



ILICA

NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors Of America · Illinois Chapter

March - April 2009

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2009 STARTS OFF WITH A BANG!



This year's state and national conventions bring out exceptional support, prestigious awards and some very special guests.

Also Featured Inside

Area 3 and Area 8 Member Meetings Return *(page 9)*

2009 ILICA Picnic & Summer Meeting Information *(page 14)*

2009 Summer LICA Meeting - Des Moines, IA *(page 17)*

Upcoming Events:

Area 3 & Area 8 Member Meetings - March 24 - 25, 2009

Picnic & Member Meeting
June 27-28, 2009

Complete Event Schedule -
Page 18

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

ILLINOIS LICA WINS 2008 TOP STATE AWARD!

For the first time in 9 years, Illinois LICA brings home the Top State Award from the National LICA winter meeting and convention. The Top State Award is given to the chapter that documents its efforts to actively promote soil conservation and educate contractors in their state. There are several areas of consideration, including publications, committee involvement, and overall, just how active the chapter is. Having a complete record of the years' activities is an added bonus for participating, even if you don't win.



2008 was indeed a very busy year for Illinois LICA. Committee and membership participation during the convention, workshop, summer picnic, conservation expo and state wide membership sweep was phenomenal. The membership committee fought hard for 14 new associate members and 25 new contractor members, bringing our contractor membership count over the 100 mark once again, qualifying Illinois for the national LICA rebate program for the first time.

The efforts of every Illinois LICA member who participated in any event in any way made this great honor possible. 2009 promises to be equally busy as Illinois LICA starts the year off with it's 2 day workshop and another round of Area 3 and 8 member meetings. New members on the education and show committees are working on training and hands-on activities for the less active summer months. Our picnic committee is already making site visits to venues in Southern Illinois and a second golf outing in Area 3 is being considered as well. We encourage every member to enjoy these opportunities and see why Illinois LICA really is the TOP STATE!

2009 DIRECTORY DEADLINE



The 2009 ILICA Directory will be published during the first 2 weeks of April, 2009. The deadline for submitting advertising or new member listings is March 30th. Please provide any new artwork or ad copy with your signed advertising contract and membership dues with all new member listings by March 30th.

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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

ILICA Board of Directors Meeting
Illinois LICA Office
118 E. Knoxville St. - Brimfield, IL
 Saturday, May 2, 2009
 2:00 pm

Committee Meetings
10 am - 1:00 pm
Lunch Provided
 (See map on page 18)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all members and readers.

As the New Year moves along and the convention has brought into office a new president, it seems like there is some other new president taking an oath into office somewhere too. It will

make my job easier without all that limelight on us. While many of the members may recognize me, at least by sight, I will give a bit of my background and how I ended up writing this today.

My parents brought me home some 48+ years ago into a family of 6 boys on a farm in Northern IL which had been handed down from father to son since 1837. We raised about everything back then, plant and animal, including a dairy herd. In 1958 my father and four other farmers in the township decided they had some problems on their farms that needed fixed so the 5 of them went in together on the purchase of an IH TD 18. Other area farmers saw the results and my father bought out the others and started Miller Township Construction Co. In 1974 I went with him to work one day and have been doing it ever since though the first years were interrupted by having to go to school. After getting my degree from NIU, I started working full time. My younger brother Stuart joined us in 1984, and we purchased the company in 1998. Since then we have added machines as needed to be able to do a full range of subsurface and surface drainage, excavation, and road building practices.

ILICA has been a part of my life as long as I can remember...from early days with picnics and going to board meetings with my father when I was just into the double digits in age. By getting to know many of the members by later years, it just seemed natural to join myself when I became a limited partner with Stuart in Dad's business. It has been a choice without regret and with much reward over the years. From the conventions in the slack winter months to the board meetings to the summer picnics to, in the last couple years,

going to the national events, it has been a time of getting to know good people who share the same joys and hardships, rules and regulations, and fun machines of land improvement. I have learned a lot from listening to those in the organization and their experiences. Hopefully someone has gained something from me in return. And therein lies the real value of this organization.

You can write your check for dues and send it in to the office and get your membership package with its certificate, sticker and membership card but it might not seem like much for the money. While we are adding value to that membership all the time with products such as the inland marine insurance program that puts ILICA members into their own pool with a possible refund of premiums due to low loss rates, a mini medical program, a new potential health program to offer to employees now, a term life policy on members, and a great safety program you can implement. But all that is like buying a box seat ticket to the baseball game and then watching it at home on TV. If you don't go, you miss so much.

As I write this it has been just a couple days since the convention has ended. It was a good convention, one of what I thought was a great balance of education topics and free time to mingle with members and associates. There were some good facts to learn about and an opportunity to learn about products out there for our businesses. There was also a good chance to build relationships, something that life is made up so much of. If you don't have good relationships with suppliers, equipment dealers, regulatory agencies, and especially customers, you don't stay in business long, unless you're just looking for a tax write off. I feel those that make the effort to attend these conventions are the ones that acknowledge that and are always looking to improve themselves as people, business owners and employers. If you don't go you really do miss something.

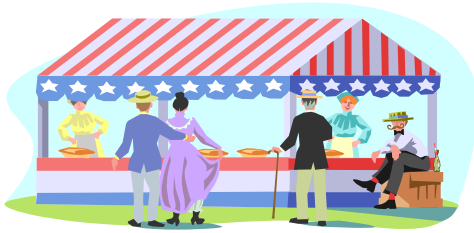
The same can be said of serving on committees. This is the real heart of our organization, although the pretty face gets to be president, the power lies in the committees as does the real learning and connection to those whose actions have such an effect upon the business climate. There is no better way to learn than to get into something and experience it firsthand, and with a committee you get to share it with others. This sort of thing might not sound like your strength or desire, but you might surprise yourself if you just try it. We need the input of all members in this organization, for collectively, we are much more aware than any of us are alone. If you have questions about the committees or want to be added to any committee just contact Janet or myself and we will get you on.

Since I have taken enough of your time reading and my time writing, I will leave you with a wish for all, that this year is above all safe, as well as busy and rewarding.

Keep 'em running... oily side down!

Steve Anderson, ILICA President

**Stop in to see ILICA at the
Partners in Conservation Tent at the
2009 Illinois Farm Progress Show**



**Decatur Illinois
September 1 - 3, 2009**

ILICA CONTRACTORS WE NEED YOUR HELP!



SUPPORT OUR MARCH AREA MEMBER MEETINGS.

MARCH 24 - 6:30 PM - ALTORFER, INC - EAST PEORIA ILLINOIS

MARCH 25 - 6:30 PM - ERB EQUIPMENT COMPANY - MT. VERNON ILLINOIS

ATTEND THE MEMBER MEETING IN YOUR AREA.

LET'S SHOW OUR THANKS TO THESE DEDICATED

ASSOCIATES FOR THEIR GENEROUSITY AND SUPPORT!



New Members

Active Contractors

Richard Beard

Astoria Trucking, Inc. - Astoria

Matthew Heet

Heet Excavating - Lenzburg

Associates

Adams Enterprises - Mattoon

Rex Adams

Central Illinois AG - Atlanta

Mike O'Neil

Erb Equipment Company - Mt. Vernon

Larry Medders

Quality Trailer Sales, Inc. - Morton

Jeff Hendryx

FIRST NRCS CONTRACT CUTOFF MARCH 27, 2009

During the annual NRCS / Illinois LICA meeting in Champaign on March 11th, Ivan Dozier, Assistant State Conservationist for programs, mentioned that they have \$12 million cost share assigned for the EQIP program and those who apply by the March 27th deadline will be given first priority to compete for the money.

In the past, landowners would have to have their ranking information turned in by the cutoff to get in line for the EQIP funds, however, this year they have relaxed that requirement and any landowner that goes to their county NRCS office



and signs the form indicating they are prepared to start the conservation program process, will be placed on the list. Ranking, design and approval processes will still have to be followed as normal, but Illinois NRCS is making it as easy as possible to get landowners financial help

for correcting or improving soil erosion and/or improving water quality.

In addition, March 27, 2009 is also the sign-up period for the floodplain easement component of the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP). Up to \$145 million will be available to eligible landowners nationwide as part of President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act).

Funding will create jobs and restore an estimated 60,000 acres of frequently flooded land to its natural state.

A GREAT 2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION

The annual convention and members meeting was a great success, despite the sub-zero temperatures encountered during the first several days. It was warm on the beach at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield during our Luau Early Bird reception on Thursday evening and we even had a surprise visit from some of the Hawaiian natives, shown to the right. They may not be the prettiest girls from the "island state", but they definitely livened up the evening as they went from table to table before the meal.

Thursday's education was very well received with over 30 contractors attending the IDOT and IEPA sessions. The ladies also had a guest speaker on Thursday morning and a bracelet "make and take" activity that afternoon. Many good comments were passed on to convention committee members and ED Janet Doubet regarding the wonderful food, great service and well balanced schedule of this year's event. There seemed to be a nice blend of activities and leisure time, allowing everyone to move at a steady pace that didn't leave them exhausted by the end of the day.

The exhibit hall was full for the Thursday evening reception and the sponsorship and support of our associate members surpassed even last year's generosity. Each meal received sponsorship and the auction hit a new record of over \$13,000.00, thanks in part to the \$4600.00 that Paul the Good Luck Bear secured for our membership drive.



Extreme cold weather made it easy to stay inside, but the ladies ventured out on Friday for their Taylorville outing and didn't let a little cold keep them from enjoying the tour of the Historic Market Street Bed & Breakfast and lunch at One East. Many did show up a little early for the wine tasting that followed their shopping time and enjoyed sitting in the warm, sampling several wines before returning to the hotel.

Thursday and Friday lunch speakers from many of our partner agencies and organizations brought their reports to update members on the activities of the past year and plans for next. The annual members meeting saw a great turnout on Friday afternoon and a delicious cookout meal was served that evening.

Saturday started out with the door-prize giveaway breakfast buffet, followed by another educational program on Bio-Diesel. After a box lunch, several people took advantage of the guided tour at the Abraham Lincoln Museum just 2 blocks away while others went through at their own pace or stayed at the hotel and took a well deserved nap.

The convention concluded with the Awards Banquet on Saturday with Jerry Biuso serving as the evenings MC. We had a very special visit from the hotel's namesake, President Abraham Lincoln, who joined the ILICA executive committee at the head table. OK, it wasn't really old Abe, but Bill Dean did a great job looking and acting the part and even worked some Lincoln humor into the awards ceremony.



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- Springfield Plastics, Inc.

A GREAT 2009 ANNUAL CONVENTION (CONT.)

Lori Kennedy received Mrs. Contractor of the Year while Bill Doubet, being chairman of the Awards committee, was surprised to find out he had won Mr. Contractor of the Year. (which took some doing!!) Merit Awards were given to Cindy Laegeler and Chris Davis for their help with the 2008 Conservation Expo while Norm Kocher, Wayne Litwiller and Neal Barnes were presented with Shiny Shovel Awards for their work on this year's membership drive. Look in the 2009 Directory, being published in mid-April, for more information and photos of all the award recipients.

This year's convention committee members, many of whom are pictured below, did an outstanding job planning and organizing this year's convention and attended to every need during those very busy days. The many compliments received at the Illinois LICA office reflect the hard work of all these fine members.

A few of the thank you notes are published on page 15 of this newsletter, and, remember, if you had a good time at this year's convention, one of these hard working people pictured below is to thank.




(Top left to right) Kristin Kutemeier, convention committee chairperson with Lori Kennedy at the luau. Abe Lincoln (Bill Dean) with wife Bev and Lori and David Kennedy, all convention committee members, during awards banquet. Awards Banquet MC and Certificate of Appreciation recipient, Jerry Biuso.

(Bottom left to right) Jackie and Joe Streitmatter, Greg and Jennifer Furkin, also convention committee members. 2009 ILICA Officers, Bill Dean - Chairman of Board, Steve Anderson - President, David Kennedy - Vice President, Forrest Davis - Treasurer, David Haag - 1st Vice President, Janet Doubet - Executive Secretary.



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GABBIN' WITH THE GALS...

Hello there, all you beautiful people out there in ILICA Land! The Weatherman is really "with it" today, nice and sunny and warming up. He wants to be forgiven for all the cold temperatures we shivered through recently. I can do that, can you? One thing our cold weather, snow, rain, etc, is definitely not good for is outdoor work. One of my grandsons works for our city and in the midst of the cold weather there were several water mains that broke and had to be repaired. So there are times when we have to work outside even if it is not by choice.

Here are few church bulletin bloopers: "Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I Will Not Pass This Way Again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation." "The sermon this morning is 'Jesus Walks on the Water' and tonight's sermon is 'Searching for Jesus.'"

If anyone has a penchant for political news they should be in hog-heaven at this time. Someone gives an interview or speech and that is license to dissect it, misunderstand it, rewrite it, etc. And did you ever see the plethora of senators and representatives who "forgot to pay their taxes"? Give me a break! Do you suppose that our Abe Lincoln was the last patriot that was honest? We are in for a rude awakening if that is the case. Some of the media were saying what a terrible state Illinois is when our famous governor was in the spotlight. How about all the states represented by tax evaders who have come to light recently?

Our new president used "change" as his main mantra. How many of us have noticed how we have changed ourselves as Father Time moves along? Things that bothered us years ago no longer do much. On the good side, we sometimes discover we can watch and learn about things such as history and truly be interested. Recently, this Gal came across a TV program on the assassination of President Lincoln - a view this Gal had no inkling of. Of course, this was at 3:00 am when sensible people would be asleep. Which was unfortunate because this Gal was spellbound. It brought out that the person who killed Abe thought he would be a hero in the eyes of the world. Imagine! When he read the papers and found out that the whole world was devastated at this event, he went into hiding. He had friends that hid him for awhile but was eventually found and punished.

Our federal government for the most part has gone down for many years, in this persons estimation. Our state of Illinois is not the only state in need of change. What do you think caused this to happen? In this person's mind, money is the culprit especially too much money and the prestige it can buy. It would not happen if people would keep their priorities

straight...but you have to have priorities first. The Lord gave us a brain and it should not fall off the track.

To bring some levity to all the seriousness, some people were asked "Why did the chicken cross the road?" Colonel Sanders, "Did I miss one?" Al Gore, "I invented the chicken." Bill Clinton, "I did not cross the road with that chicken! What is your definition of chicken?" Barak Obama, "The chicken crossed the road because it was time for a change." Dr. Seuss, "Did the chicken cross the road? Did he cross it with a toad? Yes the chicken crossed the road but why it crossed I've not been told." Grandpa, "In my day we didn't ask why the chicken crossed the road - somebody told us that the chicken crossed the road and that was good enough." Rambling Rose thinks the chicken crossed the road because her boyfriend was on the other side...what do you think?

A bill collector called on a family and asked, "Is Fred in?" "Sorry", the woman said "Fred's gone for cotton." For two more days he tried again and each time the answer was the same, "Fred's gone for cotton." He waited a week and returned to the same home and asked, I suppose Fred's gone for cotton again." The reply was, "No, Fred died." Suspicious that it was a run-around, he went to the cemetery and sure enough there was a tombstone that said, "Fred's gone again, but not for cotton!"

One of my granddaughters is helping me a few days a week and the first thing we tackled was my built-in bookcase. It had become overloaded with books piling up over books and needed attention. She found a book of "The Ancient Mariner" which most people have read at some time in their life, so I plan to tackle that. A more interesting one is written by Dr. Watson and begins with when he first met Sherlock Holmes and how it happened they had an apartment together. Being a fan of the Sherlock stories, it is especially interesting to me. I purchase my books because one never knows when a book will be finished and in my condition now, somebody would have to take them back to the library. We have taken several boxes of hard-backed books to the library for their use, although it is easier to hold a paperback to read in bed. Reading has been my "escape" for many years. I am appalled at the language most authors use anymore and refuse to read them if they accidentally come my way. Guess they believe their book won't sell if they don't write that way and there probably are more people like me who don't condone them.

The word for this issue is "Income Tax." Be sure to file...who knows, you may be asked to become one of the president's cabinet members!

A pleasant summer and plenty of jobs for all contractors in ILICA Land.

.....Rambling Rose



ILICA AREA 3 & AREA 8 MEMBER MEETINGS RETURNING MARCH 24-25



Due to the outstanding response to our November Area 3 and 8 member meetings, ILICA is returning with a March series set for Tuesday, March 24th at Altorfer, Inc in East Peoria and Wednesday, March 25th at Erb Equipment Company in Mt. Vernon. Even in these difficult economic times, our loyal associates have graciously offered to host these meetings, knowing that our partnership makes us stronger, especially in difficult times.

The March meetings will feature an expert in the Bio-Diesel industry, Hoon Ge of the MEG Corp. Hoon started MEG Corp in 2005 to provide consulting for a variety of diesel and biodiesel related organizations and companies. He has worked for several well-known companies, including General Mills, Koch Refining, and Schaeffer Manufacturing. While at Koch Refining for 10 years, he was responsible for blending diesel and gasoline and developed the Premium Diesel Program. At Schaeffer Manufacturing, he managed the fuel additives division for 9 years.



Since establishing MEG Corp, Hoon has provided technical support for many organizations and companies including the National Biodiesel Board, several state soybean associations and many large fuel distributors around the country. Hoon Ge has provided technical support to all segments of the biodiesel industry by troubleshooting and solving filter plugging issues through the NBB Biodiesel Hotline. Hoon has conducted over 150 educational seminars around the U.S. on various topics regarding diesel.

If you attended our convention in January, you may have seen his presentation (*pictured above*), Bio-Diesel, The Good, The Bad, and the Unknown. Many of those attending at

the convention commented that Mr. Ge provided a wealth of information and that his presentation was interesting, informative and entertaining. He's back by popular demand and looking forward to discussing the problems, concerns or questions central Illinois contractors have about bio-diesel.

Altorfers and Caterpillar plan to provide a home cooked Rib-eye sandwich dinner with lots of sides to start the evening out at 6:30 pm, followed by the educational presentation. There's a chance National LICA President, Bruce Barnhart and LICA VP Dirk Reniker may join us along with the always entertaining Jerry Biuso, Executive VP. The ILICA membership committee is asking all Area 3 ILICA contractors within driving distance to support their efforts and bring along a contractor from your neighborhood. Altorfer's and Caterpillar have continually supported our expos, conventions, and other events and we have an opportunity to return a favor by bringing lots of contractors to this meeting.



On Wednesday, Erb Equipment Company in Mt. Vernon will open the doors of their facility to welcome Area 8 contractors to a free dinner starting at 6:30 pm, followed by another opportunity to hear Hoon's Bio-Diesel presentation. Erb Equipment is one of ILICA's newest associate members, but they have supported our member meetings from the start. They plan to have a popular local BBQ restaurant cater the evening, so expect a great meal in Southern Illinois along with this very interesting program.

ILICA CONTRACTORS
PLEASE SUPPORT OUR MARCH
AREA MEMBER MEETINGS
BRING A CONTRACTOR FROM
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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - TIPS ON EFFECTIVELY WORKING WITH CONGRESS (LOBBYING?)

By: John Peterson, LICA Legislative Liaison

Introduction: In the almost 30 years I have been privileged to work on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC with Members of Congress, Congressional staffs, cabinet agencies, and professional lobbyists, I have been compiling helpful tips picked up from a number of sources. Those sources are as varied as the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the Portland Cement Association (PCA), and the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF). With LICA involved with government relations, these tips are worth sharing. They are important not only for LICA's legislative Committee members, but also for individual LICA members who may have reason to contact legislators at any level, federal, state, or local. While they are specific to the U.S. Congress, they are probably just as useful with state legislators.

- ◆ **Don't underestimate legislators.** With very rare exceptions, they are honest, intelligent, and want to do the right thing. Your role is to inform them on what you think is right.
- ◆ **Be understanding.** Put yourself in the legislators place. Try to understand their constituent's positions, their outlooks, and their goals. Then you are more likely to persuade them to adopt your position.
- ◆ **Be practical.** Recognize that each legislator has commitments. Don't unduly chastise a legislator if they happen to vote against one of your issues. This does not mean they have deserted your whole program. Give legislators the benefit of the doubt. They will appreciate and remember that you did.
- ◆ **Be informed.** Never meet with legislators to advocate a position without first mastering all the facts on it, and the arguments for and against.

John Peterson, National LICA Legislative Liaison

For those of you that haven't met LICA's new Legislative Liaison, John Peterson, he is pictured below and shared this article with state chapters during the LICA summer meeting in Nashville.

John is very familiar with the issues facing our contractors and sends regular email notices to the ILLICA office. If you would like to be added to the list of those receiving these legislative emails, please let Janet know and you will be included on all future communications.

John welcomes any and all legislative questions so please share your thoughts with him on issues that are important to you.



- ◆ **Be a good opponent.** Fight issues, not persons. Be ready with alternatives and solutions as well as with criticisms. This is constructive opposition.
- ◆ **Don't run down the opposition.** Name calling or derogatory remarks don't win friends and influence legislation.
- ◆ **Don't assume each legislator is a walking encyclopedia on every pending issue.** Each session of Congress or your State Legislature sees thousands of bills introduced and passed. In my Commonwealth of Virginia in 2004, 3,006 different bills and resolutions were introduced, and 1,715 passed by the General Assembly. That's a lot of legislation to read and remember. It's impossible for every legislator to know every bill, chapter, and verse.



- ◆ **Don't talk without the facts.** Smoke and mirrors won't do the job in winning a legislator over. You must demonstrate, through tangible evidence supported by facts, that a particular action is both desirable and justified. Couch your arguments in long term investments. Discuss cost effectiveness and efficiency.
- ◆ **Don't forget there is always another side to the issue.** Each VA State Representative has an average of 71,000 constituents, and each Federal Representative about 700,000. It's even more for Senators. You can be sure that there is at least one of their constituents who have a different position on your issue, and like you expect to have their voice heard.
- ◆ **Don't expect commitment on the spot.** Most legislators are thoughtful and deliberate, who make a point of seeking all sides of an issue before taking a position. This does not mean that you fail to ensure they know what you would like them to do, be specific. Good politicians check the depth of the water before diving in.

- ◆ **Be reasonable.** Recognize that legitimate differences of opinion exist. Never indulge in threats. Remember that friends come and go, but enemies accumulate.
- ◆ **Never break a promise.** This is a cardinal rule of politics. If you tell a legislator you will do something, then do it. No excuses. Keep your word. Keep all commitments and promises in a timely manner.



- ◆ **Learn to evaluate and weigh issues.** Many bills which are introduced "by request" are never intended to become law. So don't criticize legislators for bills introduced, and don't call out the "troops" until you are sure a bill you oppose is serious.
- ◆ **Don't change horses in the middle of the stream.** Never leave legislators out on a limb supporting your issue,

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - TIPS ON EFFECTIVELY WORKING WITH CONGRESS (CONT.)

and then change your position after they have publicly supported a position you asked them to take.

- ◆ **Be realistic.** Remember that controversial legislation or regulations usually result in compromise. It has always been so and will always be in our Constitutional Republic. Like it or not, compromise is the language of politics.
- ◆ **Don't burn your bridges when you don't win.** Working with legislators is an investment that may not pay off immediately. Don't burn your bridges if the results you want are not immediately forthcoming.
- ◆ **Be thoughtful.** Commend the things your legislators do that you support. They may not even be your main issues. That is the way you would like to be treated. Lawmakers will tell you they get dozens of letters asking them to do something, but very few thanking them for what they have done.
- ◆ **Be friendly.** Don't contact legislators only when you want their help. Invite them to attend your organization's meeting when they are back in their district to say "thank you" and dis-

cuss issues. Take pains to stay in touch with them throughout the year – every year.

- ◆ **Don't fail to say "thank you."** Even though meeting with constituents comes with the territory for legislators, it is still an act that should be acknowledged. A thank you is always in order and appreciated.



- ◆ **Don't leave never to be heard from again.** One phone call or visit is not enough. Stay on top of developments relating to your issue so that when new and relevant information becomes available, you can pass it along.

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."**

By: John Peterson, National LICA Legislative Liaison

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2009 WINTER LICA MEETING IN NASHVILLE, TN



Tennessee may not be as warm in February as some of the cities selected for the winter LICA conference, but Nashville has a lot to offer in the way of things to do and see. The 2009 winter LICA convention started off on Tuesday with a historic tour of Nashville and the many sights “Music City” has to offer. Wednesday, tour goers had an early morning (6 am!) departure for Cartersville Georgia and the Komatsu proving ground play day. Originally, the tour was to begin at the Chattanooga Komatsu factory but the bad weather predicted for that afternoon forced a last minute change to insure LICA contractors an opportunity to operate any piece of Komatsu equipment at the grounds. Although it was overcast that morning, the rains held off until after a delicious lunch at the proving grounds. Soon the group was heading back to Chattanooga for a tour of the Komatsu factory and dinner at the famous Chattanooga Choo Choo, where the



staff work as waiters and entertainers, making for a very enjoyable end to the day.

Thursday provided several educational opportunities from Drainage Water Management to Estate Planning and Pervious pavement options. After a day of interesting and informative sessions, the Associates reception and exhibit hall opened to a large crowd. The Ladies committee raised over \$2000 for the scholarship fund by holding a silent auction of items donated by the state chapter Ladies committees.

Friday brought the committee and region meetings of the convention, all of which were well attended. Region IV VP Steve Miller provided a lot of information regarding

the 2009 summer meeting scheduled for July 14th - 17th in Des Moines Iowa. The Midwest Drainage Workshop has been scheduled in conjunction with the summer meeting with classroom scheduled on July 14 and the field day July 15. Busses will provide a shuttle from the hotel to the field day site, which is the farm owned by Iowa LICA. Keep checking our website for the latest on the drainage workshop, summer meeting and tours. Friday concluded the tours with two full busses and all tickets to The Grand Ole Opry spoken for. Everyone who attended said it was a great show.

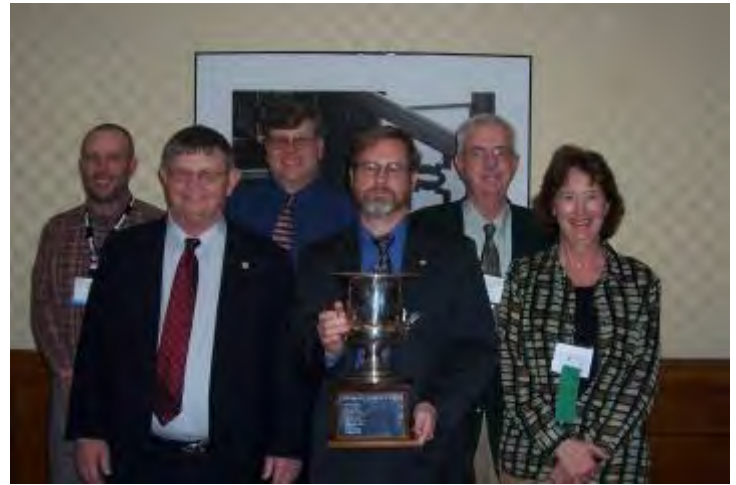
Saturday's schedule included the delegates and board meetings and concluded with the CNA Insurance reception and Caterpillar Awards Banquet. There was even a little time that afternoon to walk the short distance to the Blue Grass festival or head out to Andrew Jackson's historic home, The Hermitage. Nashville was a great place for the conference and everyone who attended seemed to enjoy the variety of activities to chose from.



(Upper Left) Komatsu proving ground play day (Lower Left) Region IV Meeting attendees (Above) Illinois board meeting attendees. Mini-Med exhibit at Early Bird Reception (Below) Illinois LICA group in Nashville (Page 13, Left to right) Bruce Barnhart presenting Wayne Litwiller with the 2008 Mr. Contractor of the Year award. Proud Illinois LICA attendees with the 2008 Top State trophy.



2009 WINTER LICA MEETING IN NASHVILLE, TN



But Illinois LICA had some real surprises in store for their members as the awards ceremony began. The ILICA office had worked hard to provide the required documentation for the Top State Award and had also submitted one of our own for Mr. Contractor of the Year. Since the awards committee determines the winners at the conference, there was little warning of who had been selected for these prestigious awards, but on Friday, Eileen hinted to some in the Illinois group that Wayne Litwiller really needed to stay through

Saturday instead of returning home that morning. It was a hard sell for Neal Barnes, who had traveled to Nashville with Wayne, but Wayne finally agreed to stay, although not without mentioning that he thought *something* was up. Little did he know that he would be on hand to see Illinois LICA receive Top State for the first time since 2000 and that he would be chosen for the 2008 Mr. Contractor of the Year award. It was a very proud moment for all the Illinois LICA members present and a well deserved honor for Wayne.



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New!**ILLINOIS LICA CLASSIFIEDS****WANTED**

ILICA needs to borrow or rent a Sand Box Excavator for our booth at the Partners in Conservation Tent.

Needed for 2009 Farm Progress Show Exhibit, September 1 - 3rd.

Member helping member!
Perhaps another ILICA member has what you need, and at a great price!

FOR SALE

This classified section is just one more benefit of membership for ILICA contractors. The ad space is **FREE**, but limited to active contractor members and to industry related items needed to buy or sell to other contractors.

Please contact the ILICA office for additional information or to place an ad for the May - June newsletter.

2009 PICNIC & SUMMER MEMBER MEETING REND LAKE, MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS



The annual summer picnic and member meeting has been set for June 27 - 28th at Rend Lake Resort near Mt. Vernon. If

you've ever traveled down I-57 through southern Illinois, you've undoubtedly noticed the rambling lake and water tower that resembles a teed up golf ball just South of Mt. Vernon. It's a very popular area...with good reason.

To help celebrate Illinois LICA's first summer **without** a Conservation Expo, the picnic committee decided to take a chance on a 2 day picnic and meeting event. A recent site visit confirmed that the area will provide a variety of activities for every interest and give our members an opportunity to spend the weekend relaxing, socializing and enjoying boating, fishing, trap shooting, golfing as well as several local artisans and wineries for your shopping pleasure.

Planning is still in the early phase, but there are 2 resort hotel blocks reserved, tent and RV camping spots available (first come, first serve however), and 3 pontoon boats on reserve for Saturday afternoon. We'll start the day off with our annual summer member meeting and then send everyone off with a box lunch to enjoy which ever activities suit them. The picnic and potential member welcome is set for Saturday evening with a cookout supper at Shel-



ter 2 in the Wayne Fitzgerrall State Park which has a nearby playground and bathrooms, a fire pit and water access. The golf outing is tentatively scheduled for Sunday morning following the buffet breakfast at Rend Lake Resort after which most folks will have to head for home to get ready for the beginning of the work week.

The Rend Lake Resort has 40 rooms blocked for our group but requires a two (2) night minimum during the busy summer months. The Seasons Lodge has 15 rooms blocked for us and do **NOT** require the two (2) night minimum. Both resorts have rooms and suites ranging in price from \$79 to \$129 per night with the Rend Lake Resort being the only one right on the water's edge.

Rend Lake Resort will release any unreserved rooms our block on **May 13th**, at which time they will be snatched up by waiting vacationers within days. **Seasons Lodge** will release any unreserved rooms on **May 27th** when those will disappear quickly as well. **If you think there is even a chance you would like to attend this enjoyable weekend, please reserve your hotel rooms now, knowing you can cancel the reservation up to 3 days prior.**

More information will be available soon on our website and in the next newsletter, but please pencil this weekend in on your calendar and come enjoy great Illinois LICA fellowship at beautiful Rend Lake.

ILICA CONVENTION THANK YOU'S

To the 2009 Convention Committee

Your plans, parties, food and meetings were so informative and enjoyable. The Ladies Day out was such a huge success. Our Ladies never let a little cold or nasty weather stop us from enjoying such a well planned and "FUN TIME."

Ditto for the ladies activities. (P.S. I love my bracelet.) Of course I enjoyed the Early Bird costuming (especially since I won the fantastic basket of goodies!) I'm sharing it this weekend with my family when we get together at our son Jimmy's home!

*Thanks again,
Cathy Craig*

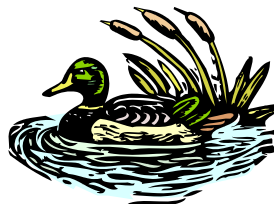


Dear Janet & Bill,

Thank you for allowing me to "hang out" with you guys. Communication and education about the how and why the conservation agencies (like US Fish & Wildlife Service) do the things they do are sometimes lost or misunderstood! When that happens everyone has bad feelings.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to try and disprove the rumor that all government is bad!

*Talk to you soon,
Gwen J. Kolb, U.S.F.W.S.*



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 Jon SeEVERS
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 John McCoy
 Joe Streitmatter

2009 SUMMER MEETING DES MOINES, IOWA JULY 14 - 18, 2009

The tentative tour schedule for this year's summer meeting and convention in Iowa has just arrived at the Illinois LICA office. Fees have not been set but will range from \$50 to \$60 per person per tour.

There is a very full program scheduled which includes the two (2) day Midwest Drainage Workshop, featuring the latest information on Drainage Water Management. The classroom session is scheduled for Tuesday, July 14th followed by a field day on July 15th at the Iowa LICA farm near Melborne. Busses will shuttle attendees from the hotel to the farm for the field day and afternoon men's tours.

With all these activities, there is something for everyone at the 2009 summer LICA meeting. The Iowa LICA farm property will have a brand new building by July and Iowa LICA members have been working hard on the property to prepare for this big summer event. ILICA members have the chance to support our neighbor LICA chapter and have a short drive to get there.

Keep checking our website for additional information on all convention activities as the date approaches.



Wednesday Mens' Tours

Vermeer Manufacturing, Pella, Iowa
Melborne LICA farm

Thursday Mens' Tours

Cemen Tech - (*Mobile Concrete Dispensers*) - Indianola, Iowa
Melborne Iowa LICA farm - Field Day & Nat'l Meeting Kick Off

Wednesday Ladies Tours

Bridges of Madison Co. (includes lunch)

Thursday Ladies Tours

Botanical Gardens, including lunch, Winery tour, Lille May Chocolate Marshalltown Tour (free wine & chocolate)
Field Day & Nat'l Meeting Kick Off

Children's Activities

Blank Park Zoo - Sleepy Hollow (Go-Karts)
For BIG kids - Slideways Go-Karts, Knoxville Iowa

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Illinois

Area 3 Member Meeting
Altorfer, Inc. - East Peoria, IL
Dinner - 6:30 pm - Educational Session - 7:30 pm
 March 24, 2009

Area 8 Member Meeting
Erb Equipment Co. - Mt. Vernon, IL
Dinner - 6:30 pm - Educational Session - 7:30 pm
 March 25, 2009

Annual Picnic & Member Meeting
Golf Outing, Trap Shooting & Boating Weekend
Rend Lake Resort - Mt. Vernon, IL
 June 27 - 28, 2009

2009 Farm Progress Show
Partners in Conservation Tent
Farm Progress Show Site - Decatur, IL
 September 1 - 3, 2009

National

Midwest Drainage Workshop
Holiday Inn - Airport - Des Moines, IA
 Classroom - July 14, 2009
 Field Day - July 15, 2009

2009 LICA Summer Convention
Holiday Inn - Airport - Des Moines, IA
 July 16 - 18, 2009

May Board Meeting Location

ILICA Office, Brimfield Illinois

The ILICA office is located in Brimfield, just off I-74 about half way between Peoria and Galesburg.

From West: Take the Route 78 exit from I-74 to Kewanee and Canton and turn North from the exit ramp. Turn right or east onto Route 150 at Akron Services grain storage facility. Follow Route 150 into Brimfield and the ILICA office is on your right, next door to the bar and restaurant, Good Time Challey's (look for the Budweiser sign) and directly across from the bank time and temperature marquee.

From East: Take the Brimfield exit from I-74 and turn North from the exit ramp. Turn left or West onto Route 150 at the stop sign. Follow Route 150 into Brimfield and the ILICA office on is your left, next door to the bar and restaurant, Good Time Challey's (look for the Budweiser sign) and directly across from the bank time and temperature marquee.



ILICA'S 1ST 10-HOUR OSHA CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP

Illinois LICA's first 10-Hour OSHA Certification workshop was a great success. With 42 registered attendees and a classroom limit of 50 participants, everyone involved was pleased with the outcome.

Bruce Mosier of Prins Insurance became a certified instructor for the 10 hour course last year and has facilitated several of these sessions for LICA chapters over the winter. With his coordination and the help of Dale Kuhn from J.U.L.I.E. and Brian Bothast of the Peoria area OSHA office, our active contractor members made it through 10 hours of important but perhaps less than exhilarating information. Attendees commented that all of the presenters did a great job with their areas of expertise.

A motion that this certification be added to the CEU requirements for ILICA certification was passed at the last member meeting, making this class something Illinois LICA will offer routinely in the future. And most surveys indicated that our contractors understand the need for this kind of safety training. Port Industries and Fratco, Inc. each sponsored a morning break to provide our contractors with coffee and nourishment to keep them going until lunch, which also got high marks on the survey.

The workshop, held at the Ramada Inn in Peoria, began with a Machine Control session by Joey Schlatter of Schlatter's Inc. but a day and a half was needed to cover the required information for OSHA certification. Each attendee



(Top left to lower right) Joey Schlatter presenting the Machine Control session; Bruce Mosier of Prins Insurance, certified 10 Hour OSHA trainer; Dale Kuhn of JULIE and Brian Bothast of the Peoria area OSHA office;

(Below) Attendees at the 2009 ILICA workshop.

will receive a certification card indicating their completion status as testing is not one of the requirements.

Retired professor Kent Mitchell was on hand to administer the ILICA certification testing following the 10 Hour OSHA class and two more ILICA contractors have successfully passed the core test and several classifications. Another certified contractor added a classification to his credentials while many other certified contractors fulfilled their bi-annual CEU requirements by attending the 2 day event. If you were not at the workshop and have questions about your certification status, please contact the ILICA office.

(Please note the additional information below for certified contractors.)



ATTENTION!



IF YOU HAVE TAKEN ANY COURSES OUTSIDE ILICA WORKSHOPS OR CONVENTIONS, THESE COURSES MAY QUALIFY AS CEU'S TOWARD THE BI-ANNUAL REQUIREMENT OF 8 TO MAINTAIN ILICA CERTIFICATION STATUS.

PLEASE CONTACT JANET AT THE ILICA OFFICE (309) 446-3700, IF YOU THINK YOU MAY HAVE OVERLOOKED REPORTING ANY EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS YOU HAVE ATTENDED SINCE THE LAST RE-CERFICIATION PERIOD. (MARCH 2007)

SAFETY FEATURE - DISTRACTIONS ON THE JOB



Many accidents and injuries occur when a worker is distracted while working. Following are safety guidelines to ensure that all workers are aware of the distractions that may occur while on the job, and how these distractions can be eliminated:

Mental distractions: Having a bad day at home and worrying about it at work is a hazardous combination. Dropping your 'mental' guard can pull your focus away from safe work procedures. You can be distracted when you are busy working and a friend comes by to talk while you are trying to work. Do not become a statistic because you took your eyes off the machine or the work "just for a minute."

Inattention: Inattention may be the result from workplace arguments, confusing instructions, concern about working hours, wages, bills, etc. Inattention worsens with fatigue and boredom. Keep your mind on your work. The prime interest in solving hazards created by inattention lies in methods of deference; warnings, alarms, fail-safe switch circuits, guards, etc. For example, hazardous steps and overhangs can be brightly painted, horns and backup alarms must be on heavy equipment, and warning signs are required to be posted.

Machinery: Set up your work station in a clear unobstructed location with good lighting, proper electrical circuits, and away from busy foot traffic that would cause distractions. Make sure that everyone is at a safe distance away from a machine before starting. Assure that your work station is stable and clear of trip hazards. Hands can be protected by using machinery that only turns when both hands are on the operator switches. Never bypass the start up switch on the equipment you are using. When a machine does not start the way it was designed, inform your boss.

Hearing: Do not play loud music. Headphones can be a hazardous distraction. Ask your supervisor if wearing headphones is acceptable. Ear muffs are for loud noise levels to safeguard your hearing. Workers need to hear when important instructions or warnings are told. A co-worker may save your life.



Long hair: When your hair is loose and flowing, it can blow around and get in your face or eyes and obstruct your view. Avoid fixing your hair while working with machinery or operating a vehicle. Tie your hair back and keep it under a hat.

Driving: Avoid distractions such as:

- Tools and items not secure
- Doing paperwork
- Fastening a safety belt
- Trying to get out of a coat
- Bad windshield wipers
- Using a portable phone
- Eating a meal
- Adjusting the radio
- Reaching into the glove box
- Searching for dropped items
- Looking at a map or reading
- Reaching for a cup
- Unsafe lane change
- Staring at other drivers

Consider this: 4 out of every 5 accidents are the fault of the person involved in the incident. Unsafe acts cause four times as many accidents and injuries as unsafe conditions. Workers tend to look for "things" to blame when an accident happens, because it is easier than looking for "root causes".



Shortcuts: Every day we make decisions we hope will make the job faster and more efficient. Do time savers ever risk their own safety, or that of other crewmembers? Short cuts that reduce your safety on the job are not shortcuts, but an increased chance for injury.

Overconfidence: Confidence is a good thing. Overconfidence can be too much of a good thing. "It will never happen to me" is an attitude that can lead to improper procedures, mishandling of tools, or unsafe methods on the job. Any of these can lead to injury.

Do not start a task with incomplete instructions. To do the job safely and right the first time you need complete information. Have you ever been sent to do a job, having been given only a part of the job's instructions? Ask for explanations about work procedures and safety precautions.

Poor housekeeping: When clients, managers, or safety professionals walk through your work site, housekeeping is an accurate indicator of everyone's attitude about quality, production, and safety. Poor housekeeping creates hazards of all types.

A well-maintained area sets a standard for others to follow. Good housekeeping involves both pride and safety.

Ignoring safety procedures: Purposely failing to observe safety procedures can endanger you and your co-workers. You are being paid to follow the company safety policies; not to make your own rules. Remember, being "casual" about safety can lead to a casualty.



Being hasty in starting a task or not thinking through the process can put you in harms way. Plan your work and then work your plan.

Problem solving: Once you have realized a distraction problem, meet with the worker to discuss what you have seen. Meet at a time and place when you think you will be relaxed and able to discuss the problem. When distraction problems occur, it is especially important to speak with respect. Address the distraction problem and encourage improvement. Do not judge the worker. Be relaxed and maintain a nonjudgmental attitude; this will help keep the lines of communication open, solve the problem, and maintain good relations. Starting the conversation is often the most difficult step. You may feel unsure about what to say or how to say it, or you may find yourself wanting to avoid the discussion altogether. Be straightforward and honest.

Remember: Concentrate on the work at hand, and keep your mind on your work. Utilize these safety guidelines to help eliminate distractions on the job.



From: Safety Services Company (www.safetyservicescompany.com)

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SALLY MCFARLAND MEMORIAL BELL TOWER PROJECT

Barry Dickerson, U of I Director of Development, College of ACES, has been a loyal friend to Illinois LICA for many years. He attended the 2008 convention to gain our support on a project being constructed at the university that has become labor of love. A large alumni donation made it possible to erect the 185 foot McFarland Memorial Bell Tower on the south quad of the campus and Barry came to ask for Illinois LICA's help in furnishing the equipment and manpower for the final grade work. As the site plan developed, time ran out for a fall completion so Barry returned to this year's convention with an update and a much firmer schedule. A drawing of the proposed finished project is shown below but construction of the actual bell tower is all but complete and the landscape designers have determined the excavation needs for the project.

There will be a 6000 square foot plaza which will include walkways, gardens and tree gardens. The 2 acre site will require removal of an existing dirt pile and rock hauled to another campus location, finish grading for proper site drainage, removal of the old sidewalk, drainage tile around the perimeter of the plaza, and excavation of the plaza area, concrete band and sidewalk areas.

During the board meeting at this year's convention, it was determined that Jon SeEVERS and Neal Barnes, show committee co-chairs, would follow up with Barry to review the site, determine the equipment and manpower needs and report back to the board at the March meeting.

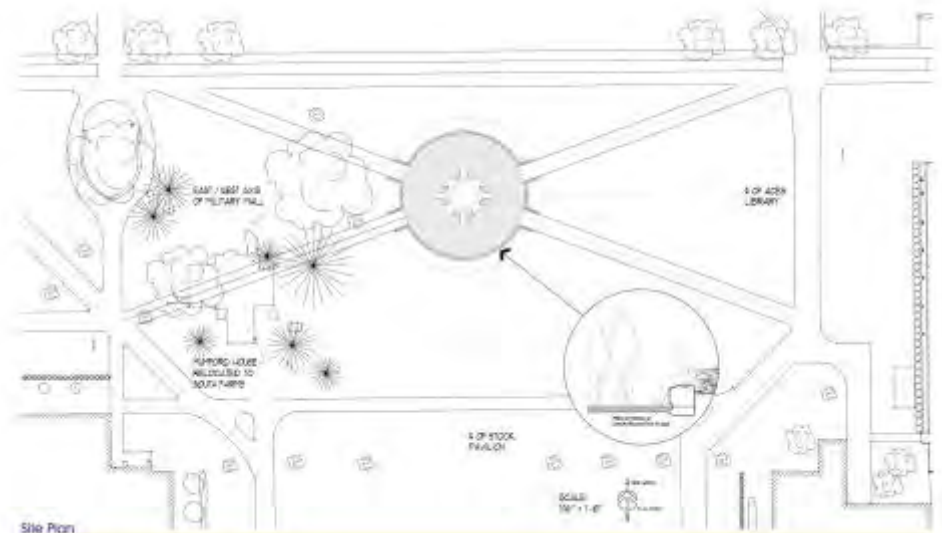
Things have proceeded as planned and the finish work is set to begin March 26th and complete by the time that weekend is over.

Illinois LICA's long-time partnership with the university has always provided each party with long term benefits and this project is no exception. The high-profile site will be one of the most visited areas' of the college and the permanent signage at the site will list all those who donated time and effort on the project. Equipment has been secured from our outstanding associates but, with the short timeline, additional manpower would be greatly appreciated. **Please contact Jon SeEVERS or Neal Barnes if you would like to help with this unique project.**

Many members may not recall the Arboretum pond project built in 1997 by Illinois LICA donated time and equipment, although it remains the largest in-kind donation of its kind at University of Illinois. Our partnership continues to grow and develop as another opportunity takes shape later this summer. Dr. Richard Cooke presented information at the March board meeting on a proposed erosion control facility to be built on the university's South farm and is asking for Illinois LICA's help with that construction. The site will include a classroom facility and field site with constructed burms, a rainfall simulator and detention basin to test and research a variety of erosion control materials and methods. In return, Illinois LICA will receive annual training opportunities at the site, proving once again, what an outstanding partnership we have with this great university.



View of Bell Tower Looking to the Northwest





SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER TODAY!





Application for CONTRACTOR Membership

Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association



P.O. Box 474 • Brimfield, IL 61517 • Phone (309) 446-3700 • Fax: (309) 446-3744 • janet@illica.net

_____ hereby makes application for Active Membership in the ILLINOIS LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, INC., (ILICA) and enclose Two Hundred eighty-five Dollars (\$285) as my annual membership dues for the year _____. One dollar (\$1.00) of this amount is for a subscription to the "Ilica News", a bi-monthly newsletter, for one year.

Dues are \$285*

One hundred sixty dollars (\$160) for Illinois Membership plus

One hundred twenty five dollars (\$125) for National Membership

New members only (years 1—2 of membership.) All existing members remain at \$400 annually.

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

Individual Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Spouse: _____ Firm Name: _____

Address: _____

County: _____ ILICA Area Number: _____ Sponsor: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

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- SP-Site Prep SWU-Sewer/Water/Underground Utilities TH-Trucking or Hauling TW-Terraces & Waterways
- WM—Water Management.





Application for SUBSCRIPTION Membership

Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association



P.O. Box 474 • Brimfield, IL 61517 • Phone (309) 446-3700 • Fax: (309) 446-3744 • janet@illica.net

Subscription membership entitles the member to each issue of the *Ilica News* newsletter and 1 copy of the annual directory for the subscription year. The annual membership dues are **\$25.00** and offset the cost of publication and mailing.

Send completed application with dues (make check payable to ILICA) to the corporate address above.

Individual Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____




Application for ASSOCIATE Membership
Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association


P.O. Box 474 • Brimfield, IL 61517 • Phone (309) 446-3700 • Fax: (309) 446-3744 • janet@illica.net

_____ hereby makes application for Associate Membership in the ILLINOIS LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, INC., (ILICA) and enclose Two Hundred Dollars (\$200) as my annual membership dues for the year _____. One dollar (\$1.00) of this amount is for a subscription to the "Ilica News", a bi-monthly newsletter, for one year.

Associate members shall consist of and be limited to persons, firms, corporations, associations or organizations that manufacture or sell equipment, material or services to land improvement contractors.

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

Individual Name: _____ Email _____

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