

**June 2024/
July 2024**

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MINNESOTA LICA NEWS

LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA • MINNESOTA CHAPTER

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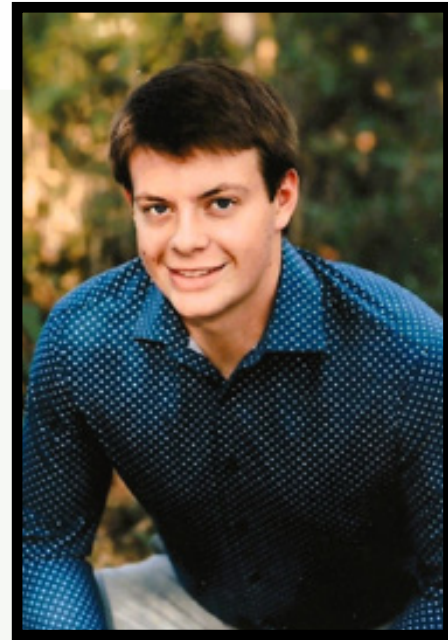
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**WELCOME NEW ASSOCIATE
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GREETINGS From Your PRESIDENT

As another page in the calendar turns, so does some of the work that we do. We all have spring projects wrapping up.

Mother nature has been no different to the start of this year as in a years past. Moisture is typically a key ingredient to all of our businesses. Whether it's too much, not enough, or just right, as Goldilocks would say.

We push our machines, suppliers, and even on the sun back in the sky for just one more hour each day.

As I sit here this Memorial Day morning writing this, my thoughts are full of loved ones who are hurting, and ones that are no longer with us today. To all of those who are serving and who have served our country. To all of you Thank You!! You're all are in my thoughts and prayers.

Best Regards,

MnLica President Dallas Loken

A DAD JOKE!

What does a baby computer call his father?



DATA

MN LICA BOARD MEETING

WILL BE HELD

JUNE 13, 2024, 6:00 PM

BEST WESTERN PLUS

NEW ULM, MN

FEATURES

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MNLICA Web-Site; www.mnllica.org

E-mail: mnllica2@gmail.com

We are also on Facebook

NATIONAL SUMMER MEETING THIS JULY. CHECK OUT THE AGENDA BELOW. MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION FOR THE MEETING AND TOURS CAN BE FOUND BY SCANNING THE QR CODE AT THE BOTTOM OR GO TO WWW.LICANATIONAL.ORG

**2024 NATIONAL LICA
SUMMER MEETING
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA**

City of Steel

JULY 9 - 13

OMNI WILLIAM PENN HOTEL

Tuesday, July 9

7:00 am - 7:30 am

Registration

7:45 am - 5:30 pm

Flight 93 Memorial
& Falling Water Tour

Wednesday, July 10

7:00 am - 8:00 am

Registration

8:45 am - 4:30 pm

Duquesne Incline, &
Carrie Blast Furnace Tour

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Executive Committee

Thursday, July 11

7:00 am - 8:00 am

Registration

7:00 am - 5:00 pm

Committee Meetings

12:30 pm

Lunch

Friday, July 12

7:00 am - 7:30 am

Registration

8:00 am

Breakfast

9:15 am - 10:30 pm

"Leadership Panel"

10:45 am - 12:45 pm

"Beneath the Surface"

1:00 pm

Lunch

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Executive Directors'
Meeting

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Associates' Committee

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Associates' Night
(Exhibition)

Saturday, July 13

7:00 am - 7:30 am

Devotions

8:00 am

Breakfast

9:30 am - 10:30 am

Board Meeting

What Does Registration Include?

Summer Meeting registration includes all meal functions, Associates' Night, Educational Seminars, Committee Meetings, and the Board Meeting. All registered members will receive meal tickets, a name badge, and a program when they check-in on site and are welcome to ... even encouraged to, attend any of the Committee Meetings and the Board Meeting. For a list of committees and their functions, visit LICANational.org.

2024 LICA Summer Olympics

Associates' Night - Friday, July 12

Get ready to channel your inner Olympian as we debut the LICA Olympics in celebration of the 2024 Summer Games in Paris! Select your squad of 4 champions strategically and aim for that shiny Gold medal! With games ranging from ring toss to memory challenges, every team will battle it out to clinch the ultimate victory based on points earned. Let the games begin!

Omni William Penn Hotel

Members will delight in the architecture and history as they walk through the grand lobby of the Omni. It's centrally located in downtown Pittsburgh, near a variety of attractions. Enjoy enhanced dining in the hotel's bars and restaurants, including The Terrace Room. Enjoy shareable plates and gourmet snacks at Palm Court, sip cocktails in the Tap Room or relax in the Speakeasy inspired by the Prohibition era.

**Scan Code for
Hotel Reservations**





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Farmers, landowners, and land improvement contractors are becoming increasingly aware of the legal and permitting challenges created by wetlands, drainage, and conservation compliance. Working with a team of attorneys experienced in navigating the DNR, NRCS, Corps of Engineers, EPA, U.S. FWS, and county and local governments regulations adds value to the success of your project.



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UFG & PRINS DONATE TO MN LICA EDUCATION

In April, MN LICA attended the UFG State LICA Insurance Program Annual Meeting near the United Fire Group's headquarters in Cedar Rapids, IA.

The annual meeting hosted by UFG and Prins, Ins., is an opportunity every year for LICA chapters involved in the UFG State LICA Insurance Program to receive program updates, procedural changes, risk management education opportunities, legal trends and claims' trends.

This year the donation was \$8,523.17 which will be used to support educational endeavors consistent with risk management furthering the success of the State LICA Insurance Program





The safe movement and hauling of heavy equipment requires training and if not done correctly, can lead to accidents. These accidents can result in loss of and damage to equipment, which can be costly, as well as potential injuries to the driver and others. Properly securing the equipment being hauled reduces the risk of loss during sudden stops, turns and accidents. The following minimum guidelines are provided for proper load securement, while hauling heavy equipment.

Load securement guidelines before equipment loading:

- The vehicle's gross vehicle weight rating and/or gross combination weight rating should be verified, so that it will not be exceeded while hauling equipment.
- Permits, if required, for oversize or over width equipment movements should be secured.
- Flags, wide load signs and other warning devices should be inventoried and made available for loading and for use while in transit.
- Review of proposed travel route should be completed. Determine if pilot cars will be required and make arrangements. Also, determine if contact or assistance with local authorities along the travel route will be required.
- Review and familiarize any and all loading guidelines that need to be followed for the equipment, such as the use of locking pins, brakes, a particular transmission gear, outriggers, or deck wideners.

- Review equipment placement on the trailer, to balance the weight distribution and to secure the equipment properly, reviewed prior to loading.
- Inspect all of the equipment's securement points for wear and/or damage.
- Determine if there will be low friction between the equipment and the transport vehicle (such as metal crawler tracks on a metal deck), and provide proper friction devices if necessary.
- Low tire pressure may result in the loosening of the tie-downs. Check the tire pressure of any equipment with rubber tires.
- Inspect and clean the trailer to remove any excessive aggregate, dirt, debris, or other substances that may fall or reduce friction during transit.

Load securement guidelines during equipment loading:

- Personnel loading equipment should be trained and familiar with the equipment operation and proper loading procedures.

- When possible, place the equipment against a vehicle structure to help prevent forward movement, unless the weight distribution or securement considerations will not allow it.
- Careful attention should be paid when attaching securement devices over brake or hydraulic hoses or cylinders to avoid potential damage to those items.
- Edge protection should be used to prevent damage to the tie-downs or the equipment.
- The manufacturer's designated attachment points should be used and the manufacturer's securement recommendations should be followed for any equipment being loaded.
- Do not use any attachment point that is of questionable strength or suitability.
- Chain is preferred for tie-down of heavy equipment and/or machinery and should be inspected.
- Verify the working load limits of chains used for equipment tie down.
- Use direct tie-downs whenever possible, but keep in mind that direct tie-downs require the use of more tie-downs than when using indirect tie-downs.
- Chocks or other devices should be used and placed against the wheels to prevent rolling of wheeled equipment. These devices should have their own securement.

Load securement guidelines after equipment loading:

- Accessory equipment and other movable parts such as hydraulic shovels, booms, plows, crane arms, etc., should be lowered and secured to the transport vehicle using tie-downs. Accessories equipped with locking pins or similar devices which prevent movement in any direction do not have to be secured with additional securement devices.
- Equipment being transported that has an articulation point, pivot, or hinge within its construction, should be locked or restrained to prevent any articulation while in transit.
- Accessories and other items that are not attached to the equipment must be secured to the transport vehicle following the general rules for cargo securement.
- The actual height and width of the vehicle should be confirmed prior to hauling.
- In-route securement inspections should be required and completed by the driver.

Equipment tie-down minimum requirements

- Loaded equipment/vehicles with crawler tracks or wheels, should have at least four tie-downs to prevent movement side-to-side, forward, to the rear and vertically.
- Indirect tie-downs which are routed through an anchor point and attached to both sides of the trailer are counted as a single tie-down.
- A chain can be used as two tie-downs if properly attached to two anchor points using two binders, with slack in the middle of the chain, so that a break in the middle would not affect either tiedown.
- The sum of the working load limits of the tie-downs must equal at least 50% of the weight of the cargo. If unsure of the cargo's weight, additional tie-downs may be needed.
- Attach tie-downs as close as possible to the front and rear of the equipment or at the mounting points on the equipment designed for that purpose.

Summary

While not all accidents can be prevented, following the guidelines listed above will reduce the possibility that an accident or loss will occur while hauling equipment. If additional information or assistance is desired, please contact your local UFG risk control representative.

About UFG Insurance

UFG currently offers insurance to chapter members in Arkansas, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, Missouri, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The State LICA Insurance Program is administered by Prins Insurance Inc. of Sanborn, Iowa.

About Prins Insurance Inc. of Sanborn, Iowa

Prins Insurance has partnered with LICA contractors for 25 years to provide an insurance product that gives the opportunity to work with your independent agent while taking advantage of a comprehensive insurance program that focuses on the unique needs of your industry. If you have questions about The State LICA Insurance Program, contact Prins at 800-831-8545.



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The article below was published in the Michigan LICA Newsletter. The author is Mike Cook who has been a long time LICA member. He has served on the board at the state level, VP to Region 3 and is a Past President of National LICA.

OLD TIMER'S PERSPECTIVE: "BID" MEANS BADLY INSTALLED DRAINAGE

Fellow LICA Contractors: Over the years I've had discussions with many of you concerning competitors "cutting prices" in quotes to farmers who ask for a "bid" to drain a field. Yes, lowball quotes are frustrating, but, as a fellow professional, I'd like to share my approach to handling a bid request from a customer. Let's envision a scenario: a farmer seeks a bid for tiling a 40-acre field with minimal grading, spaced every 30 feet. In my estimates, I consistently quote \$50 higher per acre than the competition. However, it's important to clarify with the customer from the outset that what I provide is an **estimate**, not a bid. Why? Because I define "bid" as *BADLY INSTALLED DRAINAGE* since it often implies compromises in quality, favoring the cheapest option over lasting effectiveness.

Mr. Farmer, consider this: I could easily reduce costs upfront by downsizing mains from 10 inches, 8 inches, and 6 inches to just 8 inches and 6 inches, saving \$700. Nice savings, but you'll regret when the mains cannot carry enough when we get a large rain 2 days in a row and water ponds. Ponded water on your crop has been proven to reduce yield anywhere from 5 to 50%. Let's assume 150 bushel corn per acre at a low price of \$4; a minor 5% loss will cost you 7.5 bushel per acre for 40 acres equaling 300 bushels total. At \$4 a bushel that would equal \$1200 in only one year. We know all too well the consequences when inadequate drainage fails to manage heavy rainfall, resulting in flooded crops and diminished yields. It's not merely about immediate savings but safeguarding the long-term investment. Beware of costs not included in a bid. While some contractors may omit certain expenses to make their bids appear more appealing, I prefer to include all necessary components like move in costs and connections upfront, ensuring there are no surprises down the line. My aim is always to deliver a final bill that's not only accurate but also lower than initially estimated. And let's not forget about headers. Research indicates that the last segment of a lateral line often underperforms. I've seen

work that stops short 15' of the field edge or header. 43 lines x 15 ft = 750' which would save \$450. While skipping this component might yield a \$450 savings, it's a compromise I refuse to make, prioritizing quality and effectiveness above all else. As professionals affiliated with MLICA, we're committed to continuous improvement and adherence to industry standards. It's imperative that our customers remain informed, including completing the requisite 1026 form with Farm Service to preempt any potential regulatory issues. In conclusion, while the term "bid" is best used for government, development projects, etc. where engineered quantities and specs are closely watched, in our line of work, we must prioritize quality and integrity above all else. I remind my employees regularly "if you can't get something just right, let us know & we'll all make it right; a buried mistake will only hurt our reputation." Our reputation hinges on our ability to deliver excellence, and any mistakes must be rectified promptly to uphold our standards. Let's continue striving for excellence in all that we do.

Mike Cook

My Editor's Note: Just the other day, while I was in conversation with Mike, he mentioned how he defines "BID" as Badly Installed Drainage, and it caught my attention. I thought it would be a great article to share some of his "old timer's" perspective that he has gained as time has passed. While he doesn't utilize this with every customer, it has helped him in his business over the years. I have confidence that all of you will benefit from Mike's perspective.



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Company Name: _____

Member Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

Email: _____ Website (if applicable) _____

Date of Birth _____ If you're new, how did you hear about LICA? _____

Check All Services Provided

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CH - Concrete/Hardscaping | <input type="checkbox"/> PD - Ponds/Dams |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> DW - Drainage/Water Mgmt./Irrigation | <input type="checkbox"/> SS - Septic Systems/Onsite Wastewater Treatment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EM - Earthmoving/Grading/Leveling | <input type="checkbox"/> TH - Trucking/Hauling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EX - Excavating/Land Clearing | <input type="checkbox"/> TW - Terraces/Waterways |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GR - Gravel/Rock Production | <input type="checkbox"/> UU - Underground Utilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LS - Landscaping/Seeding/Sod | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OD - Open Ditch Work/Dredging | |

Active Contractor Membership - \$350

Active members are individuals engaged in the business of entering into contracts for performing work that will result in soil, land, natural resource conservation or rehabilitation, water conservation, control and prevention of soil erosion, depletion and misuse of natural resources and soil and water pollution and contamination.

Secondary Membership - \$50

Secondary members are individuals employed by an active member in the business that makes the active member eligible for membership.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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 - ♦ Exchange of Ideas
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 - ♦ Representation on the Environmental Issues Council
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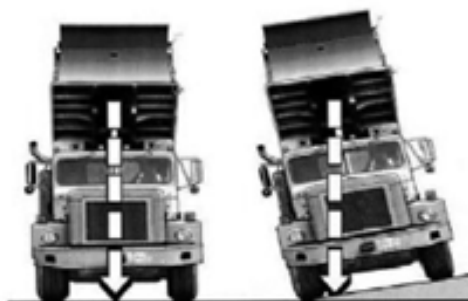
MSHA Safety Alert

Truck Dumping Safety

On January 2, 2024, the driver of an over the road tractor-trailer haul truck died when the trailer tipped over onto the cab of the tractor. The driver was dumping part of the load of gravel from the trailer. Between 2018 and 2024, mine operators reported 14 injury accidents where over the road trucks tipped or rolled over while dumping. During the same period, miners were also injured when 28 off-road mine haul trucks tipped or rolled over. The accidents can be prevented with proper training and following best practices:



Photograph: Trailer tipped over onto cab of tractor.



A slight slope can increase the likelihood of tipping if material sticks in the top of the box.

BEST PRACTICES

For drivers:

- ❖ Dump only on level surfaces, free of spillage. Make sure elevated dump sites are substantial and equipped with adequate dump point restraints.
- ❖ Keep your truck and trailer in a straight line when backing up and never move faster than walking speed.
- ❖ Avoid dumping in high or gusty wind conditions.
- ❖ Stay in the cab with your seatbelt on during the dumping process. Never attempt to exit or jump from an overturning truck.
- ❖ After dumping, remove any compacted material before reloading the truck.
- ❖ Evenly distribute the load and use antifreeze in cold weather to prevent material from freezing and sticking in the truck bed.
- ❖ Never overload trucks or trailers.



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Executive Director's Report

Congratulations to this year's recipients of the MN LICA Scholarship. Addison Loken and Samuel Boe are both outstanding students and well deserving of the Scholarship. Best of Luck to them both!

Plans are coming together for the Annual Scholarship Fundraiser this fall. The tentative date has been set for September 13th. As in the past the morning will start off with Sporting Clays followed by lunch and then to the golf course for a friendly round of 9-hole best ball. You can register for one or both events. This would be a great opportunity to give your employees a well deserved FUN day. Complete details and registration forms will be mailed in August. So mark your calendars.

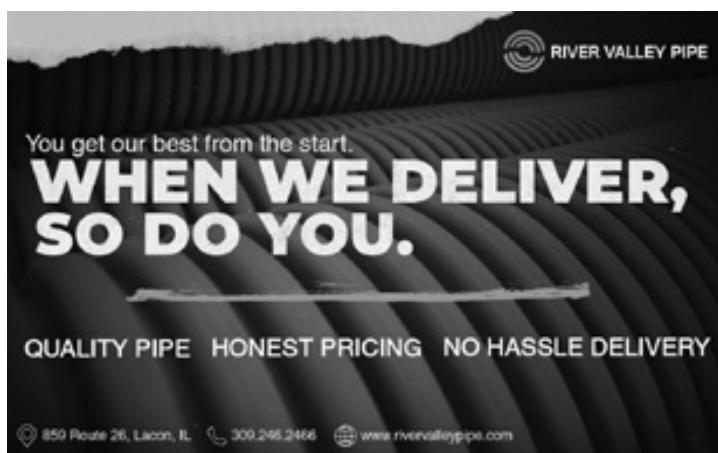
In April I attended the Annual UFG & Prins Insurance meeting. This event highlights the insurance program's growth and performance metrics from the previous year, but also allows the State Executive Directors a chance to meet the representatives, underwriters, managers and officers. A new development is the creation of the Construction Business Unit. John Tatum and Tyler Probasco will be the leads for this unit. This was created to better deal with their customers in the construction industry; YOU!

Work has started on the 2025 Winter Convention. I encourage you to let me know what you want to see and hear about at your convention. This can be training, speakers and topics you want to learn about. Just send me an email, text or call me.

I will be attending the National Summer Meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The agenda shows a great line up of tours, speakers and events. This is a great chance to meet your fellow LICA members. Please check out the agenda on page 2 and scan the QR code or go to www.licanational.org. You will see the full list of events and tours. You can register for the event and there is a link to the hotel registration information.

I hope everyone has had a great spring. Summer is here! Remember to have those safety meetings with your employees. They are very important and do make a difference.

Jennifer Breberg, Executive Director



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just a slogan,
it's a way of
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LICA WATER MANAGEMENT FORUM

Professionals planning for the future!

The LICA Water Management Forum will bring together water management professionals, contractors, farmers, government officials, & educators for a dynamic experience. This two-day event has 10 education sessions exploring the latest advancements, cutting-edge technologies, & equipment. Between educational sessions, participants will have the opportunity to network with essential manufacturers & organizations in the industry. Experience the newest heavy equipment & live demonstrations at the outdoor exhibit area.

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Brazil, IN 47834
Phone: (812) 835-2900
Fax: (812) 835-2535

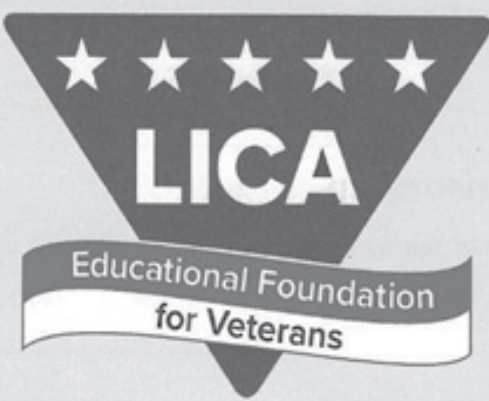
Email: nte@hickorytech.net
www.northlandtrenching.com

NORTHLAND Trenching
Equipment, LLC

2024 Board Member Meeting Attendance

Area/Director	Jan	March	June	Aug	Nov
Pres Dallas Loken	P	P			
VP Jesse James	P	P			
Tres Mark Olsen	A	P			
Chrmn Stu Frazeur	P	A			
Mark Morreim	P	P			
Karlen Nelson	P	A			
Everett Garlisch	P	P			
Brad Herickhoff	P	A			
Mike Lehmann	P	P			
Doug Breberg	P	P			
Dee Ann Larson	P	P			
Debra Olsen	P	P			
Don Loken	P	A			
Assc. Mike Kluck	A	A			
Ex Dir Jennifer Breberg	P	P			

A = Absent P = Present C = Cancelled Meet



LICA
Educational Foundation
for Veterans

OUR MISSION

To train military veterans to become highly-skilled heavy equipment operators and assist them in finding employment opportunities throughout the U.S.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT**Dallas Loken**

Loken Excavating & Drainage
3695 Hoffman Dr. NW
Owatonna, MN 55060

VICE PRESIDENT**Jesse James**

Steve James Excavating
3835 Park Dr. NW
Owatonna, MN 55060

TREASURER**Mark Olsen**

Big Woods Excavating LLC
12825 190th Street East
Nerstrand, MN 55053

CHAIRMAN of the Board**Stuart Frazeur**

Stu Frazeur Tiling
Canby, MN 56220

MNLICA Executive Director**Jennifer Breberg**

2570 130th Str
Dawson, MN 56232
mnlica2@gmail.com
Phone: 320-226-6398

STATE DIRECTORS

Mark Morreim

Morreim Drainage Inc.
71610 263rd Street
Albert Lea, MN

Everett Garlich

Eiden Farm Drainage
35127 746th Avenue
St. James, MN

DeeAnn Larson

Landscape Gal LLC
3343 Union Lake Trail
Northfield, MN 55057

Doug Breberg

Larson Tiling, Inc
812 Oak Street
Dawson, MN 56232

Retired:

Don Loken
Loken Excavating & Drainage
3695 Hoffman Drive NW
Owatonna, MN 55060

Karlen Nelson

Nelson Brothers Tiling LLC
43480 County Road 4
Nicollet, MN 56074

Brad Herickhoff

Ag Tech Drainage, LLC
40536 US HWY 71
Sauk Center, MN 56378

Michael Lehmann

Air-Row Surveying LLC.
19184 State Hwy 22
Mankato, MN 56001

Deb Olsen

Big Woods Excavating, LLC
12825 190th Street
Nerstrand, MN 55053

Associates

Mike Kluck - USI

NATIONAL LICA

3080 Ogden Avenue
Suite 300
Lisle, IL. 60532
Phone: 630-548-1984

2024 UPCOMING EVENTS MNLICA

Web-site: www.mnlica.org

June 13, 2024, MN LICA Board Meeting, 6:00 PM, New Ulm

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





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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.*