



Land Improvement Contractors Of America · Illinois Chapter

January - February 2011

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Upcoming Events:

Safety Week Workshop

Feb. 8 - 11, 2011

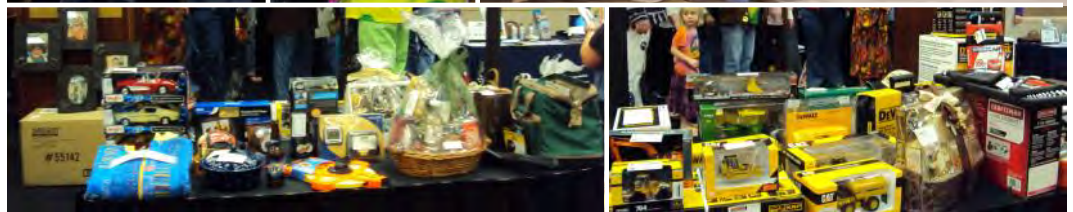
Erosion Control Workshop

March 3 - 4, 2011

March Board Meeting

March 5, 2011

ILICA CONVENTION RECEIVES OUTSTANDING SUPPORT *(pages 6 - 7)*



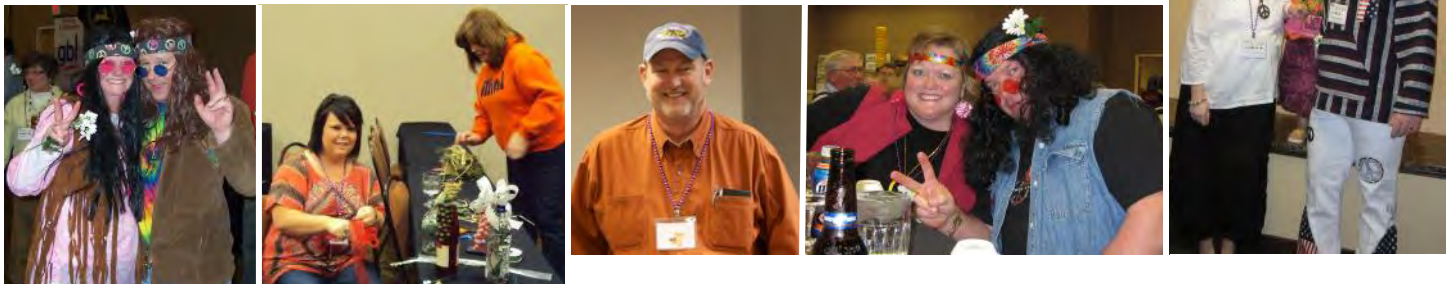
Also Featured Inside

2011 Workshops Are Right Around The Corner *(pages 8 - 9)*

National Winter Convention Registration *(page 13)*

Return To: Illinois LICA
P.O. Box 474
Brimfield, IL 61517

“THANK YOU” TO THE 2011 ILICA CONVENTION COMMITTEE!



Once again, the ILICA Convention committee worked all year long to come up with another entertaining, informative and successful conference for our membership. There are hours of meetings, hundreds of emails, phone calls and texts and lots of old fashioned hard work that goes into preparing to host the convention each year. According to the exit surveys, the vast majority of our guests enjoyed the hotel, the scheduling and the entertainment.

If you happen to be one of those guests who had a great time watching the ILICA version of “The Family Feud”, or took advantage of the educational sessions or trade show, or enjoyed some of the social interaction at this year’s convention,

the fine looking folks pictured above are the ones that deserve your thanks!

This year’s committee, shown above from left to right; Jackie & Joe Streitmatter, convention chair Kristin Kute-meier with Bev Dean at the wine bottle decorating activity, Bill Dean, Lori & David Kennedy and Tracy, Carly & Brent Breedlove who is also educational chair. Their creativity and dedication to this committee and ILICA, along with a lot of hard work, is what really makes each convention so much fun.

THANK YOU for all your efforts and congratulations on another excellent ILICA winter convention.



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**Professor Richard Cooke
University of Illinois**

The *ILICA News* is the official publication of Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association, Inc. at 118 E. Knoxville St., Brimfield, IL 61517. (309) 446-3700.

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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 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 does with the land will be the deciding factor of his survival.



Meeting Notice

March 5, 2011

Heiser Insurance

133 S. Main Street - Morton, IL

Committee Meetings - 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Board of Directors - 2:00 pm

See map and directions on page 19



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello everyone,

As I sit down to write my last message as president, my mind is reflecting over the past 2 years and what has happened within the association. It has been quite an honor to have overseen such a renewal in this group. With back to back Top State awards on the national level, a 50% increase in membership, an influx of new younger minds into positions of involvement and leadership, and advanced exposure within the business environment, it has been very gratifying to see the work of everyone come to this fruition. I send out my deepest thank you to everyone that has helped us to move forward. It can often come at some level of sacrifice. This I know from my own experience for I am half of Miller Township Construction's workforce. However, I do believe that if you ask anyone who is involved within this association that if it is worth the lost revenue, you will get "yes" for an answer. There really are a lot of fine people within this group and it has been great knowing them better during my couple of terms here on the inside cover.

And now we start anew with Dave Kennedy as president and I look forward to his time at the top. I have found many of his comments quite insightful over the years and feel that he has the abilities within to be a very effective leader who will continue us on the path of growth, education, and working relationships that we walk now. While he might not be as inclined to give a speech before a group as I might be, within the network of association with NRCS, U of I, EPA, Corp of Engineers, he has much to communicate and can say it well. It is and will become an even more regulated world as those with no working knowledge of life outside of the entitlement world in which they exist continue to push forth their agendas of "We know best".

With this thought in mind it is time to really activate the political power that we can develop. Though we may be small in numbers and funds in relation to other groups out

there, we can have an impact beyond our size. This comes from a personal relationship with those that represent you in the law making bodies of government as well as the administrative. But you have to get involved; because if we don't speak up the only voices heard will be ones we might not agree with. The premise you have to look at first is that those that seek office do so because they want to make life better. And from my experience with them, I believe this. And they want to learn all sides of issues, so lets help them. Make that personal approach and bring your point of view. Maybe we can turn around this anti business climate that is killing this state economically. This is a personal opinion but all elected officials should be required to take and learn economics before they take office. A good knowledge of logic wouldn't hurt either.

So as I ride into the sunset here, I just want to say that it has been at times fun, certainly educational, stressful, rewarding, enlightening, a cause of personal growth, and some other adjectives that aren't popping into mind right now being the president of ILICA. As I mentioned at the convention, going into the job I felt like I didn't know enough, coming out I am sure I don't know enough. But I would do it again, thanks very much to the abilities, commitment, and friendship of everyone during these past 2 years. It is something of a load lifted although it seems like I might be even more involved in specific areas such as membership retention and legislative issues. At least I won't have to write this anymore... I was really running out of what to say.

Everyone have a good winter getting ready for prime working conditions, do some maintenance upon yourselves as well as your machines. Get out to the safety week and the erosion control workshops. Have a good year and lets keep moving forward.

Steve Anderson, expresident (no lifetime pension or secret service though)

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NEW MEMBERS

Active Contractors

Miles Warren

Miles Warren Dozer Service, Clay City

Jason Beyers - Lanark

Dan Beyers - Rosamond

Jarrold Calbow

Liberty Lawn Care, Inc. - Springfield

Pete Million

Million Construction, LTD, Quincy

Ken Willis

Conservation Land Stewardship, Inc. - Elmhurst

Kyle Hendrix

Hendrix Trucking - Hammond

John Andermann

Antrex, Inc. - Plainfield

Associate Members

First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust - Mattoon

Ashland Scrapers - Lawrenceville

Group Benefits, LTD - Urbandale, IA

IMCO Precast, LLC - Decatur

Interstate Batteries of Central IL, Inc. -

Washington

Affiliate Members

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ILICA CONVENTION RECEIVES OUTSTANDING SUPPORT



ILICA associate members came out in a big way to support this year's ILICA winter convention and member meeting, which is evident in the photos on the front cover of this newsletter. Every meal and event received sponsorship, the auction raised an all time record in revenue and exhibitors filled the ballroom and spilled out into the pre-conference area.

All of this year's convention exhibitors and sponsors are listed below and we thank each of them for their generosity. This year's trade show began at 8:30 am Thursday and although educational sessions were being held part of the day, the exhibit hall always had someone in it. For the first time in a long while, static equipment displays were set up in the hotel's pre-conference area, courtesy of Birkey's, Central Illinois Ag and German-Bliss Equipment Inc., providing an extra bit of "eye candy" for our members.

Birkey's also went the extra mile with Saturday's Backhoe Rodeo and sponsored lunch at their Bloomington facility. The Birkey's staff took care of every detail of the set up so all our ILICA contractors had to do was sign up and climb into the seat. Birkey's staff from Mattoon, Champaign and Bloomington were present (*also shown on the front cover*) to welcome our group and answer any questions about their new "N" series and other Case equipment. Representatives from Case were also

present and provided an informative presentation on the Tier 4 emission standards. It was a very enjoyable day and our sincere thanks go out to Jeff Hedge, Birkey's co-owner, Todd Bohlmann, Bloomington store manager and Don Spence, Mattoon store manager, for their hard work and hospitality.

ILICA contractors also came out in a big way for this year's convention, which saw an increase in registration along with several new members who took advantage of their free registration benefit to attend. The first two days brought the highest contractor attendance we've seen in years. According to our exit survey's, the entire event was enjoyed by attendees, which adds up to a successful convention in every way.

Plans are already underway for next year's scheduling, returning to the DoubleTree for a second year. Who knows what all the convention committee will come up with for next year, but you can count on it being fun, educational, enjoyable and probably colder than all get-out. Thank goodness the hotel has those warm cookies for all their guests!

Exhibitors		Meal & Event Sponsors
ADS/Hancor	LASEREX, inc.	Advanced Drainage Systems / C.D. Getz Corp
AGPS	Martin Equipment of IL, Inc.	Agco, Inc.
Agri Drain Corp	Metal Culverts, Inc.	Agri Drain Corp.
Allu Group, Inc.	Midwest Auger-Aerator	Altorfer's / Caterpillar
Birkeys	Northland Trenching Equipment	Clark County Supply
Central Illinois Ag	Petrocon Corporation	Great Lakes Interdrain
CIT Group, Inc.	Port Industries	Hickenbottom Inc.
CPI Supply	Precision Intakes LTD	Martin Equipment of IL, Inc.
FRATCO, Inc.	Prins Insurance / CWG	Precision Intakes, LTD
German-Bliss Equipment Inc.	Prinsco, Inc.	Prins Insurance, Inc. / CWG
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	Wisconsin Plastic Drain Tile	Springfield Plastics Inc.

ILICA CONVENTION RECEIVES OUTSTANDING SUPPORT (CONT.)



Chad Nicholson of Fratco, Inc. strikes a pose for the registration desk staff



(above) Registration desk, complete with lava lamps for that 60's atmosphere, decorated by convention chair, Kristin Kutemeier. Children's gift bags were all arranged by Kristin.

(above right) Kevin Shimp of Port Industries, receives a merit award for outstanding golf outing participation and ILICA service.

(left) Pre-conference area contained a static display of 4 skid loaders provided by Central Illinois Ag, Birkey's, and German Bliss Equipment.

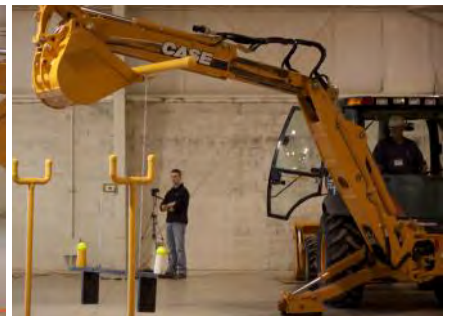


(above) "Richard" Dean, host for the Family Feud with the very entertaining Dinglehofenflauber family (left) and the excitable Waddelwopper family (above)

(below) Contractors Panel on shop organization was well attended.



(above) Backhoe Rodeo competitors studying the rules before taking a turn at the controls (below) Norm Rozendaal lining up the triangle to complete his event; Scott Day picking up a soccer ball for the 1st event; Norm again, working a balancing act while placing the crossbar in the brackets. It's not as easy as it looks!





2011 SAFETY WEEK WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

Pre-Registration Workshop Fees - ILICA Members			Feb. 8 - 11, 2011 President Abe Lincoln Hotel - Springfield, IL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daily Pricing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEU's On All Sessions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full Workshop & Additional Attendee Discounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lunch and Breaks provided each day <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10-Hour OSHA class begins at 9 am Tues. and requires a 2 day registration	Pre-Registration Workshop Fees - Non-Members		
	<i>1st Attendee</i>	<i>Additional</i>			<i>1st Attendee</i>	<i>Additional</i>
Full Registration/all Sessions: \$275					Full Registration/all Sessions: \$340	
Individual Day Pricing				Individual Day Pricing		
1 Day Registration	\$ 75	\$ 65		1 Day Registration	\$ 90	\$ 80
2 Day Registration	\$135	\$120		2 Day Registration	\$180	\$165
3 Day Registration	\$220	\$200		3 Day Registration	\$260	\$240
After January 26, 2011 or On-Site Registration			OSHA®	After February 1, 2011 or On-Site Registration		
	<i>1st Attendee</i>	<i>Additional</i>			<i>1st Attendee</i>	<i>Additional</i>
Full Registration/all Sessions: \$300					Full Registration/all Sessions: \$370	
Individual Day Pricing				Individual Day Pricing		
1 Day Registration	\$100	\$ 90		1 Day Registration	\$115	\$105
2 Day Registration	\$150	\$135		2 Day Registration	\$205	\$190
3 Day Registration	\$250	\$230		3 Day Registration	\$300	\$280
Optional Certification Review & Testing (2 year certification period)				Optional Certification Review & Testing (2 year certification period)		
\$100—Initial Certification Per Applicant				\$500—Initial Certification Per Applicant		
\$50—Bi-Annual Renewal Per Applicant				\$200—Bi-Annual Renewal Per Applicant		

Company Name: _____

Attendee Name: _____ Contact Phone #: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City, State _____

Additional Attendees: _____, _____, _____

Yes, I (we) will attend:

Mail to: ILICA - P.O. Box 474 - Brimfield, IL 61517 or Fax (309) 446-3744

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Pre-Registration fee: (Must be received in our office by January 26, 2011)

Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Friday, February 11, 2011

The 10-Hour OSHA certification sessions require a 2 day registration and begin with the confined spaces, trench safety, demolition and inspections 101 module on Tuesday, February 8th at 9:00 am.

Sign up for the entire week or select the sessions that make sense for your business and employees. Please note the full week and additional attendee discounts listed above and list

all attendees on the form below. If registrants plan to attend different sessions, note the number of attendees below each day(s) selections.

Pre-registrations must arrive at the ILICA office on or before January 26, 2011 or on-site registration pricing applies.

Lunch and breaks are provided each day of the workshop. Total Enclosed: \$ _____

EROSION CONTROL WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

MARCH 3 - 4, 2011

The rescheduled Erosion Control Workshop is set for March 3rd - 4th at the I-Hotel in Champaign. The facility proved to be a perfect venue for the drainage workshops in August with all the latest technology and a lot of extraordinary staff. August turned out to be a bad month for our site prep contractors to take two days off, but by the looks of our membership questionnaire, March is going to work out much better for the group. The registration form will be published in the January - February 2011 ILICA News and information is always available on our website, www.ilica.net. The two day session will cover the IDOT fundamental module developed by Dr. Kalita of the University of Illinois.

The Fundamental Module covers the basics of all the topics that are covered in-depth in the following modules. This overview is mandatory before taking the other sessions and will include erosion and hydrology, regulations for storm water pollution protection, sediment and erosion control, the design and maintenance of practices and inspections.

Although the module can be covered in one long day, the ILICA workshop will provide additional time for the field session and allow more time for discussion during the classroom portion. The tentative agenda is listed to the right.



Erosion Control Workshop Fundamental Module



- March 3rd:** 9 am - 2 pm: Basics of Hydrology & Erosion, Regulations for SWPP, Sediment & Erosion Control (lunch & breaks included)
 2 - 4 pm: - Field session at South Farm
- March 4th:** 8:30 am - 3 pm: Design & Maintenance, Inspections, Testing (lunch & breaks included)
 3 pm: Optional Certification Testing

Yes, I will attend the Erosion Control Workshop and/or Certification Review and Testing program.
 (Mark all choices of interest. See pricing listed on left)

- Erosion Control Workshop** (2 days)
- ILICA Certification** (see schedule above)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State _____ Phone # _____

Company Name: _____

Additional Attendees _____, _____
 _____, _____

March 3rd & 4th IDOT Level Erosion Control Workshop

ILICA Members:	Non-Members
<i>1st attendee</i> \$100	\$125
<i>Additional</i> \$ 80	\$100

Fees After February 15, 2011

ILICA Members:	Non-Members
<i>1st attendee</i> \$125	\$150
<i>Additional</i> \$100	\$125

Optional Certification Review & Testing (2 year certification period)

ILICA Members:	Non-Members
Certification \$100	\$500
Bi-Annual Re-Cert \$ 50	\$100

No fee for re-testing or additional classifications

Pre-Registration fees must be received in our office by the deadlines stated above. The ILICA office is handling the rooming list for attendees at the I-Hotel & Conference Center, 190 S. First St. in Champaign. Please contact Janet at (309) 446-3700 if you would like to be included in our block. The guaranteed room rate is \$125 per night. There will be field sessions involved in the workshop so please bring appropriate outer wear as weather dictates.

**Mail to: ILICA - P.O. Box 474 - Brimfield, IL 61517 or
 Fax to: (309) 446-3744**

Total Enclosed: \$ _____



ILICA LADIES' PAGE

ILICA Ladies enjoy outstanding speakers, healthy snacks, a delicious lunch and a new make and take activity at this year's convention!

Super Strawberry Whipped Parfaits

- 1 cup light strawberry yogurt (fat-free, sugar-free)
- ½ cup non-fat light whipped topping
- 2 cups fresh strawberries, washed and cut bite-size
- 2 Tablespoons sliced almonds
- Dark chocolate chips (optional garnish)

Place the yogurt in a bowl and fold in the whipped topping. Place ¼ cup of strawberries in each of 4 parfait cups. Top the berries with 3 tablespoons of the mixture. Repeat layers and garnish with almonds and dark chocolate. Serve immediately or chill. 4 servings.

Nutrient analysis: 83 calories, 2gm fat, 14gm carbohydrates, 4gm fiber, 3gm protein, 29mg sodium

Recipe compliments of OSF St. Joseph Medical Center. The Center for Healthy Lifestyles, 2200 East Washington, Bloomington, IL 61701, (309) 661-5151. www.osfhealthcare.org



DID YOU KNOW...

- ♦ Stroke kills more than twice as many American women every year as breast cancer
- ♦ More women than men die from stroke
- ♦ Women over age 30 who smoke and take high-estrogen oral contraceptives have a stroke risk 22 times higher than average

STROKE RISK FACTORS

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| ♦ Smoking | ♦ High Cholesterol |
| ♦ Diabetes | ♦ Hypertension |
| ♦ Previous Stroke | ♦ Atrial Fib |
| ♦ Coronary artery disease | |
| ♦ Abuse of alcohol and drugs | |

*Provided by: Kelly Schuler, MSN, RN, CRN
Neuroscience Leader, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center*



(above right) Decorative bottles from Saturday's make & take activity, which was sponsored by Hickenbottom, Inc.. Marie Bunting guided the ladies in creating these beautiful lighted decorations. *(left to lower right)* Hippies Jackie, Bev & Lori, Triple Tier lunch presentation and; some of the ladies enjoying lunch at the quaint Mackinaw Depot Tea room; Jane Rozendaal's presentation on scarf tying with Coretha as her model. ILICA ladies during the Mary Kay make up presentation by Teresa Burch, Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultant; Kim McClintic, MS, RD, LDN from OSF St. Joseph's during the "Healthy Nutrition for Families" presentation.



ILICA TAKES PART IN THE ILLINOIS LISTENING FORUM



ILICA, along with several other NRCS agricultural partners, received an invitation to participate in a listening forum and answer the following questions:



- **What is working?**
- **What is not working?**
- **What recommendations do you have to fix problems?**
- **What should NRCS be doing in the future to better serve our clients and the resource base?**

Each participant would be give 5 minutes to comment on the questions above and was asked to turn in a written copy of their statements. After consulting with the ILICA executive committee and John Peterson, LICA Director of Government Relations, Steve Anderson, Dave Hurst, Norm Kocher, Brent Breedlove and Tom Beyers exchanged emails and phone calls, reviewed notes from past ILICA/NRCS annual meetings and

condensed the response into the allotted time frame. As luck would have it, rain came a day prior to the session, so ILICA president Steve Anderson and Dave Hurst were able to travel to Champaign to read our remarks.


Dave Hurst reported that the session was a structured “listening” forum so although Ivan Dozer, Bill Gradle, Karen Woodrich and Richard Hungerford were present, they did not comment on the remarks made. Other states have held the same kind of sessions so the information gathered at this session will be combined with others and ultimately end up at the National NRCS, with whom John Peterson works very closely.

ILICA was privileged to participate in this effort by our state’s NRCS and our thanks go out to Dave and Steve for attending. If you would like to see the full content of ILICA remarks, please contact Janet at the ILICA office.



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2011 National Winter Convention Agenda



Saturday, March 19

6:30 pm Executive Committee

Sunday, March 20

- 6:30 am Devotions
- 7:00 am Opening Breakfast: **Petrocon**
- 8:00 am Committee Chairs
- 8:30 am Benefits
- Committee Meetings**
- 9:45 am Certification, Devotions, Legislative, Water Table Mgmt.
- 11:00 am By-Laws, Conservation, Excavating, Ladies, Education/Tech

12:15 pm Lunch

- 1:30 pm Convention, Long-Term Plan/Past Pres., On-Site Waste, Safety/Insurance
- 2:45 pm Associates, Awards, Membership, Policy

Region Meetings

- 4:00 pm Regions 1 - 8
- 5:00 pm Budget
- 5:00 pm Executive Directors
- 7:00 pm Associates' Night w/Live Auction

Monday, March 21

- 7:00 am Devotions
- 7:30 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am Delegates
- 10:15 am Board Meeting
- 12:00 pm John Deere Lunch**
- 1:00 pm CONEXPO Volunteers Meeting
- 2:00 pm Racetrack (optional)
- 6:00 pm CNA Reception**
- 7:00 pm Caterpillar Awards Dinner**



2011 National Winter Convention

Riviera Hotel

Las Vegas, NV ▪ March 20 & 21, 2011

Registration

(Includes Sunday breakfast, lunch & Associates' Night; Monday breakfast, lunch & dinner)

Company Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Early Bird Registration

Postmarked before March 1, 2011

Members, Spouses, Associates **\$225**

Number Attending _____ Total \$ _____

Youth: 13 Years & under (Under 3 Free) **\$150**

Number Attending _____ Total \$ _____

Registration

Postmarked after March 1, 2011

Members, Spouses, Associates **\$250**

Number Attending _____ Total \$ _____

Youth: 13 Years & under (Under 3 Free) **\$175**

Number Attending _____ Total \$ _____

Print Names for Badges (add age if youth or child)

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____



LICA Members, Start your Engines!

After last year's intense racing in Phoenix, Arizona, LICA members have another chance for racing glory. Monday March 21st, LICA heads to Pole Position Raceway for the showdown. The karts can go up to speeds of 45 mph and produce an amazing 18 horsepower. Show off your skills and speed around this incredible indoor race track.

**This form gives access to LICA meetings only.
For ConExpo & hotel reservations go to
www.LICANational.org
and click on the ConExpo link.**

For further information call: (630) 548-1984

Return this form with payment to:

**LICA Winter Convention
3080 Ogden Ave. Suite 300
Lisle, IL 60532**

Go Kart Racing Number Attending _____
Cost \$50 per person Total \$ _____

REGISTRATION TOTAL \$ _____

REGISTRATION PLUS GO KART \$ _____

Registration Policy: Only individuals registered and wearing badges may attend Winter Convention events. All must register to attend conventions, programs or functions. No registration will be processed without payment. Registration fee deadlines will be strictly enforced.
Refund Policy: For cancellations received prior to March 1, 2011 a \$30.00 charge will be deducted from the original amount paid. No registration payment will be refunded after March 1, 2011 unless there has been an emergency.

URGENT! LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: WORKING TO EXEMPT PREVAILING WAGE FROM STATE COST SHARE PROJECTS



As brought up shortly before the convention, there seems to be an issue concerning the enforcement of the prevailing wage law moving into the area of state funded cost share programs such as the CPP payment. This was brought to our attention by the Director of the Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Rich Nichols, who also makes a yearly presentation at the convention. What seems to have brought this about is the signing into law of SB 223 which became law as PA 96-0058. The passage of this act into law has brought a new level of "clarity" (read as pretty much anything with any state money funding it) into the definition of "public works". While so far, according to the information available, the IL Dept of Labor has not performed any audits on contractors involved in this type of work, this may change soon. According to the law as written there is pretty much no way around it if they chose to enforce within this area. While we will probably be free from any fines or penalties due to the state body involved not informing the contractor of the requirement of prevailing wage, we as contractors involved in this work would still have to meet the payment requirements.

In a meeting on January 26th with 2 of the legislative directors of Farm Bureau, Mark Gebhards, Executive Director governmental affairs and Paul Cope, Assistant director of state legislation, the legislative committee began working to develop a plan of action in combating this development. The result, through Farm Bureau's expertise in this field, is a plan by them to check the water so to speak. As we all know, prevailing wage is simply a union sponsored law to protect their jobs after pricing themselves out of the market. And as such it would be rather a daunting task to try to persuade a union backed legislator to vote for a change in the law especially without some prior knowledge of what the effect is from this recent change or the potential effect of an agricultural exemption. So while it would be probably easy to get a downstate legislator to sponsor a bill making ag conservation projects exempt, without this prior knowledge it would be killed very quickly in committee.

This is the experience of the Farm Bureau staff. What they propose to do for us in the next week or so is to find out what the feeling around Springfield is as to how it might be accepted. Unfortunately, they also said that new bills need to be written by the 15th of February so time is short if we try to get something done this session.

What falls to us as an association of contractors who quite frankly, do most of this work in the state is for us to be



ready when this may make it to hearings. We must be able to provide solid numbers indicating the effect of this change as it stands now in law. This call goes out to everyone in the state that has done this type of work; find an old invoice for a project that was done for an agricultural job and recalculate the cost that you would have charged had you had to pay prevailing wage. These figures could then be presented at hearings when it comes time to introduce a bill seeking an ag exemption. It would be great to have them from as many counties within the state as possible.

Your county wage can be found at: <http://www.state.il.us/agency/idol/rates/rates.HTM>. The advantages that we have in potentially obtaining an exemption are:

1. The work is pretty specialized
2. The unions have pretty much never bothered us doing it
3. It is a very small portion of the aggregate amount of state spending
4. It will greatly drive up the costs and limit the amount of acres treated
5. This is prevention instead of rebuilding hence much less costly over time
6. It could be made to seem very anti-environmental
7. And it could be just a sentence or even a few words added to the current exemption of owner at an owner occupied single family or multi family residence, just the addition of "farm land" would solve the issue.

These are some of the thoughts we came up with during discussion, if you can think of any others, please forward them to a member of the legislative committee or the Executive Director. In the meantime while we are waiting, make the acquaintance of your elected representatives and lets get ready to move on this when we can. The more voices that speak, the more ears that listen.

Submitted by Steve Anderson, Legislative Committee Chair

See pg 15 for an example of how to calculate prevailing Wage.

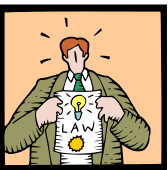
LOBBYING OR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS: TIPS ON WORKING WITH YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS

By John Peterson, LICA Director of Government Relations

[Note: this article is prepared by invitation from the American Infrastructure Magazine. It summarizes a presentation to be made at ConExpo in Las Vegas on Friday, March 25th, 2011.]

Lobbying scandals over the years have caused some members of the Land Improvement Contractors of America (LICA) concern about how the organization works with our federal elected officials.

The emphasis placed on political fundraising in the US by lobbyists is a growing problem in Washington. A number of lobbyists see channeling campaign funds as the main entrée to the political arena in which their client’s interests will be determined. This fixation on campaign funds has dramatically changed the tenor on Capitol Hill. Lobbying is legal. Campaign contributions, if made legally, are not evil.



Lobbying has a rich history tied to the foundation of the US government, and its practitioners have often been viewed skeptically. Webster defines Lobbyists as “people acting for special-interest groups, who try to influence the introduction of or voting on legislation or the decisions of government administrators.” Their work is considered by many to be vital to policy making and is protected under the First Amendment right “to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

There are a few general classes under which lobbyists fall. *Corporate lobbyists* represent individual companies that employ them to push company interests on Capitol Hill. *Nonprofit and public-interest lobbyists* work for grass-roots causes or voluntary organizations. If LICA does anything that would be considered lobbying, this would be the category it would fall in. I think of what LICA does as government relations work and not lobbying. *Contract lobbyists* work for whoever hires them, private companies, unions, or any other group interested in persuading a lawmaker to vote in a certain way. The common thread among lobbyists is a desire to contribute to public-policy formulation. One Member of Congress said he often finds lobbyists to be a valuable asset because they focus on particular subject matters that he could not get anywhere else.

Over the years I have been compiling helpful tips on working with Congress. They are useful for all who may have reason to contact legislators at any level, federal, state, or local.

Some of these tips are: don’t underestimate legislators, be understanding, be practical, be informed, be a good opponent, don’t run down the opposition, don’t assume your legislators know everything about your issues, don’t talk without the

facts, don’t forget there is always another side to your issue, don’t expect commitment on the spot, be reasonable, never break a promise, learn to evaluate and weigh issues, don’t change horses in the middle of the stream. Be realistic, don’t sulk when you don’t win, be thoughtful, be friendly, say thank you, and don’t leave never to return.



Our LICA legislative activity is completely within the rules and is part and parcel of the process of government. We are unpaid volunteers and are expert contractors dedicated to the professional conservation of soil and water with information vital to Members of Congress as they do their duty. We do not give any funds to politicians.

I’m reminded that the more we choose to believe our US lobbying problems come from not having enough laws, the more we distort the truth that the problem is corrupt people, not a corrupt system. As the saying goes, for a man with hammer everything looks like a nail. The politicians hammer is legislation and they’re always ready to use it.

One final thought – **be sure of what you ask for. You might just get it!** There is another old adage that is appropriate for LICA, “**Your influence counts – but only if you exercise it.**”

Example For Determining Prevailing Wage:

Using information from the IDOL website for an "Operating Engineer, BLD 1, Tazewell County, Feb. 2011" for the wage.

Add these together:		State unemployment	0.7%
Wage	\$31.59	Fed unemployment	0.8%
Health/Welfare	\$ 7.00	Plus Medicare	1.45%
Pension	\$10.80	+ Social Security	6.2%
Training	<u>\$ 1.80</u>	Work Comp	<u>11.2%</u>
Wage Total	\$51.19/ hr*	Company Total	20.35%

(State unemployment & Work Comp will be different for everybody)

Gross wage of **\$51.19/hr.** times co. total of **20.35%** = **\$10.42/hr.** Therefore, the actual cost of that operator/hr = **\$61.61** (\$51.19 + \$10.42). Other things that add to that figure would be: profit/labor hour and overhead/labor hour. This is also different for everyone, however, depending on what employees are paid per hour, it could increase costs/labor hour by as much as \$30. On a prevailing wage job that calls for 100 labor hrs, it could cost the landowner as much as an extra \$3000 for the same work.

* If an employer offers health insurance and/or a retirement package that amount is subtracted from this wage. Otherwise, this is the wage that appears on the employee’s paycheck.

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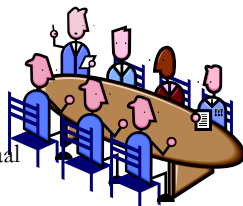
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association, Inc.

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 (309) 446-3700 · Fax: (309) 446-3744 · Email: janet@illica.net

_____ hereby makes application for Active Membership in the **ILLINOIS LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, INC.**, (ILICA) and enclose \$_____ as my annual membership dues for the year _____. One dollar (\$1.00), which is included in the \$295 dues, is for a one (1) year subscription to the “ILICA News”, a bi-monthly newsletter.

Send completed application with payment (make check payable to ILICA) to the corporate address above or give to any ILICA member to forward.

Name: _____ DOB:(*required for active members only*) _____
 Firm Name: _____
 Spouse: _____ County: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Email : _____ Sponsor: _____
 Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Check All Services Provided

- | | |
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Consultant/Insurance Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EMC - Earthmoving/Land Clearing | <input type="checkbox"/> SP - Site Prep |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXG - Excavating/Grading | <input type="checkbox"/> SWU - Sewer/Water/Underground Utilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GR - Gravel/ Rock Production | <input type="checkbox"/> TH - Trucking / Hauling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LL - Land Leveling | <input type="checkbox"/> TW - Terraces / Waterways |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LS - Landscaping | <input type="checkbox"/> WM - Water Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ODW - Open Ditch Leveling | Other: _____ |

Active Contractor Membership - \$295 (*One hundred seventy dollars (\$170) for Illinois Membership plus One hundred twenty five dollars (\$125) for National Membership*)

(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.)

Associate Membership - \$295 (Associate members are those businesses that manufacture or sell equipment, materials or services used by active members)

Affiliate Membership - \$85 (Affiliate members are individuals employed by an active member in the business that makes the active member eligible for membership)

ILLINOIS LICA BENEFITS



Education

Illinois LICA provides many educational opportunities throughout the year with sessions at our annual convention, at Area 3 and 8 member meetings and at workshops each year. Area 5 director, Brent Breedlove, is in the planning stage of beginning meetings in his area with other areas following suit.

Illinois LICA state convention, which includes exhibits by our associate members, is scheduled each January in various locations around the state. First year contractor members will receive 1 free full participation registration to the convention, which includes all meals during the 3 day event. Several educational sessions are scheduled during the convention along with many social and networking opportunities.



Workshops have been offered annually, however, there is an expanded schedule this year, including two survey and design drainage workshops and an erosion control workshop in August. OSHA 10 Hour certification will be offered every other year as well as Certified Flagger training available as often as demand warrants.



Continental Western Group/LICA Insurance Program

Continental Western Group has designed a comprehensive LICA Insurance program, blending Property, Inland Marine, Crime, General Liability & Business Auto coverage into a simple and convenient policy. It offers standard coverage for many items specific to the Land Improvement industry, providing outstanding coverage at a very competitive rate, even before the Safety Group Dividend potential return. Although the dividend is not guaranteed, the return rate has been between 3.5% and 12% most years.



ILICA News & Annual Directory

The ILICA News is a bi-monthly publication distributed to all Illinois LICA members that contains 24 pages of information relative to the land improvement industry as well as notice of activities and upcoming events. The annual directory of members is published each spring and distributed to all ILICA members and many IEPA, NRCS and SWCD offices throughout Illinois.



Legislative Representation

ILICA has an active Legislative Committee that monitors legislation that impacts small business in Illinois. They participate in the Agricultural Legislative Roundtable caucus and many other events then disseminate that information to ILICA members. They are currently working on a system to streamline this process for more effective communication.

ILICA not only maintains its own relationship with legislative contacts, Illinois along with other state chapters have a combined voice in Washington DC through national LICA. Each year, representation from ILICA travels to Washington DC along with several other chapters, to lobby their congressmen and women regarding legislation that affects land improvement contractors.



National Benefits

A LICA membership entitles contractors to many benefits that can give their company a competitive edge. Listed below are just a few:

- National LICA Contractor Magazine
- LICA Contractor Safety Management Plan
- LICA Mini-Med Basic Healthcare Program
- LICA PerksCard Program
- LICA Transamerica Retirement Program
- National LICA Winter Convention and Summer Meeting
- LICA 6-Pack Health Care Savings Card Program
- LICA FlexSystem
- LICA BizPlan

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Illinois

Safety Week Workshop
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel - Springfield, IL
 February 8 - 11, 2011

Erosion Control Workshop
I-Hotel & Conference Center - Champaign, IL
 March 3 - 4, 2011

Spring Member Meetings
Exact Dates & Locations, TBA
 March 8 - 10, 2011

National

2011 LICA Winter Convention
in conjunction with:
ConEx / ConAgg - Las Vegas, Nevada
 March 20 - 22, 2011

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March 5, 2011 Board Meeting Location
Heiser Insurance - 133 S. Main Street - Morton, IL

From I-74, take Exit 102, Morton Avenue to Jackson St. Turn left onto Jackson St and follow it to Main. Turn right onto Main, go 4 blocks to Adams St. Turn right onto Adams and turn right into the parking lot. From I55, take Main to Adams, turn left and park behind the building. There is an glass entrance door into the building from that parking lot. (You'll actually enter into a sandwich shop, but out meeting room is down the stairs on your right after you pass the soda fountain) **Heiser's # (309) 263-8431**





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ENERGY CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Source: Kathie Brown, Extension Specialist, Community and Economic Development (serving West Central Illinois and surrounding counties), brownk@illinois.edu

Energy efficiency investments bring strong and diverse benefits, including protecting consumers and businesses from higher energy prices, improving electric reliability by reducing congestion on the electricity grid, supporting the retention of manufacturing jobs (by reducing manufacturing energy costs and supporting the manufacture of new high-efficiency products), hedging risk against fuel price volatility, supporting public health and environmental quality by reducing energy waste, and helping to keep energy dollars in the local economy.

Reducing energy costs can be accomplished in many different ways. First, an energy assessment should be conducted to evaluate energy use, and identify site-specific strategies to reduce energy costs. Energy assessments include various types of energy studies, ranging from a walk-through inspection of a facility to a technical analysis of building systems.

Businesses and local governments seeking ways to cut their energy bills and become more energy efficient can find answers at an upcoming workshop. Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) faculty and staff from the University of Illinois School of Architecture will be presenting a half day workshop on March 2 from 1-4p.m. at Spoon River College Community Outreach Center in Macomb. In addition to SEDAC specialists, an AMEREN Act on Energy and an Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Energy Efficiency specialist will provide background on current incentive programs offered for both public and private sector organizations.

During the past several years, SEDAC has provided energy conservation services to more than 2,000 businesses and

units of local government. Their services range from quick answers, to simple questions, to an in-depth building energy analysis and detailed recommendation compiled in a written report. If all the SEDAC recommendations on these consultations were implemented, more than 1.8 billion British thermal units in energy usage would be saved, reducing energy costs by \$28 million.

We want to help the business and public sectors identify opportunities to save money. During the coming year, we will be highlighting conservation practices of local governments and businesses in our region on our Extension website.

Businesses of all types and various units of local government including county, city, townships, park districts, schools, and community colleges can all benefit from the program and services highlighted in the March 2 workshop. **There is no fee to attend.** To help in planning we ask that individuals register in advance of the program at the following website: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/fulton/>, registration information can be found on the upper right-hand corner of the website.



Smart Energy Design Assistance Center Workshop

► **WHEN?**

March 2, 2011, 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

► **WHERE?**

Spoon River College Community Outreach Center, 2500 E. Jackson St. Macomb, IL 61455

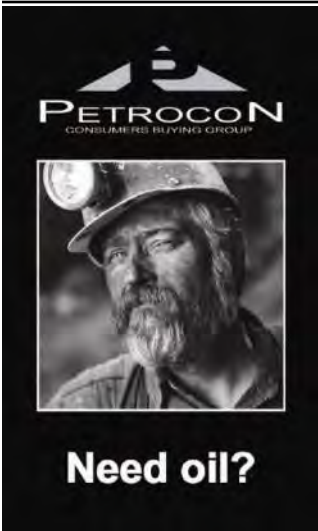
► **WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?**

How to reduce energy costs utilizing energy efficiency designs in both business and public entities.

► **WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

Businesses of all sizes and public sector administrators or facility managers for public K-12 schools, community colleges, universities, park districts, libraries, local governments, water and waste water treatment facilities in the Ameren Illinois Utilities service territories.





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2. LICA member participation with Petrocon is not limited to large companies. All LICA members in good standing are eligible for this program, pending credit approval. All program membership dues have been waived for LICA members, this represents a savings of \$2,500 annually!



What will this program do for the LICA member?

This program will generate savings for LICA members in a tough economy. Most members will receive **minimum savings of 10%** on their oil, tires, equipment rental, electric, natural gas, cellular expense and possibly much more, pending the geography the member resides in.

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DON HURST FIRST RECIPIENT OF LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

What is Going On?

When relatives started coming out of the wall (and even sooner), we were a little suspicious. We'd already received awards in earlier years. Maybe there was a reward for being the oldest!

Thanks to the ILICA officers and members for the opportunity to be part of such a great organization. For over 50 years, it has been dedication, education, interest, cooperation, sharing expertise and friendships that have kept ILICA strong.

Thanks again for your confidence. The benefits we have received are countless.

Don & Marilee



Don Hurst was awarded the first ILICA "Lifetime Achievement" award for his long-standing and always active involvement with ILICA. Don helped to develop the first association by-laws in the 1960's, which were used as a model by National LICA. Don also served as president in 1971 - 1972 and was awarded the National LICA Mr. Contractor of the Year in 1974. Thank you Don for your many years of service. This award was well deserved.

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