

June 2023 /  
July 2023

# MINNESOTA LICA NEWS

LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA • MINNESOTA CHAPTER

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

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2023 MN LICA SCHOLARSHIP



### ANNA BARNET

DAUGHTER OF  
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*Doug Breberg*  
*Mike Lehmann*  
*DeeAnn Larson*  
*Jesse James*

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*Don Loken*

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

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
*Jennifer Breberg*





## GREETINGS From Your PRESIDENT

I had a final drive crash on me last week. After ripping everything apart we discovered that a bolt had broken that was supposed to be holding an axle in a planetary gear. One socket head, 10 mm x 1.5 pitch, 25 mm long. The replacement was about a buck fifty. But losing that one bolt cost a few thousand in bearings plus precious time in the short spring season.

MNLICA members are important like that bolt. In a planetary, all the parts have a purpose. As members we also have a purpose. We can encourage wise stewardship of our resources. We might talk that client into building that terrace that will save that top soil. We might see a farmer with his tile plow doing something dangerous (like not doing a Gopher State One Call) and give them a word about safety. We might be supporting our local FFA, or attending a legislator's town hall meetings. We can teach our kids about slowing down through road construction sites.

(Continued)

These things might seem small, but they are important. Just as important as a little bolt in a planetary drive. Thank you all for being part of MNLICA!

P.S. A big shout out goes out to our Associate Members who work to keep us moving!

Stu Frazier, MNLICA President



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**MNLICA Web-Site; [www.mnllica.org](http://www.mnllica.org)  
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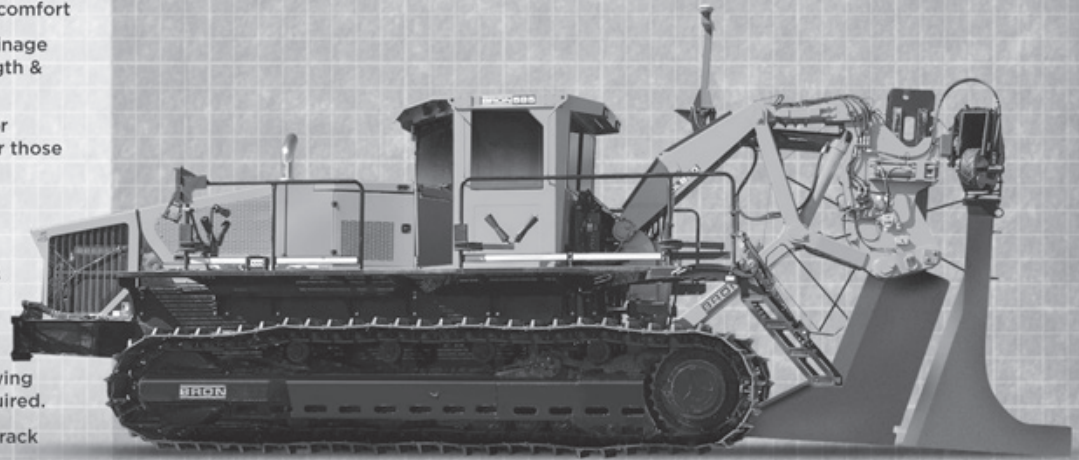
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## National LICA Website

### LICANATIONAL.ORG

At LICA we pride ourselves on offering our members a plethora of benefits that help your business and family. The National LICA website, [LICANational.org](http://LICANational.org), is a benefit within itself - and is available 24/7.

- Sell & purchase used equipment
- Legislative Updates
- Upcoming event details
- State Chapter contact information
- And of course....full list of National Benefits

Scan the QR Code with your phone's camera to see the National LICA Benefits. Each benefit has a downloadable flyer that contains details on the benefit and contact information to get started.



**Land Improvement Contractors of America**  
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### ***Executive Directors Report***

It is already Summer!

Please note the New Member, Viking Aggregate Equipment and the New Associate, Christensen Group Insurance. If you know either of these, please extend a MN LICA Welcome!

On March 28th and 29th, board member Karlen Nelson and I attended the State LICA Executive Directors meeting in Cedar Rapid, IA. UFG and Prins Insurance treated us to a wonderful culinary lesson, followed by a four course meal. After supper we spent the evening networking. The next morning was the informational meeting, learning about what UFG and Prins Insurance has to offer our members. Each State Chapter received a check to use for Educational training for our members. We are so fortunate to have UFG & Prins Insurance supporting our organization!

Plans are coming together for the Scholarship Fundraiser in September. Plans are to have a sporting clay event, lunch and then an afternoon of Best Ball. Please if you can, attend this event. Also, the LICA Summer meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska, is approaching. If you haven't checked out the details, please do so. All the information for the meetings, educational opportunities, tours and hotel accommodations are found on the National LICA Web site. You can register for the meeting right on the website. This meeting is practically right in our back yard, a good time to see what this organization is all about and have some fun!

Jennifer Breberg, Executive Director.

**TIME TO MAKE PLANS**  
**TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL LICA SUMMER MEETING!**

**CHECK OUT THE FULL LIST OF TOURS, MEETINGS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.**

**REGISTRATION AND A FULL LIST OF ALL ACTIVITIES, AGENDA AND HOTEL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE NATIONAL LICA WEB SITE: [WWW.LICANATIONAL.COM](http://WWW.LICANATIONAL.COM)**



\*\*\*\*\*

MN LICA receiving the Educational Fund check from United Fire Group. Pictured below left to right: Bruce Mosier, Prins, Ins., Jenny Breberg, MN LICA Exec. Director, Christine Starr, United Fire Group and Karlen Nelson, MNLICA Board Member.





Risk Control at United Fire Group | riskcontrol@unitedfiregroup.com | 800-828-2705

## Utility strike avoidance program

UFG Insurance and your state LICA chapter are committed to providing assistance and resources as it relates to protecting our state LICA members. As part of that commitment, the following document was prepared to assist our state LICA members with preventing utility strikes. The purpose of this resource was to direct members to establish the right level of due diligence to avoid strikes by establishing procedures, training employees, and preparing for excavations.

### Procedures

- Call in your local area locating resource prior to digging. Obtain and record an active open ticket for your dig area.
- Ensure all utilities have responded to the open ticket. If needed, make second and third notices.
- If no response, review with ownership/management before proceeding to organize work.
- Review all site project drawings and plans.
- Mark excavation areas for locates (as appropriate).
- Refresh locates after rainfall or other weather events that may disturb locate markings.
- If undermining is to occur, communicate with utility owner to determine support methods.

### Training

Train all employees on the following:

- Utility locate colors.
- Maintaining a minimum of 18 inches from top and sides of utilities.
- Spotter duties.
- Utility potholing procedures, which are used to locate known utilities below surface level by excavating a pothole of around 8 to 12 inches in diameter and using a vacuum excavator to dig until the utility is found (if applicable).
- No digging without locates mandate.
- Documentation requirements.

### Preparation for excavation

- Have a designated employee complete a walkthrough of the site with the site drawing to compare what was located versus what was mapped on the drawing.
- Document pictures of the area and locates prior to digging.
- Review site for signs of underground utilities that were not marked or refreshed.
  - (Hand holes, manholes, pedestals, old flags/marks, vaults, poles, etc.)
- Conduct an employee huddle to review the site, marked utilities, and excavation plan.
- Excavate parallel to marked utilities greater than 18" out from the locate marks.
- Utilize an excavation spotter.
- Do not set spoil piles on top of utility locates.
- Hand dig, water jet or vacuum excavate to fully expose the utility.

### Post utility strike best practices

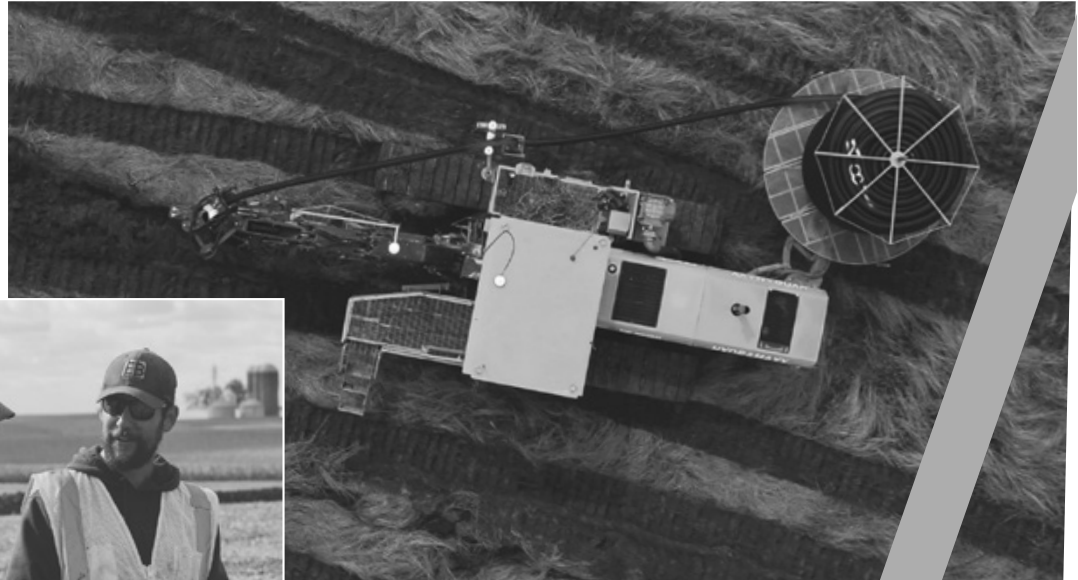
#### Damage to utilities includes:

1. Scuffing the outer coating of gas and electric lines.
2. Removal or penetrating outer jacket or insulation of electric and communication lines.
3. Cracking, bending or breaking conduits, regardless if service is lost.
4. Contact with overhead lines or release of gas from gas lines.

#### If a utility line is struck, follow the following guidelines.

- Immediately have all employees stop work and move to a safe location. Contact foreman/management.
- Call 911 if:
  - Gas line punctured.
  - Electric line damaged/sparking.
  - Water main opened.
- Do not enter excavation to attempt repair.
- Photograph damages and general project area.
- Make a hand-drawn sketch including incident area, equipment, employee locations and related damage.
- Do not share on social media or distribute photos/videos.
- Foremen/management will collect witness statements from employees and operator.
- Complete accident/incident investigation.
- Collect business cards/names/phone for contractors completing repairs.
- Document conversation with utility company responders.
- Photograph repaired area prior to backfill or covering of lines.

*The information contained in this service bulletin was obtained from reliable sources. However, United Fire Group accepts no legal responsibility for the correctness of this information.*



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- 
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## NATIONAL LICA JOINS OVER 100 BUSINESS GROUPS CALLING FOR DEATH TAX REPEAL

MARCH 24, 2023: In a letter being delivered to Congress today, National LICA signed on to support the Death Tax Repeal Act of 2023. Letter below:

“We appreciate your work to lead the country towards a common sense tax code that does not impose a destructive double or triple tax at death. We support full and permanent repeal of the federal estate tax for the following reasons:

Repealing the death tax would spur job creation and grow the economy. Many studies have quantified the potential job growth that would result from estate tax repeal. Last year the Tax Foundation found that the US could create over 150,000 jobs by repealing the estate tax. A 2012 study by the House Joint Economic Committee found that the death tax has destroyed over \$1.1 trillion of capital in the US economy—loss of small business capital means fewer jobs and lower wages. Lawrence Summers, former Secretary of the Treasury under President Clinton; Alicia Munell, member of President Clinton’s Council of Economic Advisors; Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate for economics; and Douglas Holtz-Eakin, former CBO Director have all published work on the death tax’s stifling effect on job growth and the economy as a whole.

The death tax contributes a very small portion of federal revenues. The estate tax currently accounts for approximately one half of one percent of federal revenue. There is a good argument that not collecting the estate tax would create more economic growth and lead to an increase in federal revenue from other taxes. A 2016 Tax Foundation analysis found repeal of the death tax would increase federal income taxes by \$145 billion over 10 years using a more realistic, “dynamic” economic analysis.

In addition, the death tax forces family businesses to waste money on expensive insurance policies and estate planning. These burdensome

compliance costs make it even harder for business owners to expand their businesses and create more jobs.

A super-majority of likely voters support eliminating the death tax. Poll after poll has indicated that a super-majority of likely voters support repealing the estate tax. Typically, two-thirds of likely voters support full and permanent repeal of the death tax. People instinctively feel that the estate tax is not fair. A 2016 state poll by YouGov conducted in South Dakota showed 75 percent of voters supported repealing the estate tax.

The death tax is unfair. It makes no sense to require grieving families to pay a confiscatory tax on their loved one’s nest egg. Far too often this tax is paid by selling family assets like farms and businesses. Other times, employees of the family business must be laid off and payrolls slashed. No one should be punished for fulfilling the American Dream.

The negative effects of the estate tax make permanent repeal the only solution for family businesses and farms. Your legislation will help America’s Family businesses create jobs, expand operations, and grow the economy. “We thank you for your continued leadership on this important issue.”

(Signed by 130 Groups Representing Family Businesses)





# WE SUPPORT MINNESOTA LICA

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## Fatality Alert

**MINE FATALITY** – On December 16, 2022, a contract mechanic died while removing the counterweight of an excavator, when it fell and struck him.



### Best Practices

Operators should:

- Block machinery components against motion before beginning maintenance or repairs.
- Assure blocking material is substantial and installed correctly to support and stabilize the load.
- Assure miners position themselves in a safe location and away from potential pinch point areas.
- Train miners to conduct repairs according to manufacturer recommendations.

This is the 29<sup>th</sup> fatality reported in 2022, and the tenth classified as “Machinery.”

The information provided in this notice is based on preliminary information only and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.

**Report accidents and hazardous conditions: 1-800-746-1553**

[msha.gov](https://www.msha.gov) | [askmsha@dol.gov](mailto:askmsha@dol.gov) | [@MSHA\\_DOL](https://twitter.com/MSHA_DOL)

**SCARLET SIPPER**

**4 Cups Cranberry-Apple Juice, chilled**  
**1 Cup Orange Juice, chilled**  
**1/4 cup Lemon Juice, chilled**  
**1 Liter Ginger Ale, chilled**  
**Optional: Fresh cranberries, orange slices and lemon wedges.**

**In pitcher combine juices, stir in ginger ale.**  
**Serve over ice.**  
**Garnish is desired.**



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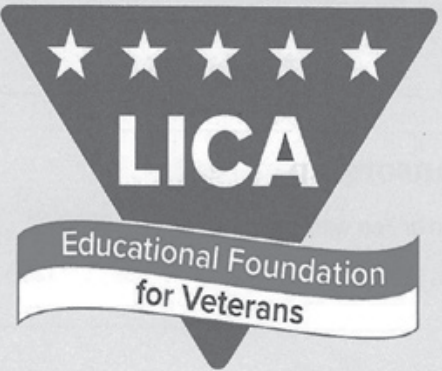
# EQUIPMENT NEEDS

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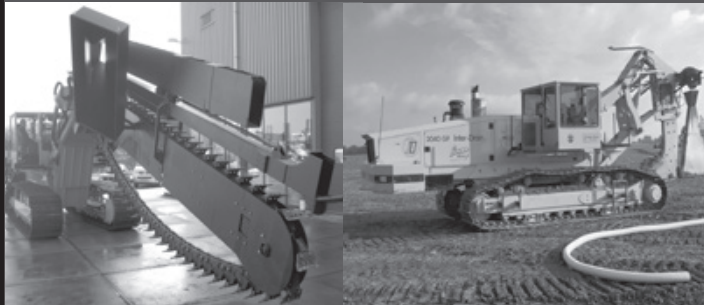
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**2023 Board Member Meeting Attendance**

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

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



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Phone: 320-226-6398

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**Associates:**

Tim Dahl - ADS

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**2023 UPCOMING EVENTS MNLICA**

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

**June 15th, 2023, Summer Board Meeting, TBD**

**July 11th—15th, 2023 Summer National LICA Convention, Lincoln, NE**

**August 17th, 2023—Fall Board Meeting—TBD**

**September 2023—Scholarship Fund Raiser Event—TBD**

**December 7th, 2023—Winter Board Meeting—TBD**

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

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



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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.*