



# MNLICA

# NEWS

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**Don Loken Excavating & Drainage, Inc.  
Helps Railroad to get back on track after the flood!**



Page 5

**MINNESOTA LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA**

**ANNUAL MEETING  
JANUARY 18, 2011  
8:00AM -10:00AM**

**BEST WESTERN HOTEL  
AND RESTAURANT  
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NORTH MANKATO, MN.  
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**SEE YOU THERE!**



## GREETINGS

From Your  
PRESIDENT

November 14, 2010

To my fellow LICA members,

Here it is mid-November already. A number of us are winding down trying to finish some of the work load before freeze up. Several are busy starting the snowplowing season. Hopefully everyone has had a decent year or at least a surviving year. This year was better for us (although last year wasn't much of a year to compare to.) We are thankful for the work we had this year and continue to try to build relationships with customers and try to find new customers. What a good year for the farmers. I think there's going to be some work to do for them as they are always trying to improve the land, buildings and etc. I think they may have made some money this year. That's good! In general there seems to be a few more people at least thinking about building things in the future. I'm optimistic.

The area meeting is on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Pay your dues before winter and come have a great meal with your spouse and fellow LICA members. In order to be a successful organization, we need to strengthen our existing relationships and forge new relationships. So often we hear that we didn't receive any benefits from the organization, however, unless you come to the meetings and/or activities you won't have the full benefits that LICA has to offer because you will be missing the socializing, camaraderie and the networking that this organization has.

Also, the annual convention is coming fast January 17-19<sup>th</sup>, 2011. You should have received registration forms for this already. Sign up while it's fresh on your mind. It's at the Best Western in north Mankato this year which is a new place this year. As always, there will be some very good training sessions to attend. There's always something to learn at these conventions. I will be attending the winter National Convention with my wife Jeanie and other MNLICA members in March. It's going to be in Las Vegas the two days before Con-Expo starts. Sounds like a good winter vacation, tax-deductible. If interested contact Nordis, Jan or myself. We can get you signed up.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the area meeting at the Rancho Supper Club in Webster on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 3:00 p.m., and then at the convention in January.

Respectfully yours,

*Kevin Bakken*

President MN LICA

**To access what is going on with legislative and other Issues and meetings, please go to the following site:**

**MNLICA Web-Site; [www.mnllica.org](http://www.mnllica.org)  
Or E-mail Nordis Estrem at  
[dnestrem@frontiernet.net](mailto:dnestrem@frontiernet.net)**

  
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## IN THE NEWSLETTER

Presidents Message	2
Loken 's Help Railroad get back on track after the Flood	5
Safety: Avoid Injuries when Installing Holiday Decorations	6
Recipe: Turkey Legs	
For Sale: 1586 International tractor	
Status of the SSTS Rule Changes	7
Recipe: Zesty Hot Broccoli Dip	
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE! JUST GET ONE!	
MNLICA Convention Form	8
SSTS Form	9
Directors Report	10
Prinsco, Inc expands to North Dakota	
Member Insurance Benefits	
Membership Application	11
SSTS & State Electrical Code Licensing Subsurface Sewage Treatment	
For Sale: JD Dozer & 5th Wheel Camper	12-13
Web Site Information	13
Upcoming Events/ Meetings	15



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**RAILROAD FLOOD PROJECT**

Don and Dallas Loken



When we were inundated by the historic and record-breaking rainfall (from 10" – 13" rain that fell in less than 24 hours) in late September of this year, extraordinary levels of damage happened throughout much of southern Minnesota. One of the entities that experienced severe damage was the Union Pacific railroad tracks that run in Clinton Falls Township just north of Owatonna here in Steele County. Don was asked if he would be able to help repair the massive washout of a steep embankment that had left part of the RR tracks suspended in mid-air. After a trip back on an RTV through some flooded fields, Don & Dallas surveyed the damage and came up with a plan how the steep 70 ft. embankment could be repaired. The Union Pacific personnel in charge of the emergency hired Don & Dallas to come in to repair this as quickly as they could humanly do it.

SO – over a period of 5 days, Don & Dallas spent 92 hours each working to stabilize the 300 ft. long embankment with their big excavators (two 36-hr. shifts and then two more days finishing up the project). First of all, though, they had to lay trees down for 250 feet just to access the embankment. The floodwaters of the nearby Straight River were so severe that the area was for all practical purposes inaccessible without doing that. The water was up to the level of the cab of the excavators when they began the project so the trees provided a pathway over to the embankment. The railroad personnel brought in 150 railroad carloads of rip-rap rock (almost 7700 yards!) and our own drivers brought in an additional 1500 yards of rock as well. That translates to over 25 million pounds of rock that was brought in and laid down to replace the huge amount of earth that had washed out.

This project was probably one of the most challenging ones that Don & Dallas have ever worked on. Great care had to be taken to ensure that the excavators maintained stability as they worked up and down the steep slopes. It was most certainly a memorable experience!



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## AVOID INJURY WHEN INSTALLING HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

By Carolyn Mason  
OSHA & Utah State University

One of the greatest dangers of exterior holiday decorating is improper use of ladders resulting in falls & electric shock. When a metal ladder comes in contact with an electric line, the metal parts become energized & dangerous. Touching a power line or coming in contact with one can result in serious injury or death.

**Use extreme caution around power lines!  
Never assume fallen are dead.**

**Do not leave equipment until contact between equipment & power line is broken. If it is necessary to leave equipment, jump entirely free so no parts of the body are in contact with the machine & the ground at the same time. Shuffle or hop away, keeping both feet together.**

**Never touch anyone who is in contact with overhead lines or energizes equipment.**

**Follow first aid/CPR procedures as needed.**

**Use lights designated for outdoor use.**

**Replace blown bulbs with bulbs of the same wattage. Always unplug lights before replacing bulbs.**

**Use insulated hooks instead of stapling or nailing lights up.**

**Avoid connecting more than three strings of lights to a single extension cord. Use outdoor rated extension cords, with three prong plugs.**

**Never tap into the home or building feeder line to power lights or hang decorations on the line.**

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## TURKEY LEGS

6 turkey legs

4-5 cloves of garlic, minced

1 cup water

1 jar Grey Poupon Dijon mustard

1 cup cooking sherry

Flour turkey legs; mix garlic and mustard and spread over the turkey legs. Bake at 400 degrees uncovered for 25 minutes in a roasting pan. Lower oven to 325 degrees and cover. Mix sherry and water and baste every 45 minutes for 3 hours.

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### Status of the SSTS Rule Changes Update provided by Gretchen Sabel, MPCA

The 2010 amendments to the SSTS Code are nearing completion. These changes to the SSTS rules went on public notice June 21. The MPCA held public hearings in August via the MPCA video conference network. The record remained open until August 30, which allowed interested parties more than two months to comment on the rules. In the final tally, 19 people testified during the hearings and 75 comment letters were received. MPCA staff responded to all comments, including whether or not the MPCA felt a comment should result in a change and the reasons for that decision.

The administrative law judge issued a report on October 19 that approved the final changes to the rule. The rules will be presented to the MPCA Citizens Board for adoption, which is likely to take place in December. Following that there are still a few more administrative steps. MPCA expects the updated rules to become effective by February, 2011.

The MPCA Web site has a [page](#) devoted to the SSTS rule update process where it has posted comments received, the MPCA's responses to comments, the Administrative Law Judge's report and a copy of the draft rule. An easy way to find this page is to type the phrase ***MPCA proposed rule changes for ssts*** in the [www.Google.com](http://www.Google.com) search window or in the search win-

### ZESTY HOT HOLIDAY BROCCOLI DIP Food and Family

1 cup Miracle Whip Light Dressing  
1 package (10oz.) frozen chopped broccoli, thawed and well drained  
1 jar (2oz.) diced pimientos, drained  
1/2 cup 100% Grated Parmesan Cheese  
1 cup 2% Milk Shredded Reduced Fat Mozzarella Cheese  
Wheat Thins reduced Fat Baked Snack Crackers  
Preheat oven to 350 degrees  
Combine dressing, broccoli, pimientos, Parmesan cheese and 1/2 cup of the mozzarella cheese.  
Spread this mixture into a 1-quart baking dish or 9 inch pie plate.  
Bake 20 to 25 minutes until heated through.  
Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup mozzarella cheese. Continue baking another 5 minutes, or until cheese is melted.  
Serve with the crackers.  
Makes about 3 cups dip or 25 servings.

### RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER TODAY!

MNLICA membership provides a stronger united voice on behalf of our industry.

MNLICA provides services and programs which you could not do on your own without spending more money and time. Such as MSHA; OSHA, Competent Person and other trainings.

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MNLICA provides your company with resources for reduced costs on products your machines use.

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### BE AWARE!

It has been brought to our attention there is a letter being sent out using the name of the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington D.C. It will claim that your company is registered as a prospective contractor for procurements by them but states after reviewing the records you have not submitted your financial information. There is an authorization for release of financial information sent with it and a request to fax it back. **DO NOT** fill it out. Call the authorities and report the SCAM!

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 January 16th-18 2011 507-625-9333

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone/Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Evening: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>General Registration—</b>		<b>Members &amp; Associates</b> Attending on January 16-18th 2011 includes the Sunday evening and Monday and Tuesday events at the MnLICA Convention. Members attending the SSTS class on January 19, 2011 there will be an additional charge, see form.
Discount Registration—Postmarked by Dec. 11, 2010		
Member: Contractors, Associates, Gov't Employees, Consultants	\$195.00      \$250.00	
Member Spouse:	\$150.00      \$200.00	
Non-Member:	\$275.00      \$325.00	

<b>Children</b>	<b>Cost= \$50.00</b>	<b>Under 2 yrs old= Free</b>
<b>Print Names for Badges</b>	<b>Owner or Employee</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total Convention Fees</b>		

MnLICA'S Annual Auction will be held Monday 17, 2011 to raise money for our Washington DC trip to address small businesses issues, please provide an auction item worth at least \$25.00, or a cash donation of \$25.00.

**Hotel reservations must be made for discount by Dec. 30 2010 Best Western Hotel 507-625-9333 Address is 1111 Range Street North Mankato MN 56003 Room rates \$63.00-- Queen or King**

**Make checks payable to: MnLICA Convention Fund**  
 Mail to: **MnLICA**  
 1146 Ironwood Avenue  
 Owatonna, MN 55060  
 Phone-507-446-8478 Fax- 507-446-0602  
 E-mail--mnlica\_loken@charter.net

**Registration Policy:** Only individuals registered & badge may attend convention events. The spouse/guest of a registered member need not register to share hotel accommodations, but must register to participate in convention programs or functions. **No registration will be processed without payment.** A \$30 processing fee will be incurred on cancellations postmarked before December 31, 2010. Cancellations postmarked after December 31, 2010 will be subject to a 50% reduction in refund. All requests must be in writing. Meals will be on an "availability basis" for on-site registration.



**MNLICA SEPTIC CERTIFICATION**

Best Western Hotel & Restaurant  
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JANUARY 19, 2011

MNLICA will offer a Septic Certification Class at the state convention on Wednesday January 20, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The cost of the class will be \$ 180.00 per person including break and lunch. If you sign up for the convention, the cost will be \$150.00 per person.

Contact Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

&180.00 Registration per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$150.00 Registration per person (with convention registration) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$250.00 Registration per person non-member \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to MNLICA Convention Fund, Mail to

MNLICA  
1146 Ironwood Ave.  
Owatonna, MN 55060

Registration Policy: Only individuals registered & badge may attend convention events. No registration will be processed without payment. A \$25.00 processing fee will be incurred on cancellations postmarked before Dec.31, 2010. Cancellations after Dec.31, 2010 will be subject to a 50% reduction in refund. All request must be in writing.

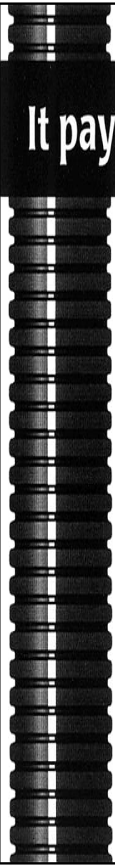
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**DIRECTORS REPORT**

Here it is Winter again! The year has flown by so fast! Hope you had a great season or at least a fair season. I am looking forward to seeing you at the MNLICA State Convention. I believe we have put together some very good classes and there is always lots of great Networking that goes on between you contractors! MNLICA will be having another MSHA, First Aid and Adult CPR class this winter. We hope you will take advantage of this resource. National LICA will be having their Summer Meeting here in Rochester, MN from July 13-16, 2011. We will need YOU, MNLICA members to pitch in and help with Pre-Tours and the Classes. We will be at the Kahler Downtown Hotel for only \$89.00 per night, plus free parking. That is a really good price. We will be hosting a field PLAY DAY at the Bruce & Linda Bucknell gravel pit just south of Rochester. We will also tour the Oshgosh Plant, a Wind Farm, Century Plastic's, Amish homes, Slim's Woodshed, Laura Ingall's Wilder home, downtown Red Wing and the Trolley of historic Red Wing; Red Wing Pottery, the Nuclear Plant and Treasure Island will feed us, the last afternoon (Sat.), we will take a River Paddle Boat on a tour of the Mississippi with a Lock & Damn. So many hands are needed to take tickets, greet people, host the Hospitality Room and other duties as needed.

**PRINSCO, INC. EXPANDS**

By Betsy Bonnema

Prinsco will open a new yard in Gardner, North Dakota just off I-29 interchange in the spring of 2011, with on-site production to follow. Besides starting business in Prisburg, MN, Prinsco has expanded to Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, California, South Dakota and now North Dakota. The contact there is James Duininck, Vice President of Sales. He can be reached at 320-222-6800; JamieD@prinsco.com ; [www.prinsco.com](http://www.prinsco.com) or Prinsco, Inc., 1717 16th Street NE, Willmar MN, 56201.

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### Electrical Licensing for Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems

In response to a recent MPCA enforcement case, key questions regarding electrical work and SSTS involvement were raised: How much electrical work can a licensed Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) practitioner complete during the installation of an SSTS? Can the installer legally wire the pump motor and the low-voltage alarm system? Can the installer place the power and alarm wiring in the trench between the house and the receptacle at the pump tank? The answers to these questions were a crucial part of an enforcement case recently addressed by the MPCA.

In 2003, a home was built in southeastern Minnesota, and a mound septic system was also installed. In 2005, the homeowner had wastewater backup into the home. The alarm never sounded to warn the homeowner that the pump had quit working. The homeowner addressed the concern with the SSTS installer and was assured that the pump and alarm were working properly. In 2008, again the home was flooded by waste water. Again, no alarm sounded to alert the homeowner to a pump failure. By this time, the SSTS installer was no longer in business. It was also discovered that the SSTS installer was not a Minnesota licensed SSTS installer, so there was no bond for the homeowner to make a claim against. The homeowner contacted a licensed SSTS business to investigate the issue. During the investigation, it was discovered that the pump alarm was never wired. It was also discovered that the electrician had installed the wiring to the receptacle, but the pump and the alarm were not available to finish the job. The SSTS installer had finished the electrical work and didn't hook up the alarm. Inspections were completed and the electrical issue went undetected. After many years of frustration and thousands of dollars, the homeowner was able to use the Minnesota Electrical Act to support their case.

Electrical work is defined in Minnesota Statute §326B.31, Subd. 17. *“Electrical work” means the installing, altering, repairing, planning, or laying out of electrical wiring, apparatus, or equipment for the electrical light, heat, power, technology, circuits or systems, or other purposes.*

*Continued top of page 13*

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Generally, according to Minnesota Statute §326B.33 Subd. 1, *no individual shall perform or supervise electrical work unless the individual is, (a) licensed by the commissioner as a master electrician and the electrical work is for a licensed contractor and the individual is an employee, partner, or officer of, or is the licensed contractor.* An unwritten exception is that the SSTS installer is permitted to lay the power and alarm cables into the open trench from the home to the pump tank, as long as enough of the trench (each end and a spot in the middle) is left open for electrical inspector to check for proper burial depth. The licensed electrician must provide the necessary physical protection of the cables, install the receptacle at the pedestal location and terminate the power cable in the electrical panel at the house. In addition, the electrician is required to make all the terminations – other than plug-and-play connections – for the alarm system.

Bottom line, unless the licensed and certified SSTS installer is also licensed as an electrician and employed by a licensed electrical contractor, he or she is not allowed to perform any of the associated electrical work, regardless of voltage. An SSTS installer is limited to plugging the cord end of the pump into the receptacle provided by the licensed electrical contractor.

An unlicensed individual who performs electrical work faces potential litigation from the property owner and administrative penalties of up to \$10,000 per violation from the Department of Labor and Industry.

If you have questions regarding the licensing and inspection requirements for electrical work, please contact M. “Sam” Sampson at the Department of Labor and Industry at 651-284-5820 or [sam.sampson@state.mn.us](mailto:sam.sampson@state.mn.us).

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Estrem Excavating, Inc.  
4605 County 49 Blvd.  
Dennison, MN. 55018  
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Fax: 507-789-6033  
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<b>January 16-19</b>	<b>MNLICA State Convention ANNUAL MEETING</b>	<b>Best Western North Mankato</b>
<b>March 8-10</b>	<b>MSHA, 1ST AID; Adult CPR</b>	<b>Red Wing, Dennison, Worthington</b>
<b>March 20-21</b>	<b>National LICA Convention</b>	<b>Las Vegas, NV Riveria Hotel</b>
<b>March 22-26</b>	<b>Con-Expo</b>	<b>Las Vegas, NV</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Spring Board Meeting</b>	<b>to be determined</b>
<b>July 13-16</b>	<b>National LICA Summer Mtg.</b>	<b>Kahler Grand, Rochester</b>



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