending lunch) _____

Name

Registration Fee \$70/each event or \$130.00 for Both

Circle the event(s) you will be participating in:

Golf - Clay Shoot - Both _____

Golf - Clay Shoot - Both _____

Golf - Clay Shoot - Both _____

Golf - Clay Shoot - Both _____

Registration Total

\$ _____

Send registration with payment to:

MNLICA, 2570 130th Str, Dawson, MN 56232



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LICA SUMMER MEETING PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA EVENT HELD AT THE OMNI WILLIAM PENN HOTEL DOWNTOWN PITTSBURGH



Left: Long time Employee of LICA, Eileen Levy, honored with flowers and a gift for her upcoming retirement.

Right: Minnesota LICA's attendees.

Below: Gathering of LICA members and Associates.



Below: Omni William Penn Hotel
First opened in 1916, rich with history.



Below: Networking at Breakfast.



Administration/Hill Hits Reset Button

Nick Yaksich, Director of Government Relations, National LICA

Events of the past 10 days have caused Congress and the political world to hit the reset button. The assassination attempt on former President Trump and the announcement that President Biden will not seek reelection has turned the legislative schedule and campaigns upside down. While there are still around 100 days for the campaigns to make their cases, pending before Congress is significant legislation that will impact land improvement contractors in Minnesota.

If Congress does not come together this year to enact a bipartisan farm bill, extend tax cuts and reauthorize infrastructure spending, the legislative process will begin anew in the next Congress. Given the significant legislative, and possibly administrative, duties of a new Congress including seating of new leadership and committees, Senate nominations, and other essential actions during the first months of the year, there is a groundswell of support to act on these bills this year. While you will hear optimism that bills will be seriously considered this fall, I believe both sides will hedge their bets and wait for next year as the election results will dramatically shape the outcome of critical legislation.

The Farm Bill

The House Agriculture Committee has approved a farm bill reauthorization that awaits House floor action. The Senate has yet to act. The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry has jurisdiction over issues important to Minnesota, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture's farm, conservation, and rural-development programs; food stamps and nutrition; and forestry policy. Both of Minnesota's Senators, Smith and Klobuchar, serve on the Ag Committee. The Committee is developing its version of a farm bill to address critical issues such as:

- Extending a fair safety net and a permanent disaster assistance program for farmers
- Continuing the sugar program with additional protections against imports of subsidized foreign sugar
- Strengthening the support available for dairy farmers
- Allowing farms to meet more of our nation's energy needs

Supporting the economic development of rural communities

Outlook: This is a must pass bill but the battle will be about funding. Nearly 80% of the funding goes to nutritional and food programs so the outcome of the elections will determine how the programs are funded. Conservation funding has seen an increase in the current Administration but the proposed House bill reduces conservation funding.

The Tax Bill

Major provisions in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) expire in late 2025 unless Congress extends them. If the TCJA provisions sunset, most everyone will be affected one way or another. Tax brackets, income tax rates, child tax credit, state and local tax deductions, mortgage interest deductions and much more will literally change overnight. At this time, pulling together a tax bill is a monumental task but in the legislative process, I have learned never say never.

Outlook: The election will tip the tax bill to a strong corporate bill or one that favors the middle class and supports expanding programs such as child care and student education loans.

The Infrastructure Bill

In 2022, President Joe Biden signed into law one of the largest infrastructure packages in U.S. history after months of bipartisan negotiations and tense political infighting, shoring up \$1.2 trillion in funds, including \$550 billion in new investments for the nation's bridges, airports, waterways, public transit and more. Total commitments to Minnesota as of May 31, 2024 are:

56% average state capital spending supported by federal funds;
\$2.2 billion federal infrastructure funds committed;
\$226.7 million awarded through 17 grants for road and bridge repairs;

Outlook

The authority to spend infrastructure funding expires next year so Congress must act on a new infrastructure bill. Many Members of Congress, and lobbyists, will be saying, "didn't we just do that?" Estimates are that only 20% of the funding from the 2022 Act has been spent so the challenge will be convincing elected officials that action needs to be taken. It is often said in Washington that every week appears to be "Infrastructure Week" so the talk will continue and the programs will be extended at or near current levels.

The Outlook

Despite the tumultuous couple of weeks our nation has faced, there should be optimism that farm, tax and infrastructure bills are at the forefront of the congressional agenda once the November elections are over. In your conversations and letters to your elected officials, keep stressing the importance of these issues to your business and all Minnesotans.



Nick's contact information:
Email: nyaksich58@gmail.com
Phone: (410) 458-8048





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Looking to accommodate multiple shifts, new hires or remote employees? Our Online OSHA Training Center is the most convenient way to complete Safety & Health Training for your business.

Safety & Health Consulting

You will have the support of our consulting team to answer any occupational safety and health questions you may have and offer guidance.

Client Portal Resources

Enjoy having immediate access to safety checklists, toolbox talks, webinars, newsletters, safety committee discussions, recordkeeping help, safety Q&A, articles, posters, and other resources.

Custom Written Programs

LSCI will work with your company to create custom written safety and health programs based on your industry, hazard exposure, and in accordance to OSHA's standards.

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Albert.Osche@lancastersafety.com



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Company Name: _____

Member Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

Email: _____ Website (if applicable) _____

Date of Birth _____ If you're new, how did you hear about LICA? _____

Check All Services Provided

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CH - Concrete/Hardscaping | <input type="checkbox"/> PD - Ponds/Dams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CR - Crane Service | <input type="checkbox"/> RP - Roads/Paving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DB - Directional Boring | <input type="checkbox"/> SP - Site Prep./Demolition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DW - Drainage/Water Mgmt./Irrigation | <input type="checkbox"/> SS - Septic Systems/Onsite Wastewater Treatment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EM - Earthmoving/Grading/Leveling | <input type="checkbox"/> TH - Trucking/Hauling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EX - Excavating/Land Clearing | <input type="checkbox"/> TW - Terraces/Waterways |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GR - Gravel/Rock Production | <input type="checkbox"/> UU - Underground Utilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LS - Landscaping/Seeding/Sod | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OD - Open Ditch Work/Dredging | |

Active Contractor Membership - \$350

Active members are individuals engaged in the business of entering into contracts for performing work that will result in soil, land, natural resource conservation or rehabilitation, water conservation, control and prevention of soil erosion, depletion and misuse of natural resources and soil and water pollution and contamination.

Secondary Membership - \$50

Secondary members are individuals employed by an active member in the business that makes the active member eligible for membership.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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 - ♦ State & National Scholarship Awards
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 - ♦ Representation on the Environmental Issues Council
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 - ♦ Sunbelt Rentals Discount
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 - ♦ Petrocon Cat Replacement Parts Program
 - ♦ Petrocon Piston & Piston Kits
 - ♦ Machinery Trader Member Benefit Promotion, buy & sell equipment: Inventory Mgmt System, Premium Hosted Website w/free Banner Advertising, Ecommerce Benefit, Currency Benefit
 - ♦ LICA Discount for CONEXPO Education sessions
 - ♦ Business & Family Legacy Planning
 - ♦ MASA Medical Transport Solutions
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 - ♦ Cleanfire Discount
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 - ♦ Busy Busy time tracking - Discount
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TOOLBOX TALK



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Construction site housekeeping

PRESENTER: _____ **DATE:** _____

SITE: _____

Welcome to today's toolbox talk! To promote a safe, injury-free work environment, we'll take a moment to ensure our teams understand potential hazards (and how to prevent them) before the start of the shift.

AGENDA

- Overview of relevant safety policies/procedures.
- Demonstration of proper equipment/tool use.
- Discuss team questions/concerns.
- Review recent incidents/near misses.

TOPIC

On construction sites, a clean work area reduces the risk of accidents and increases fire safety. If you don't have materials, waste and discarded tools laying around there are fewer things to trip over. In addition, if you stop scrap from piling up, there is less fuel for a fire. Also, in the event of an emergency good housekeeping practices will help ensure a clear and safe escape route.

There are many rules to follow that will help keep your job site clear of unnecessary hazards. Implementation of these rules should help reduce accidents related to poor housekeeping.

■ Designate a place for waste.

If you want your working area free of waste materials, you need somewhere to put them. Having additional disposal bins will also help with segregating the waste for reuse, recycle or disposal in a landfill.

■ Store materials safely.

Materials that are stacked in a poor way can block access routes on your job site. They may also expose employees to severe injuries if materials spill over.

■ Maintain safe work areas.

Check work areas regularly to ensure environments are safe and free of waste materials. Leaving materials, tools or scrap in gangways or corridors will impede employees escape in an emergency or cause a tripping hazard.

■ Put tools away.

If you're finished using tools or equipment be sure to put them back where they belong. Not only does this keep job sites clean and employees safe, but it also keeps tools and equipment in good working order. It also helps prevent instances of theft.

■ Be a leader.

Take ownership even when it's not your responsibility. When you see waste or materials laying around, step up and pick them up.

■ If it is broken or damaged, fix it or remove it.

Not only does this keep job sites clean, but it keeps employees safe from using materials that are damaged or equipment that isn't functioning properly.

The information contained in this service bulletin was obtained from reliable sources. However, UFG accepts no legal responsibility for the correctness or completeness of this information.

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Construction site housekeeping

- **Cords are tripping hazards.**
Extension cords and airline hoses from equipment are common tripping hazards. Route extension cords and airline hoses where they do not cause a trip hazard to you or others.
- **Prevent fire.**
Waste becomes a fuel source for fires. Regularly remove waste from the job site.
- **Build awareness.**
Good housekeeping is everyone's responsibility and getting everyone involved will reduce time waste injuries and improve employee morale.

TALKING POINTS

1. What concerns do we have on this job site?
2. What can we do better today to improve housekeeping?

ATTENDEES (PLEASE CLEARLY SIGN YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME)

_____	_____
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SUPERVISOR/SUPERINTENDENT SIGN OFF: _____ DATE: _____

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Executive Director's Report

Summer is winding down and fall will be here soon, although there is a change of seasons, there is never a change in the amount of work to be done. But always remember, to take a few minutes each day or at least once a week to have those safety meetings. Safety never takes a break. If you need information or ideas for your safety meetings, there are many resources available to you, as a LICA member. I have an example on pages 18 & 19.

I have just returned from the National LICA Summer meeting in Pittsburgh, PA. It is always good to get together with the members from around the United States. As always, there was a lot of information about the industry and this organization. The summer meeting for 2025 is set to be held in Duluth, MN! Plans have already started and the hotel booked. I heard from many at the meetings in Pittsburgh, that they are excited to visit Duluth. This is a great opportunity for the Minnesota members to attend a National LICA meeting, its close to home! I encourage everyone to make an effort to attend. There is so much to learn, not just from the meetings, but networking with other LICA members from different states. I will be updating the progress of the Summer 2025 meeting in the upcoming newsletters.

The date and location of the Annual Sporting Clays and Golf Day Scholarship Event are set. We will be having the event at Good Shot, Emmons, MN, on September 13th. This site has both the sporting clay course and a beautiful golf course in one location. Please see the information in this newsletter. I will also be mailing the registration form. Deadline for registering is August 31st.

I continue to work on plans for the State Winter Convention, January 8-10, 2025, at the Best Western Plus, New Ulm. There will be informational classes, trade show, entertainment and the annual meeting. Make sure to get your registrations in early for special pricing. Registration forms will be sent out in November.

I want to say a special Thank You to Chairman Stu Frazeur. He was absent from the last board meeting, but for a good cause. Stu was in attendance at the Drainage Work Group meeting held in St. Cloud. Stu has attended many of these meetings and keeps up with what they are proposing and what they are implementing. As we all know, we need to keep on top of what the State of Minnesota is doing that effects this industry. It is important to keep up with the ever changing rules and regulations concerning agricultural drainage.

Jennifer Breberg, Executive Director



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2024 –2025 UPCOMING EVENTS MNLICA

Web-site: www.mnllica.org

August 15, 2024, 6:00 PM, Board meeting, Best Western Plus, New Ulm

**September 13, 2024, Annual Sporting Clays & Golf Day, Good Shot,
Emmons, MN**

January 8-10, 2025, State Winter Convention, Best Western Plus, New Ulm

January 10, 2025, MN LICA Annual Meeting, Best Western Plus, New Ulm

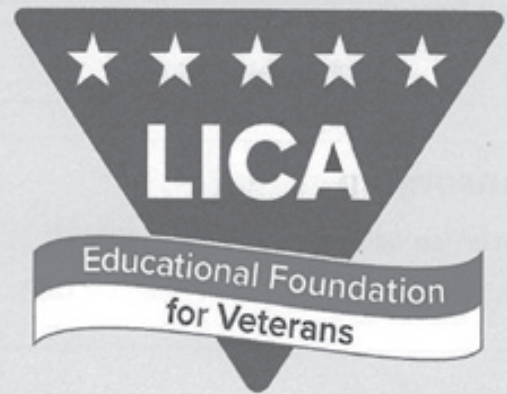
February 11-15, 2025, National LICA Winter Convention, Jacksonville, FL

SUMMER, 2025, NATIONAL LICA SUMMER MEETING, DULUTH, MN

2024 Board Member Meeting Attendance

Area/Director	Jan	March	June	Aug	Nov
Pres Dallas Loken	P	P	P		
VP Jesse James	P	P	P		
Tres Mark Olsen	A	P	P		
Chrmn Stu Frazeur	P	A	A (attended DWG meeting)		
Mark Morreim	P	P	P		
Karlen Nelson	P	A	P		
Everett Garlisch	P	P	P		
Brad Herickhoff	P	A	A		
Mike Lehmann	P	P	P		
Doug Breberg	P	P	P		
Dee Ann Larson	P	P	A		
Debra Olsen	P	A	P		
Don Loken	A	A	A		
Assc. Mike Kluck	P	P	A		
Ex Dir Jenny Breberg	P	P	P		

A = Absent P = Present C = Cancelled Meet



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Everett Garlisch

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Doug Breberg

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Loken Excavating & Drainage
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**SAVE THE DATE: NATIONAL LICA SUMMER MEETING, JULY 8-12, 2025
DULUTH, MINNESOTA AT THE RADISON HARBORVIEW HOTEL**



SEPTEMBER 2, 2024



MNLICA

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THE LICA CREED

*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.*