

December 2023 /  
January 2024

# MINNESOTA LICA NEWS

LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA • MINNESOTA CHAPTER

2570 130th St.  
Dawson, MN 56232  
www.mnlica.org  
mnlica2@gmail.com

## CONVENTION 2024

JANUARY 10-12, 2024  
INFORMATION INSIDE!!!

**PRESIDENT**  
*Stuart Frazeur*

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
*Dallas Loken*

**CHAIRMAN OF  
THE BOARD**  
*Steve Vis*

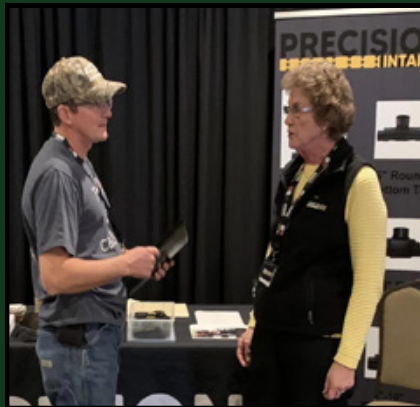
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*Mark Olsen*

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*Karlen Nelson*  
*Everett Garlisch*  
*Brad Herickhoff*  
*Doug Breberg*  
*Mike Lehmann*  
*DeeAnn Larson*  
*Jesse James*

**RETIRED**  
*Don Loken*

**ASSOCIATE**  
*Tim Dahl*  
*Mike Kluck*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
*Jennifer Breberg*



### Welcome New Member

Schneider Excavating & Grading Inc.  
Young America, MN

### Welcome New Associate

On Site Companies  
Little Canada, MN



## GREETINGS From Your PRESIDENT

Anniversaries are sometimes happy, sometimes not. Renee and I have been married for 34 years, and that's really happy, at least from my perspective. But I am coming up to an anniversary that is not happy, of when I got a phone call. Dan was a great worker, he could fix anything, excellent welder, could run any machine. He'd had a hard time as his son had been diagnosed with a brain tumor, but that had been put into remission. Dan was a little rough but had a heart of gold. His older brother was a good friend of mine in college. But Dan had been struggling with pain in his shoulder, and the doctors hadn't figured it out. It was in the beginning of December, Dan had worked the whole day, and he and another worker headed to the yard as I wrapped a few things up. The next morning a load of tile showed up in the yard, it was going to be another busy day. But instead, I received a call from Dan's brother. Dan had suffered a massive heart attack and had passed away the night before. He was 37. It wasn't my fault. It didn't happen on the job. Most likely if it had, the severity of the heart attack would have been beyond any efforts I could have given. But it still bugs me, 20 years later.

I learned from that experience. I value my employees more, try to make sure they have time for family, that they get home at night. MNLICA is part of that effort. Training, building safety awareness, that comes from being a member of MNLICA.

(President's report conti.)

As we approach the end of the year remember to let your employees know they are appreciated, make them comfortable in leaving work to see their kids in Christmas programs, and get them to a MNLICA safety meeting.

And finally, as a farm drainage contractor in southwest Minnesota, I can say there are only two rocks that I am thankful for: One is a diamond on my wife's finger, the other is Jesus, who carries me through this life and whose birth we celebrate. Merry Christmas, everyone!

Stu Frazier.

MNLICA President

**“IF OPPORTUNITY  
DOESN'T KNOCK,  
BUILD A DOOR”**

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**MNLICA Web-Site; [www.mnllica.org](http://www.mnllica.org)  
E-mail: [mnllica2@gmail.com](mailto:mnllica2@gmail.com)**



**2024 NATIONAL  
WINTER CONVENTION  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA  
FEBRUARY 13-17, 2024**  
See all event details and  
registration forms at  
[www.licanational.com](http://www.licanational.com)



**NOTICE:**

**MN LICA HAS AN OPENING FOR A BOARD MEMBER. THIS IS ONE WAY YOU CAN BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF YOUR ORGANIZATION! CONTACT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IF INTERESTED.**

**MN LICA ANNUAL MEETING**

**WILL BE HELD**

**JANUARY 12, 2024, 8:30AM**

**BEST WESTERN PLUS**

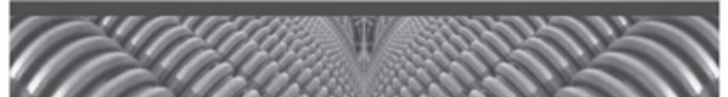
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## 2024 WINTER CONVENTION AGENDA - January 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

8:00 AM – 3:30 PM SSTS Continuing Education Class - Presented by Dave Gustafson, U of M & MPCA  
Scheduled for 6 Direct Continuing Ed Credits, including Pipelayer Certification - Lunch provided  
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM Hospitality Room #205  
7:00 PM Bean Bag Tournament in Pre-Function Area

### Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Women's Program - Meet in the morning at registration desk

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM Managing Risk: loss trends in the industry, common controls to combat these trends  
and how safety controls are evolving, things owners & operators need to know.  
Presented by United Fire Group

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM – Presentation by Prins Insurance, Amber Bosma; The Zywave Portal, a free benefit  
for all members. Access to safety materials, including everything OSHA and a resource library, personalized  
for your company. Up-to-minute new feeds tailored to your company needs. EVERYONE needs to utilize  
this!

11:00 AM to Noon – Minnesota Senator Gary Dahms – Senator Dahms will give a short break down of  
what is going on in Minnesota Legislature and then open to your questions!

11:00 AM – Noon – Lunch for the Associates                      Noon – 1:00 PM – Lunch for Members

Noon – 4:30 PM Trade Show in Pre-Function Area

4:30 PM – 5:00 PM Socializing – Pre-Function Area

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM - Banquet - 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM - Entertainment by Al Batt

Al Batt is from Hartland, MN, he is a writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist, he writes a number of car-  
toon strips that are syndicated nationally and is author of the book, "A Life Gone to the Birds."

7:00 PM – Live Auction, Funds raised help support the Scholarship Program & Legislative efforts.

### Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM Devotions

8:30 AM – 9:45 AM **MNLICA Annual Meeting**; All business to come before the board and election of  
officers.

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Attorney John Kolb of Rinke Noonan Law Firm, back by popular demand, this is the  
time to ask the legal questions that affect your business and get advice from an expert in the world you  
work in.

12:00 – 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM – Keegan Kult, Executive Director of ADMC, will present on how to utilize financial and  
technical assistance opportunities available in Minnesota for conservation drainage practices. The Present-  
ation will also go over how to site each practice as well as how to sell the practice to farmers and  
landowners.

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM – DOT Regulations; over width, overweight, load securement, everything you  
need to know! Presented by State Patrol Sgt Patrick Fay and Lt. Matthew Respet



**MNLICA CONVENTION REGISTRATION**  
**January 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**BEST WESTERN PLUS HOTEL**  
**2101 South Broadway Street, New Ulm, MN 56073**  
**Hotel Phone: 507-359-2941**

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Day: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Evening: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

| Free & Discounted Registrations Must be Postmarked by Dec. 20, 2023                |          | After Dec. 20, 2023 |
|--|----------|---------------------|
| New Member (Joined in 2023)<br>(Only 1 person, Additional People \$125.00 /person) | FREE     | \$125.00            |
| Members, Associates, Gov't Employees, Consultants                                  | \$175.00 | \$200.00            |
| Member Spouse  | \$150.00 | \$175.00            |
| Non-Members  | \$250.00 | \$275.00            |
| Childred under 12 years of age are Free  |          |                     |

**Members & Associates**  
 Attending on January 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
 Includes all Thursday and Friday events & meals at the MNLICA Convention.  
 Members attending the SSTS Class on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> 2024 there will be an additional charge, see SSTS form.

| Print Name for Badges<br>(Please write legibly) | Owner or Employee | Total |
|---|-------------------|-------|
|   |                   |       |
|   |                   |       |
|   |                   |       |
|   |                   |       |

**MNLICA'S Annual Auction will be held on Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to raise money for our Political Action fund and Scholarship Fund, please provide an auction item that has a suggested minimum value of \$25.00 or more or a cash donation.**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Hotel reservations must be made for discount by December 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2023<br><b>Best Western Plus Hotel</b><br><b>2101 South Broadway Street</b><br><b>New Ulm, MN 56073</b><br><b>Phone: 507-359-2941</b><br><b>Room Rate \$105.00 + Tax</b> | <b>Make checks payable to: MNLICA Convention Fund</b><br><b>Mail to: MNLICA</b><br><b>2570 130<sup>th</sup> Str.</b><br><b>Dawson, MN 56232</b><br><b>Phone: 320-226-6398</b><br><b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:mnlica2@gmail.com">mnlica2@gmail.com</a></b> |
|--|--|

**Registration Policy:** Only individuals registered and with a 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 \$30.00 processing fee will be incurred on cancellations postmarked before December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Cancellations postmarked after December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 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.

# MN LICA SEPTIC CERTIFICATION

## JANUARY 10, 2024

**Best Western Plus Hotel, 2101 South Broadway Street, New Ulm MN 56073**

\*\*\*\*\*

MNLICA will offer a Septic Certification Class at the state convention on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The cost of the class will be \$185.00 per person including breaks and lunch. **If you sign up for the convention, the cost will be \$160.00 per person.**

Forms and payment must be postmarked no later than *December 20, 2023*. **Payment must be received with this form, if not, you will not be registered until payment is received. (Please write legibly.)**

***MPCA has agreed to 6 Direct Continuing Education Credits for this Class.***

***Class will include SSTS Program Overview, Rules and Regulations and Pipelayer Certification!!!***

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Names of Attendees (Print legibly): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\$160.00 Registration per person (with convention registration)     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$185.00 Registration per person     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$260.00 Registration per person non-member     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to MNLICA Convention Fund, Mail to: **MNLICA  
2570 130<sup>th</sup> Str.  
Dawson, MN 56232**

Registration Policy: Only individuals registered and with a badge may attend convention events. No registration will be processed without payment. A \$30.00 processing fee will be incurred on cancellations post-marked before December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Cancellations after December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 will be subject to a 50% reduction in refund. All requests must be in writing.

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you should contact: Nan Merrill, (402) 944-2331 or  
[nan@thejohnsoncompany.net](mailto:nan@thejohnsoncompany.net)



**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**MSHA REFRESHER CERTIFICATION - JANUARY 23, 2024**  
**OWATONNA VFW**  
**Watch for Registration forms, mailed mid-December!**

# 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.

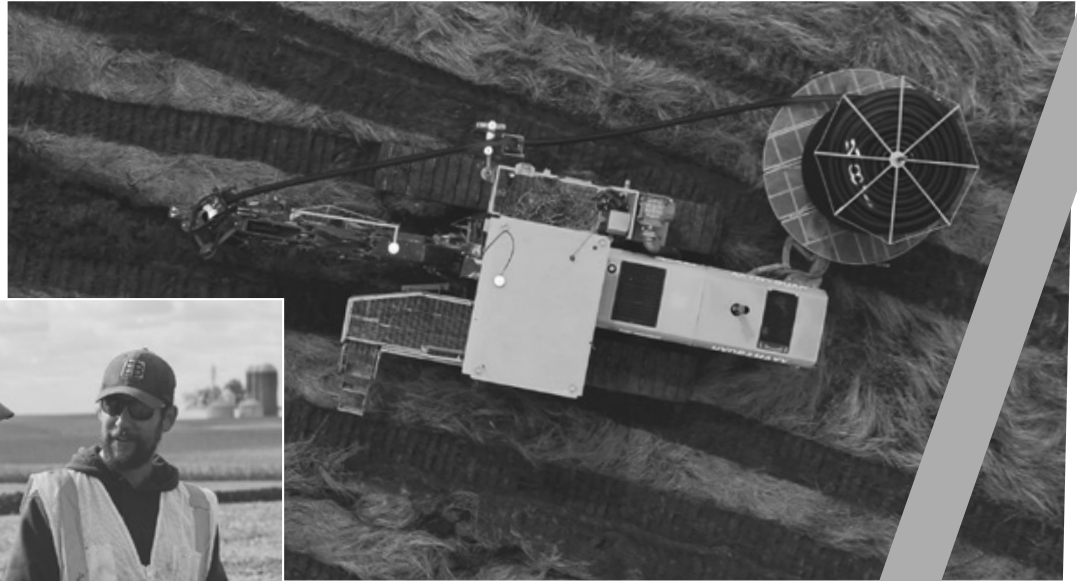
This can cause injury to bones, tendons and cartilage. And if you're doing this activity multiple times every workday, the damage to the body can be extensive.

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.



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### Executive Directors Report

Greetings; As we approach the end of another year and winter season begins, we start the MN LICA new year with the Annual Winter Convention. We have a great agenda set for the Convention. Please see the convention information, agenda, registration and registration for the SSTS continuing education class, pages 4-6.

I hope many of you will join us for the convention, this is a great opportunity to learn something, talk with our Associates at the Trade Show, network with other members, and also enjoy good food, great entertainment and fellowship.

If you haven't attended the Convention before or haven't attended for some time, you need to make this the year!

As the new year starts we have scheduled the MSHA certification training January 23rd in Owatonna at the VFW, be watching the mail for the registration information. There will also be additional safety training in the months to follow. Information will be sent to members as soon as arrangements are made.

The National Winter Convention is in February, for information see [www.licanational.com](http://www.licanational.com) and click on the events tab.

Jennifer Breberg, Executive Director.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose check payable in the appropriate amount as indicated below and mail this form to:

**MNLICA**  
**2570 130th Str**  
**Dawson, MN 56232**

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Contractor Member</b> | <b>\$350.00</b> |
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- ◆ National LICA Contractor Magazine
- ◆ LICA Contractor Safety Management Plan (A Comprehensive Safety Program & Up-To-Date Information on OSHA Regulations)
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DO YOU OR AN EMPLOYEE OF YOUR  
 COMPANY HAVE A CHILD THAT WILL BE  
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\*\*\*\*\*

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MNLICA offers a scholarship for advanced education to a qualified high school senior. Candidates will be considered and the recipients selected based on applicants' ability to achieve their highest aspirations' through personal advancement, education and philanthropic service.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2024 SCHOLARSHIP ARE DUE MARCH 1ST, 2024

See the full application on the MNLICA website ([mnlica.org](http://mnlica.org)) or email: [mnlica2@gmail.com](mailto:mnlica2@gmail.com) to receive an application.

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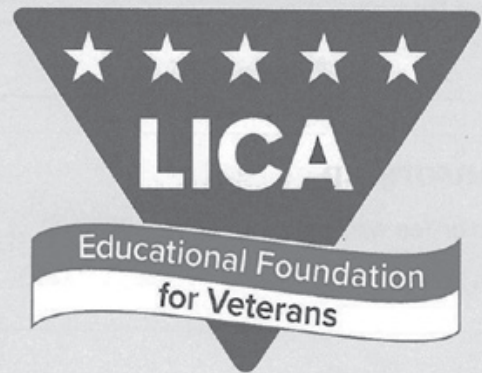


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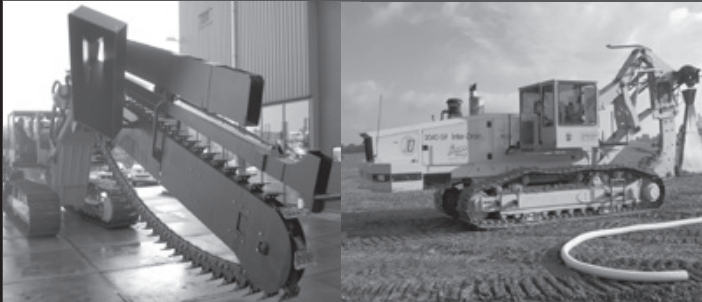
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**2023 Board Member Meeting Attendance**

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

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



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## MEXICAN CASSEROLE

Submitted by: Nordis Estrem

1# Ground Beef - place in skillet and brown and drain

Put 1-package Taco Seasoning Mix - dry onto drained ground beef and mix

Use 9 x 13 cake pan: Add below ingredients and mix well, then add ground beef mixture.

15 oz. frozen corn

1 - cup chunky salsa

1 - cup sliced black olives

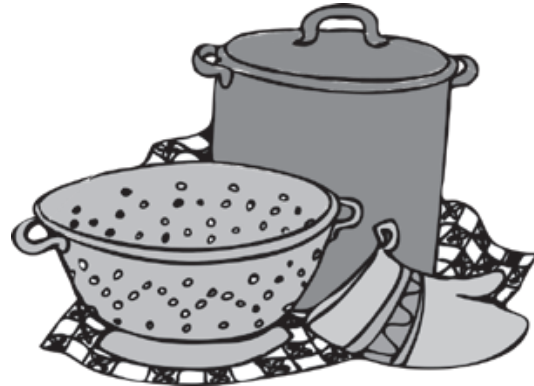
1 - can kidney beans - drained

1/2 cup tomato sauce

Heat oven to 325° and bake covered for 1/2 to 3/4 hour.

May add cheese on top at the end.

ENJOY!



## LICA WATER MANAGEMENT FORUM

*Professionals planning for the future!*

**DATE:** June 13 & 14, 2024

**LOCATION:** St. Joseph's  
College  
Rensselaer, Indiana

See [licanational.com](http://licanational.com) for complete information, under the event tab.

Water management professionals will unite at the LICA Water Management Forum—an exclusive platform bringing together contractors, farmers, government officials, the education community, and other industry leaders in water management solutions. The two-day event will overflow with opportunities for education, demonstration, networking, sponsorship, and exhibition.

The LICA Water Management Forum will take place at the historic St. Joseph's College, centrally located in Rensselaer, Indiana. The beautiful campus features classrooms and a spacious auditorium for educational seminars, a foyer with floor-to-ceiling windows for indoor exhibits and social gatherings, and over ten acres of training ground for outdoor exhibits and demonstrations.

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Phone: 630-548-1984  
Fax: 630-548-9189

**2023 - 2024 UPCOMING EVENTS MNLICA**

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

**November 30, 2023—Winter Board Meeting 5:00 PM - Best Western Plus, New Ulm**

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

**January 23, 2024 - MSHA Certification - Owatonna VFW**

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

**June 13 & 14, 2024 LICA Water Management Forum, Rensselaer, IN**

**July 9th - 14th, 2024, National Summer Meeting  
Pittsburgh, PA**





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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.*