

The LICA News

Volume 24 No. 5

The Land Improvement Contractors of America

September/October 2011



In This Issue:

National Winter Convention	1
President's Message	2
National Benefits Update	2
Contractors Encourage a Highway Bill Now!	3
Trade Shows Contribute to LICA's Growth	3

Check Airfare
NOW!



San Diego, CA
February 7-12, 2012

General Schedule of
Events listed on back!

San Diego, the Site of the 2012 National LICA Winter Convention

San Diego is famous for its perfect climate, 70 miles of pristine beaches and many attractions that include the San Diego Zoo, Sea World San Diego and LEGOLAND. San Diego offers an expansive variety of things to see and do, appealing to all LICA Members and their families.

California's second largest city and the United States' eighth largest, San Diego has a population of almost 1.3 million. Within its borders of 4,200 sq. miles, San Diego County encompasses 18 incorporated cities and numerous other charming neighborhoods and communities, including downtown's historic Gaslamp Quarter, Little Italy, Coronado, La Jolla, Del Mar, Carlsbad, and Chula Vista just to name a few.

On the USS Midway LICA members will uncover almost 50 years of history. The Midway is the longest-serving Navy aircraft of the 20th century, from 1945 until 1992 she sailed all seven seas. Named after the Battle of Midway, she fought in Vietnam and the first Persian Gulf War.



USS Midway
Photo courtesy of USS Midway Museum

There are sixty exhibits to see aboard the Midway including crew's sleeping quarters, primary flight control and even the ship's jail. There are restored aircraft from World War II to Operation Desert Storm. The Midway has an amazing history to be shared with LICA members!



San Diego Zoo Entrance
Photo courtesy of San Diego Zoo

The San Diego Zoo is one of the most famous zoos in the world! Located in Balboa Park the Zoo is home to more than 4,000 rare and endangered species. As well as animals the Zoo houses many exotic plants from around the world. Many experts have come together to create real-world habitats full of plant life for the animals.

("San Diego" Continued on page 2)

**The Land Improvement
Contractors of America**



THE LICA NEWS is the official publication of the Land Improvement Contractors Association, dedicated to the professional conservation of soil and water. LICA was founded in 1951 and is today comprised of twenty-four chapters across the continental United States

Publisher
Eileen Levy

Contributing Writers
Jerry Biuso
Allison Hack
John Peterson

Art Direction
Jerry Biuso

THE LICA NEWS welcomes letters, subject to editing for accuracy and brevity. THE LICA NEWS also welcomes articles relevant to the land improvement industry. Include your name and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

Deadlines are the twenty-first of the month preceding issue date. All unsolicited material must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

3080 Ogden Ave.
Suite 300
Lisle, IL 60532

PHONE: (630) 548-1984
FAX: (630) 548-9189
EMAIL: NLICA@aol.com

Website:
www.LICANational.org



President's Message

LICA Members,

What a year!! We have seen dry conditions all the way to serious flooding in different areas of the country, but the LICA spirit lives on. We make the best out of what we are given and continue to be successful in what we do.

It's been a busy year, but we are continuing our efforts in expanding membership across the country. We can't thank our associates enough for what they do for our organization, so please support our loyal associates.

Now on to San Diego. I am so excited; there is so much to see and do and the weather should be perfect (I put a special order in for that). We have a lot of good programs and trips planned as well as the committee meetings. Be sure to make your reservations early. It will be a great time for all.

Be safe and I will see you in San Diego.

Steve Gerten

Steve Gerten
National LICA President

San Diego *(Continued from page 1)*

LICA members can stroll from exhibit to exhibit or travel by bus. They can even take to the skies on the Skyfari aerial tram; all are included with admission. There are also wheelchairs and electric scooters available to rent, either way everyone can travel easily through the Zoo!

We've seen intense racing from LICA members over the past couple of years. Nate Cook of Michigan took home first place in Phoenix in 2010 and Bob Clark of Indiana won in Las Vegas this past winter. Who's going to win this year? Come to San Diego and join us for the 2012 match!

If you choose to take the LICA planned tours or travel on your own San Diego promises to be a truly remarkable experience for everyone.

Benefits Update

Due to lack of interest by our members the National LICA Retirement Program has been discontinued as of September 1, 2011. The few members who are in the program have been notified and will still enjoy this benefit but no new members will be enrolled.

CONTRACTORS ENCOURAGE A HIGHWAY BILL NOW!

*By John Peterson,
National LICA Director of Government Relations*

The Land Improvement Contractors of America (LICA) is urging its members and voters throughout the nation to be vocal in urging Congress to enact an adequately funded transportation bill now! "This fall is a critical time for our industry to remind all federal elected officials of the dire situation our highways and the construction industry are facing," said Jerry Biuso, LICA CEO. "We need to keep the pressure on Congress to do what is needed to make highways and other elements of our surface transportation system a top priority."

Biuso believes promoting a bill is particularly important this summer for several reasons:

- Our nation's economy continues to falter, and with the continuing economic uncertainty, unemployment remains at a critical level in the construction industry. Passage of the highway bill would create and sustain well-paying, long-term jobs for people who want and need to work.
- Summertime means that with school recesses and vacations large groups of people will visit Washington, DC. This means elected officials will hear from many special interests at this time. We must ensure that transportation needs not get lost in the summer discussion of other issues.
- August is also the time when Senators and Representatives return home to their states and districts.

This gives voters more opportunities to have direct contact with these elected officials on their home turf. There are opportunities to press our ideas at town hall meetings, fundraising and campaign events, and town festivals.

- August 10th marks the sixth anniversary of the signing of the most recent highway bill, which since its expiration has been extended seven times. With no clear timeline for the next transportation bill, it is difficult, if not impossible, for many contracting businesses to invest in the future.
- Fuel prices are also rising at an alarming rate. With motorists paying close to \$4 a gallon for gasoline, and some officials suggesting even higher prices, we can scarcely afford to waste fuel because of the inefficiency and disrepair of our nation's highways.

"Our ability to move people and goods is critical to the United States," Biuso says. "Our federal government has underinvested in maintaining our nation's transportation infrastructure for years. Even in these tough economic times, with government spending cuts needed, it is time to set some priorities for what is needed here at home, and spend less throughout the world. Accounting for inflation, we spend less on our infrastructure today than we did in 1975. This is simply unacceptable. We need to make this summer one of action and not just another time of inaction."

Trade Shows Contribute to LICA's Growth

By Jerry Biuso

Beginning with CONEXPO 2005, for the past six years LICA CEO Jerry Biuso and a great many volunteers has taken LICA on the road exhibiting in national and regional trade shows throughout the country. The main focus is to expand LICA's image, recruit new members and share the many LICA benefits to both contractors and associates.

CONEXPO 2005 was a huge success with 46 LICA volunteers working the 20' LICA booth and at CONEXPO 2008 we sponsored the educational seminars, which further increased our image. CONEXPO 2011 was the best show of all. We had the perfect location, enthusiastic volunteers and a great response for attendees.

In 2005 was the first ICUEE show LICA attended in Louisville, KY. Jerry met John Weatherhead who began publishing our national magazine the summer of 2007. Just last fall he met

Joe Giovinazzo President of Petrocon at a regional construction show in Washington DC. The Petrocon/LICA commodities program is now one of LICA's most important national benefits used by members throughout the country. That is just two of the many contacts that have joined LICA and have contributed to our steady growth.

This fall LICA plans to exhibit in some key shows. First up is the International Construction and Utility Equipment Exposition or ICUEE. The Expo will be held October 4-6, in Louisville, Kentucky. ICUEE is the place for hands-on demonstrations of equipment and construction. As a supporting organization LICA will have a booth at ICUEE for the third consecutive show. ICUEE is every other year and has been a very successful venue for LICA in the past. CEO Jerry Biuso, LICA volunteers and a Petrocon representative will be speaking one on one with

hundreds of potential LICA members.

National LICA will be supporting Missouri LICA in this new show coming up November 9 and 10 at the Fairgrounds in Columbia, Missouri. It is the first ever Damage Prevention Summit. The summit will have almost 40 hours of safety education including a 10-Hour OSHA class, Competent Person, Pipeline Safety and much more. On top of the great safety education for attendees there will be an excavation rodeo, locator rodeo, exhibit hall and many heavy equipment displays. The fun continues with door prizes, meal and rodeo winner prizes all for free! The Damage Prevention Summit will be an excellent event to network, learn safety techniques and see heavy equipment. If you attend any to the shows please come by our booth.

If you would like to volunteer to work the LICA booth please contact Eileen at National LICA.

Land Improvement Contractors of America

3080 Ogden Ave. Suite 300

Lisle, IL 60532

2012 National Winter Convention

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, February 7th

USS Midway Tour

Wednesday, February 8th

San Diego Zoo

Thursday, February 9th

Educational Seminars

Associates' Night

Friday, February 10th

Committee Meetings

Saturday, February 11th

Board & Delegates' Meetings

Indoor Go-Karts

Note: This is a general schedule - more details soon!