

October 2023/
November 2023

MINNESOTA

LICA NEWS

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See more inside this issue!





**GREETINGS
From Your
PRESIDENT**

We are rapidly approaching the end of the construction season. The air has become cooler, my darling wife has harvested most of the garden, the crops have begun to be taken off, and road construction projects are sporting hydroseed green. Another sign of fall was the Scholarship Fundraiser, which happened in September. A special acknowledgement goes to the Associate Members who donated to the event. Also, I mention Gustafson Drainage LLC, Steve James Excavating, Ground Works LLC and Morreim Drainage who brought their crews to blast those clay pigeons and put a ball into a tiny hole. It was great fun.

Fall also means the planning for the state convention in January is being planned. If there is a topic any of you would like to see, let Jenny Breberg know.

We continue to be involved with the Drainage Work Group, with discussion around outlets and notification. In a nutshell, certain parties want to regulate public drainage outlets, and they want to be able to sit at their keyboards and decide what public drainage project they want to oppose. You all can figure out who wants to stop drainage.

On a personal note, my plow operator recently was hospitalized for West Nile Disease. He is still in therapy to rebuild the strength in his "clutch leg." Often we think our main safety concerns involve excavating, falling, cuts and such. This was from a mosquito. I should have printed out the safety poster on the Zy-wave portal. It is literally right there in the portal. Anyway, I'm looking forward to the cold temps, those mosquitos need to die!

MNLICA President Stu Frazeur

PUBLIC DRAINAGE UPDATE

Through the years a number of MNLICA members have kept tabs on the Drainage Work Group (DWG). The reason is that legislation affects many of our contractor members. Being involved with the DWG gives insight into what regulations may be coming and also provides an avenue to have a say in the process.

Much of the efforts of the DWG concern "public ditches" which some people refer to as "103E ditches" as the code that authorizes the public ditch is numbered 103E.

So, what is a public ditch? It is a ditch or tile line that is owned by the people that pay for it, but a government unit is responsible for administrative duties. That is often a watershed district or the county commissioners.

When a ditch is undersized or failing the owners can "petition" to have it repaired or improved. An improvement often involves enlarging the system, and also brings in engineers, and other agencies such as the DNR and BWSR. There are very specific steps that must be taken during the process. These range from who, when and how parties are notified, to what an engineer must consider during design and construction.

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**MNLICA Web-Site; www.mnlca.org
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PUBLIC DRAINAGE UPDATE (Continued)

Typically, the people notified are the ones paying for the system. However, certain environmental groups believe that any person should be allowed to know that a system is proposed, and have introduced legislation that would establish a searchable database. This is based on their opinion that farm drainage causes flooding and is responsible for polluting waters downstream. These groups believe they should be able to comment, and have at times attacked the projects through the legal system.

The establishment of a searchable database that would list all drainage projects is one of the major issues at the DWG. This proposal has been introduced twice at the state capitol.

The second issue centers on the term “outlet adequacy” which is something an engineer must consider when designing an improved system. Basically, the body of water receiving the flow from a public drainage system must be adequate to handle the increased flow. In this case, the term “outlet” refers to the body of water receiving the flow from the public ditch. At this time the engineers are considering adequacy based on flow, but the environmentalist groups think that the assumed nutrient load should also be considered. Further, the drainage code does not specifically define how far downstream engineers must evaluate. Currently, it appears that little will change at this time, though the term “outlet” is going to be redefined to some extent, as the culvert on the end of a system is also referred to as an “outlet.”

The DWG meets monthly when the legislature is not in session. The next meeting is planned for October 12th at the Minnesota Farmers Union building in St. Paul. It can also be accessed through Microsoft Teams. Contact Stu Frazier if you are interested in attending.

**SAFETY TIP**

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Discovery Farms Project Highlights Drainage Management

The Discovery Farms Minnesota program and Farmamerica hosted a field day August 16 to provide an up-close look at the newest Discovery Farms project focusing on tile drainage.

Discovery Farms Minnesota is a farmer-led effort to gather field scale water quality information from different types of farming systems, in landscapes all across Minnesota. The mission of the Discovery Farms program is to gather water quality information under real-world conditions. Currently there are 10 monitored sites on 5 farms across Minnesota. The program has been in place since 2010 and has collected water quality information on more than 40 farms.

Farmamerica is a non-profit organization working to connect Minnesotans to the evolving story of agriculture through hands on educational experiences, partnerships, and community engagement. Hosting this drainage research project on their farmland will allow Farmamerica visitors to learn more about the role of tile drainage in supporting crop production and addressing water quality and quantity concerns.

This project involved installation of a new tile system, engineered to allow controlled drainage in 4 separate zones. The field had been tiled more than a half-century ago, but the system was not performing properly, resulting in frequent crop losses and potentially higher nutrient losses. The new system, which was installed in December of 2022, is expected to drain the farmland more uniformly. In addition, the ability to control the water level within the soil is expected to reduce total tile flow and nitrate movement.

Initially, the 4 zones will be allowed to drain freely whenever soils are saturated. After a calibration period, 2 of the zones will be managed by raising the water level within the soil during periods when field access is not necessary. Analysis will include water volume and nutrient concentrations, along with yield and field trafficability factors. This phase of the research will focus on an assessment of controlled drainage.

With the infrastructure in place, longer term research could include practice comparisons, potentially involving precision fertilizer management, tillage, cover crops and other emerging practices.

Primary support for this project was provided by Minnesota Natural Resources Conservation Service. In-kind support was provided by Prinsco, who provided tile; Ellingson Drainage, who installed the system; and AgriDrain, manufacturers of the controlled drainage structures. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture provides equipment and monitoring expertise for all Discovery Farms locations in Minnesota. Additional financial support is provided by the Minnesota Corn Research and Promotion Council.

For more information about Discovery Farms in Minnesota go to www.discoveryfarmsmn.org.





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SCHOLARSHIP EVENT 2023
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Winners of the Sporting Clay Shoot: 1st place Dusty Hughes, Gustafson Drainage (far right) 2nd Place Joe Fisher, Ground Works (center) 3rd Place Tie: Josh Krause, Country Enterprises, (Not Pictured) and Ryan Yokeil, Ground Works.





9 Hole Best Ball
1st Place Team

Ross Blume, Gustafson
Drainage; Kevin Minter,
Ground Works; Cole
James, Steve James Ex-
cavating; Brandon
Borst, Steve James
Excavating

2nd Place Team

Dusty Hughes, Gustafson
Drainage; Gabe Tatzke,
Ground Works; Stu Frazier,
Stu Frazier Tiling; Josh
James, ISG



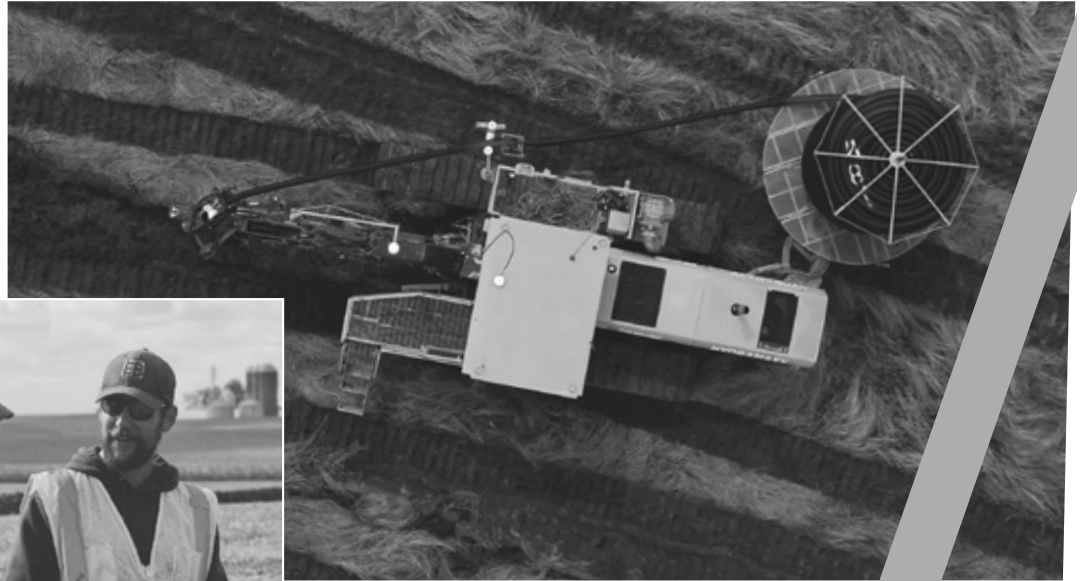
3rd Place Team

Jason Peterson, Ground
Works; Nick James, Steve
James Excavating; Dee Ann
Larson, Landscape Gal; Steve
James, Steve James
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MORE PICTURES FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER





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Executive Directors Report

Thank you to those that Sponsored, Donated and Attended the Scholarship Fundraiser. I think everyone had a good time. The facilities were also great. Plans are in the works already for next year, so be watching for details next summer. Family members of the business owner and employees that will be graduating high school next Spring can apply for the scholarship!

I am finishing up plans for the Convention in January. I will have Al Batt as the entertainment this year. Al is from Harland, MN. He is a writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist. I have also scheduled a teaching session on the LICA Portal. If you don't know what that is, it is offered through Prins, Insurance and it has all the safety information you need. You can customize it to create your company's specific Safety Manual. This is something every LICA member needs to know about.

The Septic training will again be offered on Wednesday. The Convention Information will be sent out Mid-November.

The Board of Directors is also looking for a person or persons to help fill positions on the Board. Please contact me if you are interested and I will pass this on to the Board Chairman.

I would encourage all current members to think of businesses you know that aren't current members and give them a call and tell them to check out what LICA is about and all that it has to offer.

Jennifer Breberg, Executive Director.

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Fatality Alert

MINE FATALITY – On August 21, 2023 a crusher lid that was being moved into place struck a miner when the rigging broke. The miner died from his injuries on August 23, 2023.



Best Practices

- Do not work under suspended loads.
- Use properly rated lifting equipment and ensure that the load is well secured.
- Attach tag lines to suspended loads to steady or guide the load.
- Communicate lift plans to all persons working in the lift zone. Follow manufacturer's recommended work procedures.

This is the 28th fatality reported in 2023, and the twelfth 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 accident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.

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

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2024 National LICA Winter Convention

Virginia Beach, Virginia - February 13 - 17th

Agenda

Please note:

**The Winter Convention Agenda has changed.
National LICA Committees are now Thursday.
Seminars & Associates' Night are Friday.**

Tuesday, February 13

8:30 am - 3:30 pm Aviation Museum/
Nauticus Tour

Wednesday, February 14

8:30 am - 3:30 pm Tour of Williamsburg

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Executive Committee

Thursday, February 15

7:00 am - 5:00 pm Committee Meetings

12:00 pm Opening Lunch

Friday, February 16

8:00 am Breakfast

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Educational Seminars

12:30 pm - 3:00 pm Executive Directors' Meeting

7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Associates' Night (Exhibition)

Saturday, February 17

8:00 am Breakfast

9:00 am - 10:00 am Delegates' Meeting

10:00 am - 11:00 am Board Meeting

12:30 pm Lunch

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Reception

7:00 pm Awards Banquet

What does Registration Include?

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

Tours

Those who pre-register for any of the tours will receive an admission ticket to those events when they check-in on site. Tours leave promptly at the listed time.

Attire

The attire for our Winter Convention is mostly casual. Members do wear "dressier" attire for the Awards Banquet Saturday evening. Slacks, dresses, and nice shoes are often worn, but not required.

Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront

LICA members will be soaking in the views of the Atlantic Ocean right in the middle of the Virginia Beach Boardwalk this February. The Boardwalk has a plethora of restaurants and activities just minutes from the Hilton. But you don't even need to leave the hotel for a bite to eat. Dine next to the Atlantic Ocean at Catch 31, for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Located on the first floor of the Hilton.

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**Check out the MNLICA web-site:
Membership: Benefits: Applications:**

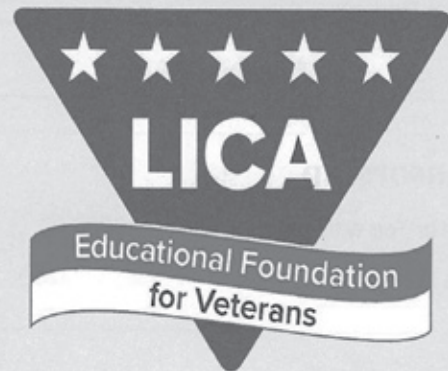
Directory & Map

**Scholarship Application: Ladies
Activities**

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Information**

**Calendar of Events: Legislative Issues:
National LICA**

**Check out Facebook: [https://
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2023 Board Member Meeting Attendance

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

A = Absent P = Present C = Cancelled Meet



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2023 UPCOMING EVENTS MNLICA

Web-site: www.mnlica.org

November 30, 2023—Winter Board Meeting 5:00 PM - Best Western Plus, New Ulm

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

January 23 2024 - MSHA Certification - Owatonna VFW

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

Virginia Beach, VA

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

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the poor man's joy and comfort,
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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.*