

February 2024/
March 2024

MINNESOTA LICA NEWS

LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA • MINNESOTA CHAPTER

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High School Seniors it's time to send in the
MN LICA Scholarship Application!

Deadline is
March 1, 2024.

Find out more information and the application at
www.mnlica.org or find the application inside
this issue. (Page 16)

Also, apply for the
National LICA Scholarship!
High School Seniors & 1st year College
Students can apply

Deadline for that application is
March 15, 2024.

Applications can be found at
www.licanational.com, click on the About tab, to
find the scholarship application.

Welcome New Member

Barth Construction
Dennis Barth
Chatfield, MN



GREETINGS
From Your
PRESIDENT

As 2023 has ended and 2024 has begun we always seem to reflect on the past year. How did we do? What could we have done better? A friend of mine Aaron passed away this past summer before he could harvest his crop. Aaron had a saying, *“Don’t look back you are not going that way.”*

I think of him often and though we were not close friends, I think about his message. Start the day with a smile, some humor or maybe just a deep breath knowing everything will be fine. It’s amazing how infectious a smile, a positive attitude can be to those you surround. It’s important to look where we are going not always where we have been.

Our patience gets tested every day. Whether it be, weather, equipment or staffing. Some of the best moments are teaching an employee a new task, or even when a plan comes together. I ask you to reflect on how you can help those around you? At the end of the day the ones that we help never realize what we are trying to do but they are in our thoughts. After all, their success is our success.

I write these first paragraphs at the start of my presidency of MN LICA. We serve on this board to help everyone. If at anytime someone has thoughts or ideas my phone is always on. I hope this message find you well and safe travels into 2024.

Dallas Loken, MN LICA President

MN LICA BOARD MEETING
WILL BE HELD
MARCH 14, 2024, 5:00 PM
BEST WESTERN PLUS
NEW ULM, MN



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MNLICA Web-Site; www.mnlica.org
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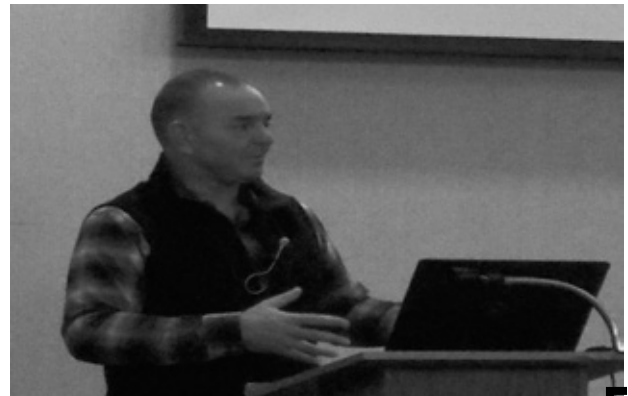
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MN LICA CONVENTION 2024 SPEAKERS & CLASSES



UFG SPEAKS ABOUT MANAGING RISKS



**ATTORNEY JOHN KOLB - THE HISTORY OF
DRIANAGE AND WHAT IS HAPPENING
IN THE
LEGAL WORLD WITH DRAINAGE**



**AMBER BOSMA, PR/NS INS. -
How to utilize the LICA SAFETY PORTAL**



**MN SENATOR GARY DAHMS -
WHATS GOING ON IN
MN LEGISLATOR**



**DAVE GUSTAFSON—U OF M
SSTS CONTINUING EDUCATION
CLASS**



**MN STATE PATROL OFFICERS
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2024 AWARDS BANQUET AND ENTERTAINMENT



**CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR
AWARDED TO
MARK (OLE) OLSEN,
BIG WOODS EXCAVATING**

**ACCEPTING THE AWARD FOR
MARK IS HIS WIFE DEB AND
FAMILY**

**CONGRATULATIONS
MARK!**

**CONTRACTOR WIFE
OF THE YEAR
AWARDED TO
DEB OLSEN**

***IT WAS UNKNOWN TO DEB THAT
WHEN SHE WAS THERE TO
ACCEPT THE AWARD FOR HER
HUSBAND IN HIS ABSENCE, SHE
WAS ALSO BEING AWARDED
CONTRACTOR WIFE OF THE
YEAR!***

**CONGRATULATIONS
DEB!**





**THIS YEARS AWARD FOR
ASSOCIATE OF THE YEAR WAS
AWARDED TO ISG'S
CHUCK BRANDEL**

CONGRATULATIONS!

**ALL AWARDS WERE AWARDED BY
MN LICA PRESIDENT
STU FRAZEUR**

**WE ENJOYED SPECIAL MUSICAL
ENTERTAINMENT BY
ADDISON LOKEN
DAUGHTER OF
DALLAS & NICOLE LOKEN.**



**WE ALSO ENJOYED THE STORYTELLING
TALENT OF AL BATT A MINNESOTA NATIVE.
LEARNING ABOUT "LIVING A GOOD LIFE IN
THE GOOD OLD DAYS"**





**PRESIDENT
STU FRAZEUR
HANDS OVER THE
GAVEL TO
NEW PRESIDENT
DALLAS LOKEN.**



**NEW PRESIDENT
DALLAS LOKEN
SWEARS IN
NEWLY ELECTED
VICE PRESIDENT
JESSE JAMES.**

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LICA WATER MANAGEMENT FORUM

Professionals planning for the future!

DATE: June 13 & 14, 2024

LOCATION: St. Joseph's College
Rensselaer, Indiana

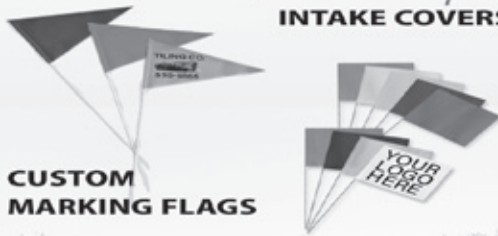
See licanational.com for complete information, under the event tab.

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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LET'S GO TO THE CAPITOL!!!

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GOING TO TALK WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS WITH THE GROUP FROM MN LICA, PLEASE CONTACT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT 320-226-6398. PLANS ARE TO ATTEND IN FEBRUARY.

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News of the Drainage Work Group

Lets all go to the Capitol!

The Drainage Work Group is a legislatively created body of Minnesota drainage stakeholders. Participants include agencies such as the Board of Soil and Water Resources, DNR, MNDOT, Department of Agriculture and others. Some of the non-governmental organizations include MNLICA, Minnesota Association of Counties, Minnesota Watersheds, Minnesota Corn Growers, Minnesota Farmers Union, Minnesota Farm Bureau. The environmental organizations include the Friends of the Minnesota Valley, Izaak Walton League and Minnesota Citizens for Environmental Advocacy.

During the last session of legislature, environmental groups pushed for a change in notification of projects involving public ditches and also required the DWG to develop a report on the term "outlet adequacy."

Proposed early notification would also require BWSR to administer a website where anyone could search drainage projects, such as new or improved county ditch systems. Environmentalist groups have pushed hard on this issue, claiming it will save money by requiring changes earlier in the design process. The environmentalist groups hold it is necessary to oversee the design process and push for changes such as surge ponds, lower drainage coefficients, abandonment of the project or other measures.

The process of working with the DWG has not been as fast as the environmentalist groups desire. It is apparent that their perspective of drainage is one sided which makes drainage supporters very concerned and less likely to negotiate. Negotiations broke down when Izaak Walton and the Friends of the Minnesota Valley boycotted a meeting and sent a letter stating that they believed that negotiating was pointless.

Outlet Adequacy subcommittee discussion also suffered from diametrically opposed points of view. The environmentalist groups hold that soybeans and tile are responsible for increased flow and bank destabilization in the Minnesota River. They are hesitant to acknowledge that increased river flows maybe the result of increased precipitation.

Both of these issues are significant for MNLICA contractors. The notification issue would result in additional costs as environmental groups add their wish list to projects, delaying projects or outright killing projects. The outlet adequacy issue could also affect new or existing public ditches. However, the term "outlet" is also used in drainage code to describe the connection of a private system to a county ditch. Is it possible that environmentalists would require an assessment of "adequacy" on private systems outlets? It is the opinion of this author that the environmentalist groups will take as much as they can. Imagine having to use an engineer before installing a new private system, being required to lower drainage coefficients or add edge of field practices as a prerequisite to obtaining permission to install a system.

MNLICA is again heading to the state capitol to talk to our legislators. Please consider attending with us. You can be one of those contractors that comes and works to make a difference, or you can be the contractor that just complains about laws they were just too busy to fight against. The choice is yours.

Stu Frazier, MNLICA Board Chairman



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Executive Directors Report

Another year has passed us by. Again, we started the year with the Annual Winter Convention. I want to thank all who attended and extend an invite to those who didn't attend to attend next year's convention.

I want to extend a thank you to the board members for their help and support I receive. This year Dallas Loken will step into the President's role, Stu Frazeur will move into the Chairman position and Jesse James was elected Vice President. Mike Lehman, Karlen Nelson and Deb Olsen were elected to the board.

I will be attending the National Winter Convention in Virginia Beach, Virginia, in February.

Plans are in the works to hold a Ten (10) hour OSHA training yet this year. I am working on coordinating the dates with the instructor and convention center in New Ulm. Please attend this event, all owners and employees need this training. There will be registrations mailed out when the dates are set so be watching your mail. I will also send out an email reminder to be watching for this paperwork. Always contact me if you have questions.

The board will be meeting in March. Scholarship application will be reviewed at this meeting. Remember Scholarship Application need to be post marked by March 1st!

I am continuing to work on membership. There will be an Membership Event starting with National LICA starting in March.

Jennifer Breberg, Executive Director.

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BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT WINNERS!

1ST Place: Ron Bakken & Steve Vis 2nd Place: Stu Frazeur & Kyhl Thomson

3rd Place: Bryant Nygaard & Brad Herickhoff.

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KEEPING SCORE!

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Scholarship Application

A scholarship opportunity for MNLICA members/employees' families in their high school senior year.

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.

MNLICA Scholarship Application Form: Must be Post Marked by March 1st

Applicant Information

Applicant name: _____

Home Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Email _____

Parents _____

MNLICA Member Sponsor _____

Education & Accomplishments

High School _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Graduation Date _____

Organization, Clubs and Special Activities _____

Honors, Recognition and Awards _____

Cumulative GPA _____

College/Technical School Planning to Attend _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Expected Graduation Date _____

Instruction:

1. Write an essay (300 words or less) describing you're academic, vocational goals and objectives and why you should receive this scholarship.
2. List your major course of study include high school transcripts.
3. Include 3 (three) letters of recommendation from your community, school or other adult non-relative.
4. Include a wallet size picture (2"x3" or equivalent), with the understanding that award recipients will be featured in the MNLICA newsletter.
5. Application must be completed and mailed to MNLICA office no later than March 1st.

Incomplete applications and ineligible students are automatically disregarded.

Applicants Signature _____ Date _____

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CHAIRMAN STU FRAZEUR.**



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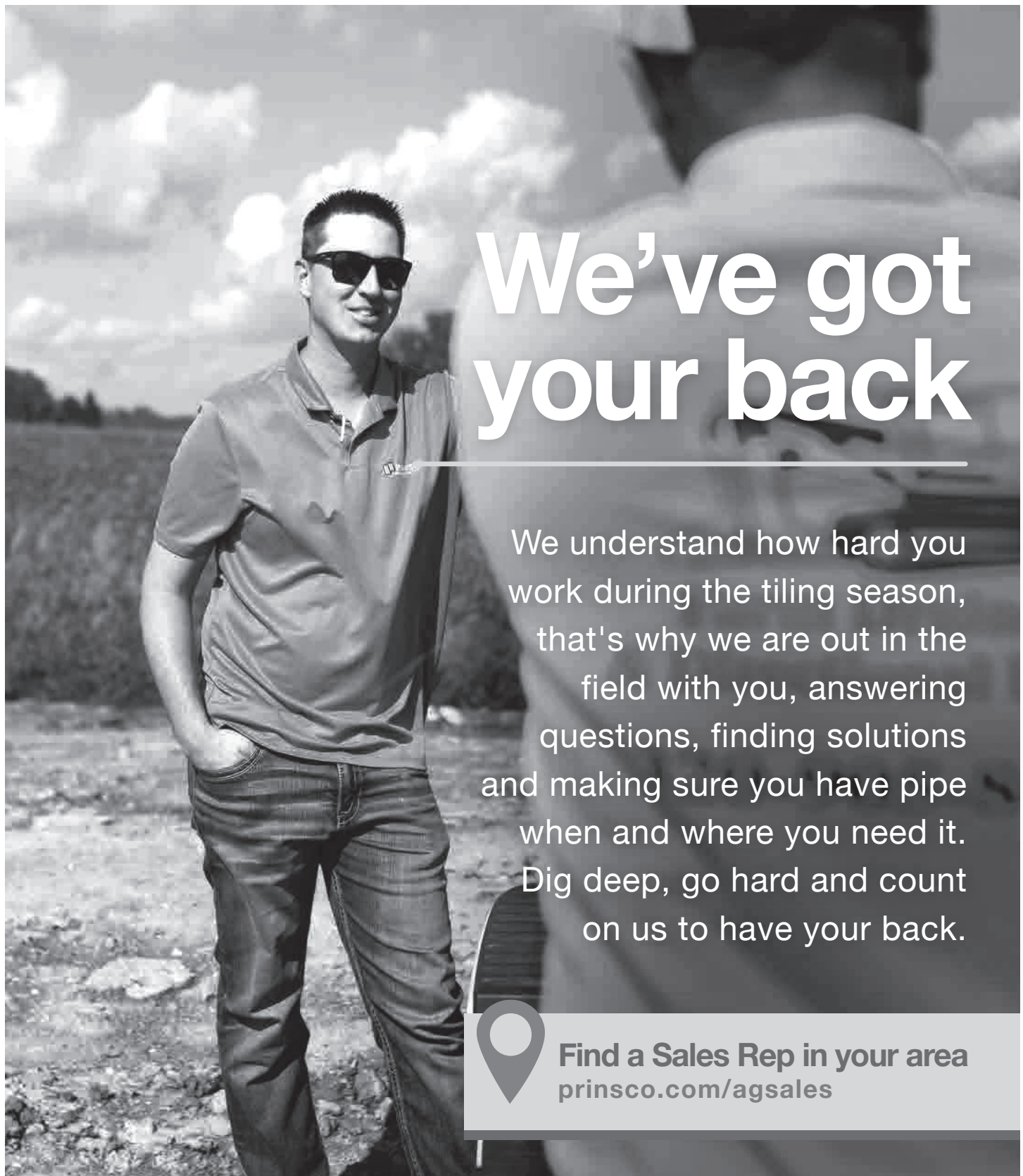
On Thursday, the ladies went on a tour at Chankaska Creek Ranch & Winery. The ladies were treated to beverages during the tour. Some taste testing was done and then they were treated to a wonderful meal. Thanks goes to Dee Ann and Nordis for setting up the tour and lunch and hosting this event. Thank you Ladies!

Ladies on the tour included:

Deb Olsen, Nordis Estrem, Amy Herickhoff, Kayla Vis, Sherry Gysbers and Dee Ann Larson.

A little retail therapy was also included.





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MINING SAFETY & HEALTH ADMINISTRATION CERTIFICATION CLASS



Class this year was held in Owatonna at the VFW. Attendees spent the day obtaining their certification to work in the mining industry. This training is offered each year for members of MN LICA!

MSHA Part 46 applies to very specific surface mines, such as sand, gravel, surface stone, surface clay, surface limestone, colloidal phosphate, or shell dredging operations. This certification is mandatory.

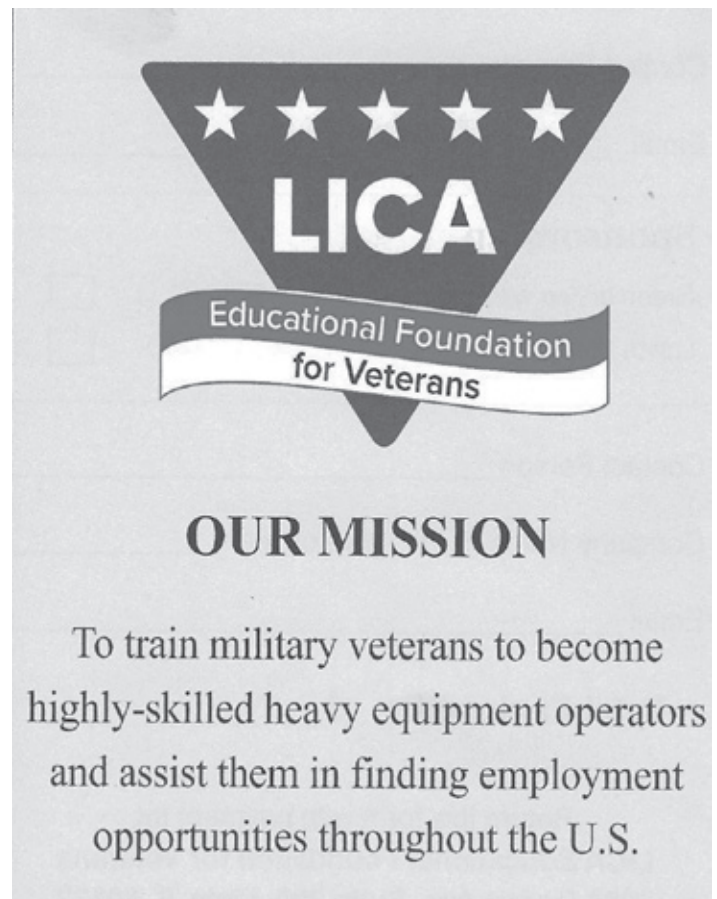
This year's class was attended by 49 attendees from several MNLICA member businesses.





2023 Board Member Meeting Attendance

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



A = Absent P = Present C = Cancelled Meet



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Tim Dahl—ADS

Mike Kluck— USI

NATIONAL LICA

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2024 UPCOMING EVENTS MNLICA

Web-site: www.mnlica.org

February 13th - 17th, 2024, National LICA Winter Convention

Virginia Beach, VA

March 1, 2024, MN LICA Scholarship Application due to MN LICA!

March 14, 2024, MN LICA Board Meeting, 5:00 PM

Best Western Plus, New Ulm, MN

March 15, 2024, National LICA Scholarship Applications are due!

June 2024, MN LICA Board Meeting, TBD

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

July 9th - 14th, 2024, National Summer Meeting

Pittsburgh, PA

September 2024, Annual Sporting Clays & Golf Day, TBD



MNLICA

2570 130th Street
Dawson, MN 56232

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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.*