



October 2012 - November 2012

# MNLICA

# NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors of America • Minnesota Chapter

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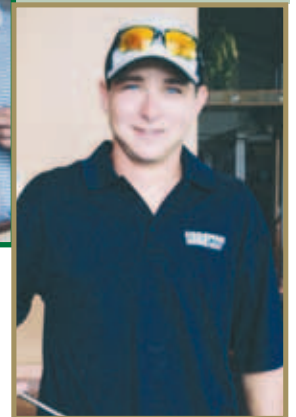
**EDITOR**  
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## CONGRATULATIONS GOLF WINNERS!

First Place Team:  
**RDO**



Doug Gysbers, Tim Thompson, Mark Morreim, Derrick Erenstein



## CONGRATULATIONS LONGEST PUTT

**A PUTTER** *From Federated Insurance*

*Brent Dohrmann*

## MNLICA STATE CONVENTION

*January 16, 2013 - SSTS (6 hour accredited class)*  
*January 17-18, 2013 - Tradeshow & Educational Classes*

**Come & Explore New Techniques**

**Best Western Hotel North Mankato, MN**

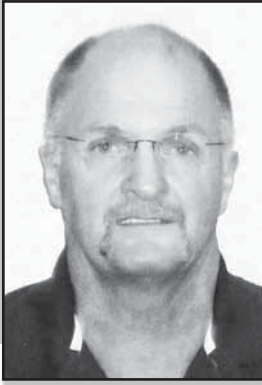


## Conservation Drainage Field Day

*July 31-August 1, 2012*  
*Doug Albin farm and Prairies Edge Casino*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

**Earl Strande Excavating**  
**Earl W. Strande**  
**Fergus Falls, MN**



## GREETINGS From Your PRESIDENT

This summer has been by far the hottest and driest in recent history .

As I am writing this , ( 9/11 ) , we still do not have a Farm Bill ( only 20 % is related to Agriculture – 80% for food stamps and nutrition programs ) . Being an election year , many people aren't confident we will get an new Farm Bill . With all the government variables involved , it's a political hotspot .

The dry weather has hastened an early harvest , especially in the corn . Parts of the area are seeing some corn falling down . Yields and moisture content are extremely variable .

After attending the LICA Summer convention in Kansas , and also various trainings this summer , it is very evident that WATER is a very critical part of our lives . In past years , there has been a surplus of water at various times . This year has been hit- and- miss moisture in Minn. It proves that we all need to try to conserve and save soil moisture through controlled drainage technology .


Finally , I wish everyone a safe and successful fall . Be sure , if you are digging , to submit a Gopher State One Call . We want to see you around!

Respectfully submitted ,

Mark Morreim , MNLICA President .

MNLICA Web-Site; [www.mnllica.org](http://www.mnllica.org)

E-mail: [nordisestrem@frontier.com](mailto:nordisestrem@frontier.com)

  
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## **Today's Social Security retirees will not get back what they paid in.**

**John Peterson, LICA Director of Government Relations.**

I recently read an article by the Associated Press's Stephen Ohelmacher (1) that explained how Social Security is not a good deal today. The article was complete with charts and graphs. I won't repeat his entire article, but thought our LICA members might be interested in the high points.

People retiring today are part of the first generation of workers who have paid more in Social Security taxes during their careers than they will receive in benefits after they retire. It's a historic shift that will only get worse for future retirees, according to an analysis by the Associated Press.

Previous generations got a much better bargain, mainly because payroll taxes were very low when Social Security was enacted in the 1930's, and remained low for decades. "For the early generations, it was an incredibly good deal," said Andrew Biggs, a former deputy Social Security commissioner who is now a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. "The government gave you free money, and getting free money is popular."

If you retired in 1960, you could expect to get back seven times more in benefits than you paid in Social Security taxes, and more if you were a low-income worker, as long as you made it to age 78 for men and 81 for women. As recently as 1985, workers at every income level could retire and get more in benefits than they paid in Social Security taxes, though they didn't do quite as well as their parents and grandparents. Not anymore.

A married couple retiring last year after both spouses earned average lifetime wages, paid about \$598,000 in Social Security taxes during their careers. They can expect to collect about \$556,000 in benefits if the man lives to 82 and the woman lives to 85, according to a 2011 study by the Urban Institute, a Washington think tank.

The trustees who oversee Social Security say its funds, which have been built up over the past 30 years with surplus payroll taxes, will run dry in 2033 unless Congress acts to do something. At that point, payroll taxes would only provide enough revenue each year to pay about 75% of benefits. I might be lucky. I retired in 1994 with very minimum Social Security benefits earned during my Army Career, and according to the statistics I should collect about 97% of what I paid in.

(1). Ohelmacher, Stephen, *Social Security not a good deal: Today's retirees will not get back what they paid*, The Washington Times, 6 AUG 2012, p A4.

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Best Western Hotel—North Mankato**

**January 16, 2013—SSTS (6 Hour Accredited Class)**

**January 17-18, 2013—Tradeshow and Educational Classes**

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## FARM TAP UPDATE 2012

On August 8, 2012, the Department of Public Safety Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety held an annual review of Statute 216D at the Minnesota State Capitol. Don Loken, being the spokesman for the Farm Taps issue, was invited to attend the hearing. When visiting with Don at the summer National LICA convention in Kansas, I was asked to go along and assist Don at the meeting.

The Farm Taps issue (private utilities) was scheduled for 3:20 pm. After extensive construction detours around the State Capitol area, we finally got to the meeting at 1:30. Good thing we were early because the meeting agenda was one hour and twenty minutes ahead of schedule. We spoke about the issue and our safety concerns regarding not knowing the gas line location. We talked about how the landscape has changed in recent years and the change in ownership of both land and building sites. The committee chairman commented they are all very aware of the problem and are concerned as well with it. He stated they think there are about 2500 farm taps in the state, and very little documentation is available. I commented that they could be tracked down through the valve access and meter that is normally located at the pipeline itself. We both agreed this takes time and extensive effort. He also talked about the ability of the gas line locator to mark the private line (if possible) using the 'good faith locate clause'. They can locate it, but cannot be held liable for mislocate or damages. I commented that most of our gas company locators do this now.

On August 20, I had a meeting in Austin with Kevin Maxa, the services supervisor for Austin Utilities. He is one of the committee members directly involved in updating the safety statutes. He was at the August 8 meeting, and he is also concerned about gas line safety. I have known Kevin for many years and he is very active in the Gopher State One Call system. A very good advocate to help us.

Mark Morreim

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**Beware of Bill Payment Scams**


Electric Cooperatives and utilities across the nation are warning members about a national telemarketing scam in which members are offered phony assistance with energy bills. The scammers have approached utility customers claiming to represent a special government program that will help pay utility bills through stimulus money. No such government program exists.

The caller will ask for personal information such as a bank routing number or Social Security number. Electric co-ops strongly urge you to always guard your personal banking and accounting information.


If you receive a call from anyone claiming to be a representative from an electric co-op or anyone else in regards to this alleged program, do not give out your personal information, hang up and contact your local co-op and police department.

Also, never let anyone into your home unless you have a scheduled appointment and they have the proper identification.


**Mention Wetlands, Drainage or Permits and Someone will Mention Rinke Noonan.**



**KURT DETER**



**JOHN KOLB**



**GARY LEISTICO**

Landowners are becoming increasingly aware of the difficulties in dealing with wetlands, drainage and acquiring permits. The DNR, NRCS, Corps of Engineers, county and local governments all may have interests that must be addressed.

Our work involves wetlands, drainage, and other water related issues, permits — areas of law that are constantly changing and becoming more specialized.

If you're facing a challenge in any of these areas, or are wondering if you could benefit from legal help, call Kurt, John or Gary at (320) 251-6700.

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## Burke man in Conservation Hall of Fame.

**Mechanicsville, VA, July 30, 2012.**

John Peterson, an elected director and the vice-chairman of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (VASWCD) was inducted into the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD's) Southeast Region Conservation Hall of Fame at a luncheon in Destin, FL on July 30<sup>th</sup>. The Hall of Fame honors distinguished conservationists whose careers have resulted in the wise use of our nations precious natural resources upon which we all depend. Peterson was nominated for the honor by the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) where he also serves on the VASWCD Board of Directors, and is Virginia's representative to the NACD Board of Directors. Peterson founded KEMPS Consultants, Inc., with expertise in natural resources public policy, water resources, and erosion and sediment control in 1994 after a highly successful career at the top of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's federal Senior Executive Service. At retirement he was an Assistant Chief of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS, now called the Natural Resources Conservation Service – NRCS) one of the top line officers of that agency. He had also served SCS as the Deputy Chief for Administration, responsible for the SCS's financial and personnel activities. John's SCS career took him from MN, to SD, OH, IN, and AZ before coming to USDA Headquarters in Washington, DC. He started working with conservation districts in 1953 as a high school junior. He has been involved with our nation's 3000 conservation districts in some capacity since that time. Since his retirement from USDA John served as the Executive Director of the National Watershed Coalition (NWC), and has been on his local NVSWCD Board since 2006. He was re-elected to another four-year term last NOV. He was nominated to the Conservation Hall of Fame for his extraordinary vision as a conservation leader at the state, regional and national levels. He is also a retired Army COL (INF) after a 32-year active and reserve career. John and his wife Blanche have five grown children and 6 grandchildren. They have lived in Burke since 1978.

**OFFICIAL VOTE NOTICE**  
**MNLICA ANNUAL MEETING**

**January 17, 2013**

**5:30 PM**

**Best Western Hotel, North Mankato**

**2013 - 2017**

**Strategic planning, 5 year for MNLICA**

**MEMBERSHIP**

- Increase at a rate of 5% per year
- Invite possible new members to trade-show, trainings and conventions
- Make sure you tell them of the benefits
- Bring a list of benefits to pass out and read at the Annual Meeting yearly

**NEWSLETTER**

- Put Mike's e-mail and phone number in newsletter for members to call with items for the web page.
- Continue with the Associate and Contractor Profile and the Pictures
- Continue with the Happy Birthday / Anniversary / New baby and Deepest Sympathy area
- Add a joke area or on the lighter side of life

**WEB PAGE**

- Get news items updated as soon as received by Mike
- Get more user friendly
- Get the trainings as soon as possible for convention
- Get the contractors name and phone number for each area for reference

**LEGISLATIVE**

- Get the board's position on an issue to our membership ASAP
- Points that are why we stand the way we do – Pro's and Con's especially on water, land and the septic issues
- Give a short summary of the rules or bills and how it might change the way we do business.
- Ask Kurt Deter to help keep MNLICA informed on upcoming issues whenever possible.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

- OSHA 10 hour needs to be offered every 3 to 4 years / 3-4 areas of the state
- Look at the contractors focus on business and plan trainings accordingly
- Remember to have fun

**RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- Call / Visit Technical Schools and Piggyback with them on their trainings
- At the Local School volunteer to show pictures and talk with students about our business – Tell how math, computers and people skills are used daily and how fulfilling it is to won your business
- Negotiate / use idea exchanges with others
- Send and share information with Legislators on Issues of concerns – group with other similar organization on issues we have alike
- Promote ourselves as professionals – not all professionals wear suits to work – go to shows
- Promote LICA to other contractors in our area

**HAVE FUN**

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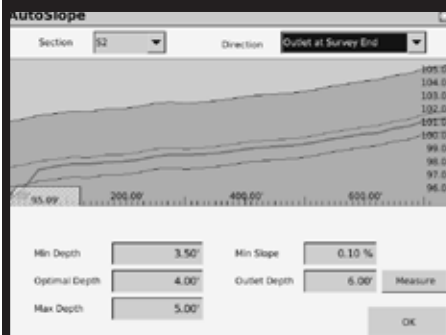
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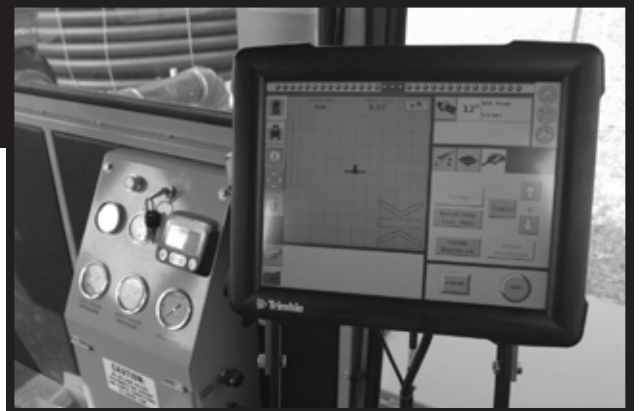
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## Federated Insurance Companies Response to U. S. Supreme Court Ruling on Affordable Care Act

On Thursday June 28, the United States Supreme Court upheld the Affordable Care Act (ACA) commonly known as Obamacare. Federated Mutual Insurance Company (Federated) has been preparing for the full implementation of ACA since it was passed in March 2010. Some provisions of the ACA are already in place (coverage for children to age 26, coverage for preventive care without cost sharing, minimum loss ratios, no lifetime or annual limits, appeal process for claim determinations, no rescission of the policy except for fraud, etc.). We will continue in our preparation for implementation of ACA.

We understand that clients and prospects continue to have serious concerns about the affordability of health care and health insurance coverage. Federated has always strived to be a cost effective provider of health insurance coverage to business owners who have valued Federated's health insurance coverage and service.

In the weeks and months ahead, we will continue to share with you more specifics about the implications of the United States Supreme Court ruling. Please direct any questions related to this decision or its impact on Federated clients to [Compliance@fedins.com](mailto:Compliance@fedins.com).

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EECI10723-S02-01

## EPA proposal expands Clean Water Act regulation

*Aug. 6, 2012* **USA Rice Proposed EPA guidance significantly expands the regulatory scope of "waters of the U.S." bringing with it costly implementation across all Clean Water Act programs.**


Proposed EPA guidance significantly expands the regulatory scope of "waters of the U.S.," bringing with it broad, costly implementation throughout all Clean Water Act (CWA) programs, USA Rice Federation and 48 other agricultural and agribusiness organizations said in a [letter](#) to U.S. Rep. Robert Hurt (R-Va.) and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. It is extremely important to prevent EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from narrowing the CWA exemption Congress explicitly intended for farmers and ranchers, the letter said.

Hurt is the sponsor of H.R. 4278, the Preserving Rural Resources Act of 2012, which the committee approved today. H.R. 4278 would reinforce the agricultural exemptions granted to farmers and ranchers by Congress in Section 404 of the CWA, the letter says. Section 404 declares federal policy for waters of the United States, which has evolved over the years to include regulation of wetlands.

"Without these important protections, agriculture, forestry and ranching will face significantly more federal regulatory and permitting burdens, compliance costs, delays, and constraints on use of land for the production of food, fiber and fuel," the organizations said. "It was never the intent of Congress to impose these regulatory burdens on our sectors." Examples of EPA Clean Water Act restrictions that have limited farmers from conducting normal farming operations include stopping them from building farm ponds for stock watering and irrigation and regulating the equipment farmers use to plow and the depth at which agricultural-related plowing occurs.

John Peterson

LICA Director of Government Relations



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## DIRECTORS REPORT

WELCOME all the new MNLICA Members and Associates. We appreciate your membership and looking forward to meeting your company at a meeting or training in the future. If you want a special training in your area during this year or at the next January State Convention please call Nordis at 507-649-1771 or e-mail: [nordisestrem@frontier.com](mailto:nordisestrem@frontier.com). (note new e-mail address).

Thank you to the Associates that sponsored holes and gave prizes at the Scholarship Golf Tournament and the Members that participated to make it a successful event once again. We appreciate all of you!

Jeanie & Nordis along with the Convention Committee have been working on getting some very exciting and new technology trainings for the upcoming convention in January at the Best Western Hotel in North Mankato. Put the dates on your calendars now of January 16, (Wednesday) for SSTS and the 17-18, (Thursday-Friday) for the Tradeshow and Trainings. I look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones every year. We are planning some fun evening items for all to participate in also. See YOU there.

## One Potato, Two Potato Casserole

- 1 garlic clove, Halved
- 1 Tablespoon olive oil, divided
- 3 Yukon gold or red-skinned potatoes, about ¼ # in weight, peeled and cut into 1/8 inch slices
- 1 sweet potato, about ½#, peeled and cut into 1/8 inch slices
- 1 (10oz) package triple washed, fresh baby spinach, coarsely chopped
- 1-Tablespoon butter, melted
- 1-1/2 teaspoons salt, divided
- 1-1/2 teaspoons freshly ground pepper, divided
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ½ teaspoon lemon juice or zest
- 1 slice dry whole-wheat bread, torn into pieces

### Preheat oven to 425 degrees

Rub garlic on bottom & sides of 1-1/2 quart baking dish. Lightly coat the bottom & sides of dish with 1-teaspoon of the olive oil. Arrange half the spinach & white potato slices in a layer on the bottom of dish. Sprinkle with ½ teaspoon salt & pepper. Top with ½ sweet potato slices & remaining spinach. Drizzle melted butter over potato mixture & sprinkle ½ teaspoon of salt & pepper. Layer remaining white potato slices over the seasoned potato mixture. Top with remaining sweet potato slices, ½ teaspoon of salt & pepper.

In a small saucepan over medium-low heat, combine milk & nutmeg. Bring to a boil. Remove from heat and pour evenly over potato mixture. Cover casserole with foil & bake for 40 minutes. Remove casserole from oven, keep foil on.

Prepare bread pieces topping in a food processor. Process the bread until small crumbs form. Add remaining 2 teaspoons of olive oil & lemon juice or zest, and pulse to blend. Sprinkle over top of potato casserole. Bake until potatoes are tender & the topping & edges are brown. About 10-15 minutes. Let stand for 5 minutes. Serves 6.

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## Conservation Drainage Field Day

The Conservation Drainage Field Day and Workshop organized by Mark Dittrich, MN Department of Agriculture, on July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup> was an informative and well attended event. An open house / field day was held on the Doug Albin farm, near Normania, MN in conjunction with a workshop at the Prairie's Edge Casino.

The July 31<sup>st</sup> field day speakers represented a number of individuals, groups and government agencies supporting environmental protection and enhancement issues.

Doug Albin and David Craigmile are local farmers and landowners from Clarkfield and Boyd MN. They talked about their involvement and experiences in the new conservation programs.

Jeff Strock and Andry Ranaivoson from the University of Minnesota Lamberton, Mankato and Saint Paul discussed the use of water management control structures and woodchip bioreactors. They were assisted by SDSU staff and students.

Dan Jaynes from the USDA Agricultural Research Service, Ames Iowa, discussed the use of saturated buffers.

Lucas Youngsma, Skip Wright and Todd Kolander from the Marshall, Spicer and Mankato DNR offices explained the use of toe-wood sod mats to stabilize stream-bank drainage outlets.

Mike Lehmann, Air-Row Surveying, LLC from Mankato MN, is a Technical Service Provider (TSP) for Drainage Designs presented a worksheet that reviewed procedures for compiling a CAP130 Drainage Water Management Plan (DWMP).

Joe Kristoff, USDA NRCS-Soil Scientist from Marshall MN, reviewed his work with soil coring and developing other conservation practices.

Following the field day there was also a Workshop held August 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss the process for individuals, government agencies, local authorities and citizen organizations to work together on developing opportunities for environmental protection issues. Later discussions were held concerning the topics of; Precipitation trends, tiling and flood risk, County wide drainage planning, Identifying water storage opportunities, Bank stabilization approaches, and Impacts of woodchip bioreactors, drainage water management, and retention basin. A review was held of Multiple Landowner Drainage Projects: What Really Happened?

Following are some of the highlights of the CAP130 – DWMP (Drainage Water Management Plan) worksheet prepared by Air-Row Surveying, LLC.

A check list should be used for the 'Land Owner Meeting to Determine Objectives' – Have they applied and been accepted for Equip funding? Do they have a budget or timeline? Are they requesting or do they have a topographic survey of their farm? Do they have adequate acreage, outlets and tile depth that is suitable for control drainage? When drawing up a control drainage plan it is helpful to review tile placement, sizing, grade and depth considerations.

Compiling the CAP130 Drainage Water Management Plan involves formatting an approximately 13 page template. They include the Landowner / Tract Location, Objectives, Soil Map, Tile Map, Delineation of Drained Area, Topographic contour map, Map of controlled areas, Map of control structures, Management Plan, Summary of Control Systems, Signature Page and the Check list for the District Conservationist.

Air-Row Surveying, LLC displayed the CAP130 DWMP Drainage Water Management Plan materials along with MNLICA informational and membership material at a booth at the Resource Fair, at the Prairie's Edge Casio, July 31<sup>st</sup> following the field day. For copies of this worksheet or for questions about having a CAP130 Drainage Water Management Plan written for your next project, contact Mike Lehmann, Air-Row Surveying, LLC – [Air-Row@charter.net](mailto:Air-Row@charter.net) or 507-381-9791.

## COMPACT EXCAVATORS

### Safety

Be alert to ground conditions and your surroundings.

If you are operating a compact excavator on a slope and it begins to roll, tip or slide, you should stay inside the machine with the seat belt fastened and immediately lower the attachment, according to the Association of Equipment Manufacturers' Compact Excavator Safety Manual. Hold on firmly, brace your feet on the floor and lean away from the point of contact.

To reduce risks of this situation occurring travel straight up and down slopes with the attachment low and close to the machine. Avoid slippery ground conditions, and don't work with the tracks across a slope as this will increase chances the machine will slide. Swing to the uphill side to dump the load.

Randy Mansell, risk control consultant for CAN Insurance, says roll-overs, struck-by and caught-between accidents are among the most common involving compact excavators. To help prevent them:

- 1-Avoid steep slopes, and unstable surfaces
- 2-Do not travel over obstacles such as logs, tree stumps, ditches or curbs.
- 3-Keep a 360-degree sense of where people and objects are located, and beware of blind spots.
- 4-Ensure the machine has sufficient clearance from other machines, material, people and objects.
- 5-Do not lift or swing a load or attachment over anyone.
- 6-Know and use hand signals for particular jobs. Operators should take signals from only one person.
- 7-When working enter a compact excavator, do not enter its turning-radius areas.

## MNLICA WEB MAIL

To get items on the MNLICA Web page please contact Mike Lehmann at 507-278-4643 or you may e-mail him at [air-row@charter.net](mailto:air-row@charter.net) [mlehman@hickorytech.net](mailto:mlehman@hickorytech.net)

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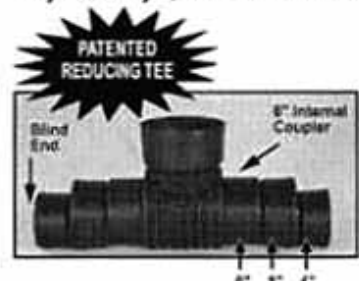
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**2012**

<b>August 24</b>	<b>MNLICA Board Meeting Scholarship Golf</b>	<b>McArthur's Gopher Hill's</b>
<b>December 8</b>	<b>MNLICA Board Meeting 3:00PM</b>	<b>Olivia, MN Max's Grill</b>

**2013**

<b>January 16-18</b>	<b>State Convention (note Change)</b>	<b>North Mankato, Best Western</b>
<b>January 16</b>	<b>SSTS (6-hr accredited training)</b>	<b>North Mankato, Best Western</b>



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