

February/  
March 2026

# MINNESOTA LICA NEWS

LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA • MINNESOTA CHAPTER

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## CONGRATULATIONS! CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR AND CONTRACTOR'S WIFE OF THE YEAR



## DALLAS & NICOLE LOKEN LOKEN EXCAVATION AND

WELCOME NEW ASSOCIATES  
FIELD FLOW SOLUTIONS, JOHN MEYER, JANESVILLE, MN  
&  
INTEGRITY AUCTIONS AND SALES, MERRILL, WI



# GREETINGS From Your PRESIDENT

Well, here we go guys and gals. For any of you that know me probably have a pretty good idea that this writing thing is definitely not my cup of tea, but here we go I guess we will give it a try.

As we push through the middle of winter, mother nature can't decide if it wants to be hot, cold, snow or rain. But one thing is for sure we have had plenty of ice to keep anyone in the snow plow business or tow truck business very busy this year. And just making sure the rest of us as drivers still know how to do this Minnesota winter driving thing, I guess.

Well, I know for most of us this is kind of our slow time. Time to catch up on paper work or time to repair things that got put off during the busy season. Or like with us a time to get everybody into the training classes again to get ready for the season ahead. And boy how everyone likes to sit through some of those classes.

I would also like to take this time to thank all the Associates that came to MnLICA Convention and annual meeting in New Ulm in January. We really appreciate the support, and always nice to see some familiar faces and some new faces. I think fun was had by all.

I want to end by saying MnLICA is always trying to grow. We are always looking for new members, so if there is anyone out there that you think would benefit from join-ing, please reach out to them or let one of the board members know and we can reach out to them. Also, if anyone is interested in being a board member feel free to contact us or just come to one of our meetings to see what it is about.

Hope everyone enjoys the rest of your winter and has great success this upcoming season.

Sincerely,  
Jesse James  
MN LICA President



**MN LICA ANNUAL MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026**  
**5:00 PM**  
**BEST WESTERN PLUS,**  
**NEW ULM, MN**

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**MNLICA Web-Site; [www.mnlca.org](http://www.mnlca.org)**  
**E-mail: [mnlca2@gmail.com](mailto:mnlca2@gmail.com)**

## ***MN LICA Associates***

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MN Dept Of Agriculture

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Northern Natural Gas

Carry Pumps

Northland Trenching Equip

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Prinsco

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Rfw Bron

Grinnell Mutual Insurance

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ISG

Schaeffer's Oil

Kahn Tile Supply

Titan Machinery

Knor Mfg/Hypro Equipment

Ziegler Equipment

Mid American Trenchers

**Thank You !**

# ATTENTION

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

Deadline is: March 1, 2026.

Find out more information and the application at [www.mnllica.org](http://www.mnllica.org)  
or find the application in this issue. (Pages 8 & 9)

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

Deadline for that application is: March 15, 2026.

Applications can be found at [www.licanational.com](http://www.licanational.com),  
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## MINING SAFETY & HEALTH ADMINISTRATION CERTIFICATION CLASS



**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 years class was attended by 53 attendees from several MnLICA member's businesses. Thank you to the Owatonna VFW Auxiliary for making our lunch for the day and the VFW for the class room space.**

# Insurance Program Update

We're continuing to make progress on the State LICA Insurance Program as we plan for 2026 and beyond. While UFG has discontinued its State LICA Program, efforts are underway to ensure members continue to have strong insurance options. Prins Insurance has been actively working with new carriers, and we're pleased to share that Grinnell Mutual is now writing coverage for dirt movers in several of our states. Although this is not yet a formal program, policies are already being placed and have proven competitive. Grinnell Mutual offers comprehensive coverage, including additional protections such as pollution liability and contractors' errors and omissions. Work is ongoing to expand availability into more states, with the goal of developing a more complete program by mid-year.



Grinnell Mutual is proud to support the State LICA Associations. We are actively collaborating with Prins Insurance to develop a program tailored to LICA members' insurance needs, with a target launch in mid-year 2026. Grinnell Mutual is an industry leader. Founded in 1909, Grinnell Mutual is the 114th-largest property-casualty insurer in the U.S. and the largest

primary reinsurer of farm mutual companies in North America.



For more than 30 years, Prins Insurance Inc. has proudly partnered with State LICA Chapters. Founded in 1936, we specialize in protecting businesses in the Construction, Transportation, and Agricultural industries—delivering stability you can count on and we are excited to continue that relationship.



## STOP! HAVE YOU UPDATED YOUR EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK TO REFLECT ALL THE NEW CHANGES FOR 2026!!!



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## MINNESOTA LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA

### SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

A scholarship opportunity for MNLICA members and employees family members in their senior year of high school.

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 on later than March 1st. Incomplete applications and ineligible students are automatically disregarded.

Applicants Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

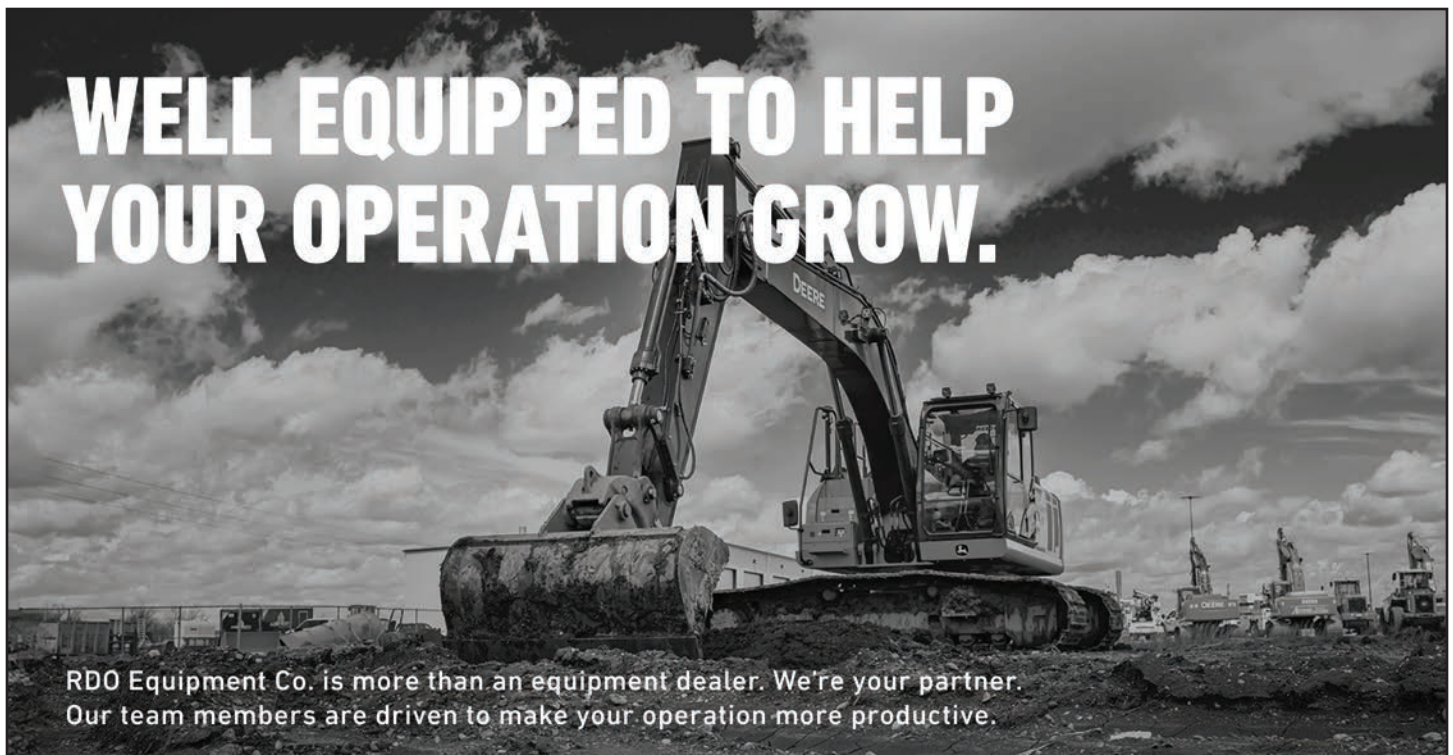


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If you have questions about the MN LICA Scholarship, please contact Jenny at [mnlica@gmail.com](mailto:mnlica@gmail.com) or call 320-226-6398



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**MINNESOTA LICA'S CURRENT PRESIDENT DALLAS LOKEN PASSING THE GAVEL TO INCOMING PRESIDENT JESSE JAMES**



**Chairman Stu Frazeur Honoring Outgoing President Dallas Loken with the Silver Shovel**



**Out going President Dallas Loken swears in New President Jesse James**



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**Bean Bag Tournament Winners!**  
**1st Place: Kari Van Es & KC Newby    2nd Place: Ben Dingeman & Bruce Mosier**  
**3rd Place: Bryant Nygaard & Nordis Estrem**



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ANNUAL BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT! CONGRATULATION TO THE THREE WINNING TEAMS. ALSO, A BIG THANK YOU TO MARK MORREIM FOR COORDINATING THE TOURNAMENT AND KEEPING TRACK OF THE WINNER'S BRACKET.**

## **LI CA JOINS CALL FOR WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON SMALL BUSINESS**

LICA is cooperating with the Business Coalition for Fair Competition (BCFC) in calling for a White House Conference on Small Business. Reps. Brad Finstad (R-MN) and Don Davis (D-NC) will be introducing the White House Conference on Small Business Act of 2025 this week. There have been three White House Conference on Small Business (WHCSB) in 1980, 1986, and 1995. They were convened by Presidents Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton in an effort to foster better relationships with members of the business community, Congress and the White House to develop innovative policy solutions to economic problems.

A critical piece to the success of the WHCSB is the utilization of state conferences to ensure broad and equitable representation of the very diverse small-business community. Through the state conferences, which feed into the regional conferences and then into the national conference, small-business owners can develop, enhance and fully embrace the key issues facing small businesses nationwide. In addition to building consensus, growing small-business networks and nurturing future small-business leaders, the state conferences and broad participation of small businesses lend credibility to the final list of recommendations. Despite action and success on a variety of issues impacting small business, there has not been a White House conference in more than two decades. That is far too long to go without giving voice and a forum to America's small businesses which account for 99 percent of U.S. private sector employers and 64 percent of net new private sector jobs.

LICA's Government Relations Committee Chairman Bruce Barnhart was quoted in the letter calling for the conference, ""Small business construction contractors, like many small businesses, face a host of issues - from workforce shortages to government regulations to in-cresed input costs- that challenge their ability to be successful and to maintain and create new jobs. LICA urges a coordinated effort to identify obstacles and opportunities for small business success through a White House Conference on Small Business. Small business success strengthens the US economy and enhances US global competitiveness."

### Executive Director's Report

Hello Everyone!

First of all thank you to everyone that participated in or attended the 2026 Winter Convention. I especially want to say thank to the MN LICA Board Members for their help both with the planning and help during the Convention.

The Safety Training Day was very well attended on Wednesday. MN LICA wants to Thank all the great Associates that participated in the Trade Show. We actually had to add more booths this year!

If you are interested in attending the day at the Capitol, please let Mark Morreim or myself know. Mark will work on making appointments with legislators. The MSHA Refresher was held January 27th in Owatonna. We again had a great turn out. Next, I will be attending the National LICA Winter Convention in Las Vegas at the end of February.

Jennifer Breberg, Executive Director MN LICA

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

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

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

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- ◆ Cooper Tire Program
- ◆ Machinery Trader Member Benefit Promotion, Buy & Sell Equipment: Inventory Mgmt System, Premium Hosted Website, Ecommerce Benefit
- ◆ LICA Discount for 2026 CONEXPO Education Sessions
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MN LICA WINTER CONVENTION

SAFETY TRAINING, LEARNING ABOUT THE INDUSTRY, WHAT LEGAL ISSUES & REGULATIONS YOU DEAL WITH, WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MN DOT, SOFTWARE PROGRAMS TO HELP GROW YOUR BUSINESS. ALSO, LOTS OF NETWORKING AND FELLOWSHIP WITH LICA MEMBERS!



THANK YOU TO THE PRESENTERS:  
Prins Ins. - Bruce Mosier  
Smart Crew - Andrew Drish  
ADMC - Keegan Kult  
Gopher State One Call - Kelly Connelly  
Rinke Noon Law Firm - John Kolb  
State Patrol DOT - Officer P. Fay



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## SAFETY FEATURE: PROMOTE A SAFETY-MINDED CULTURE



Do the employees at your company actively speak up and bring safety concerns to management's attention? Do they recognize personal and organizational hazards? Do they believe safety is a team effort and that everyone must do their part?

If you answered no to any of these questions, or are unsure, you may need to work on promoting a safety-minded culture.

Basically, a safety-minded culture is one where every employee, from upper management on down the ranks, has a set of shared workplace values, interests in safety, and behavioral norms. It is a culture where employees are rewarded for erring on the side of safety, even if it turns out they were wrong or misjudged the situation.

There are several advantages to promoting this type of workplace environment. Most important, a well-implemented safety program and training will lower your incident rate. Employees who know about workplace risks and take responsibility for safety will make fewer careless mistakes.

Also, it will produce more conscientious employees. They will be mindful of all their actions and will not be shy about correcting others who are developing potentially dangerous habits.

Here are some tips for planting and growing this culture in the workplace:

- Get top management and other personnel in high levels of the organization to articulate an intense commitment to safety – the goal is for the mindset to trickle down to employees.

- Provide all the necessary resources to make this initiative happen – if you don't have the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) in stock, employees will become discouraged.
- Consider incentive and reward programs for employees displaying the best commitment and highest standards of safety.
- Require frequent, candid conversation between workers and across all levels of the company.
- Create an openness surrounding errors and problems – discuss them and encourage employees' suggestions on how the problem could have been avoided.
- Encourage employees to report problems and errors – do this by rewarding, not punishing, for receiving this important safety information.
- Shift the focus from blame on the organization or individual to what everyone can do better next time.

### In Order to Succeed, Train, Train Again...

Statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics are clear – continuous training is the best way to prevent on-the-job injuries for all employees. Once is not enough, because the employees getting hurt the most have been on the job between 1 and 5 years. Though employees may feel they already know everything they need to, refresher courses are important. They benefit everyone, including the long-term workers who may not be as familiar with newer technologies or procedures. In your training refresher courses, be sure to touch on most of these subjects:

- Personal protective equipment (PPE) use
- Machine handling and guarding
- Ergonomics
- Hazard communication, including bloodborne pathogens
- Hazardous materials

*Source: SafetyZone - Safety Manager's Issue from Prins Insurance LICA Portal*

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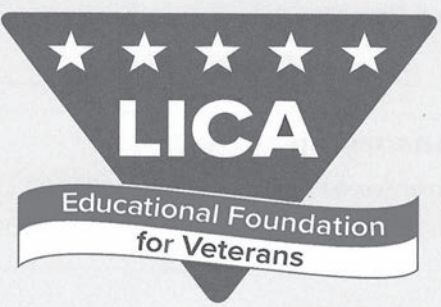
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DAY**

FEBRUARY 16TH

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**St. Patrick's  
Day**

MARCH 17TH



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**2026 Board Member Meeting Attendance**

A = Absent    P = Present    C = Cancelled

Board Member	Jan	Mar	June	Aug	Nov
Pres. Jesse James	P				
VP -					
Treas. Mark Olsen	A				
Chrmn Dallas Loken	P				
Mark Morreim	P				
Karlen Nelson	A				
Everett Garlisch	P				
Brad Herickhoff	P				
Mike Lehmann	P				
Dee Ann Larson	P				
Debra Olsen	A				
Ryan Yokiel	P				
Don Loken	P				
Assoc. Mike Kluck	A				
Ex Dir. J. Breberg	P				

**OFFICERS****PRESIDENT**

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Owatonna, MN 55060

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**Mark Olsen**  
Big Woods Excavating LLC  
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3695 Hoffman Dr. NW  
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**MNLICA Executive Director**

**Jennifer Breberg**  
2570 130th Str  
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**STATE DIRECTORS**

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**Doug Breberg**  
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**Brad Herickhoff**  
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**Deb Olsen**  
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Mike Kluck - USI

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**2026 UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

**February 28 - March 2, 2026, National LICA Winter Convention**

**March 3-7, 2026, CON/EXPO, Las Vegas, NV**

**March 1, 2026 Scholarship Application DEADLINE!!!**

**March 15, 2026, National Scholarship Application DEADLINE!!!**

**Spring Board Meeting**

**March 19, 2026, 5:00 pm, Best Western Plus, New Ulm, MN**

**Summer Board Meeting**

**June 2026, Best Western Plus, New Ulm, MN**



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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.*