

The LICA News

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The Land Improvement Contractors of America

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Happy Holidays

Participate in Your State

It's almost time to make your New Years' resolution for 2016. Instead of making it the usual "lose weight" or "find a new hobby", why not make one that you can actually attain? Make your resolution for 2016 "participate in LICA." It will be easy to achieve because your state's Convention is right around the corner.

Not only is this a fun way to start the New Year but it will benefit you and your business. Learn something new at a seminar, network with a local Associate or bring the family to a fun activity. The Conventions have a variety of social and business opportunities for the LICA Contractor.

Check with your State Chapter office or visit their website for complete details and registration. Start with the State Convention then try a golf outing or summer picnic. There are events all year long!

State Chapter Convention

Illinois LICA
January 14-16, 2016
Embassy Suites
East Peoria, IL

Indiana LICA
January 27-29, 2016
Marriott East
Indianapolis IN

Iowa LICA
January 10-12, 2016
Airport Holiday Inn
Des Moines, Iowa.

Kansas LICA
Jan. 31 – Feb. 1, 2016
Capitol Plaza Hotel
Topeka, KS

Michigan LICA
January 17 -19, 2016
Ramada Lansing Hotel and
Conference Center
Lansing, MI

Minnesota LICA
January 6-8 2016
Best Western
New Ulm, MN

Missouri LICA
January 21-23, 2016
Hilton Garden Inn
Columbia, MO

Nebraska LICA
January 19-21, 2016
Holiday Inn
Convention Center
Kearney, NE

New Jersey LICA
March 20-21, 2016
Holiday Inn
Clinton, NJ

New York LICA
January 12-14, 2016
Ramada Lakefront
Geneva, NY

Ohio LICA
January 4-6, 2016
Embassy Suites
Dublin, Ohio

South Dakota LICA
January 11-13, 2016
Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn
Rapid City, SD

**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

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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.

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President's Message

We human beings are creatures of comfort. We have our favorite chair to relax in. We have our favorite seat at church. We have the same friends that have been around forever. We like to do things we are used to. We buy the same brand of machine because we are comfortable with it. We tend to buy stuff at the same stores (the men anyway). We don't like the unknown as it makes us uncomfortable. Being comfortable is often highlighted in other countries as being the American way and in many ways it is.

The interesting thing about that train of thought is it tends to make others underestimate us. One could ask if tyrants such as Hitler, Stalin, Hussein, thought that we were too soft to put up a good fight. And we really aren't too soft. Anyone ever driven west? Can you imagine just how cushy a trip along the Santa Fe trail was in 1830? Anyone ever imagined how they got those wagons over the mountains? As a country we are not soft by any means when you dig down in. We do like our comfort though, we have earned it. Just like when you get home from a day on the machine, it feels good to relax and enjoy that comfort. It gets you recharged to face the next day. We work more days per year than just about any other country in the world, striving for that dream we hold whatever it might be.

Probably by now you are asking, where is he going with this? Where else but LICA? I want to ask you something, what do you remember about Tuesday of last week? Now if it was a comfortable day, I bet the answer is a silent puzzled look. That is the thing about comfort, it all blends into obscurity. Now if I asked you about last Tuesday and it was the first day you got to demolish an old building, you would probably remember it much better. You weren't too comfortable about it. The discomfort of facing the unknown makes things memorable. It also makes life much more rewarding.

LICA is a group of people, an association that strives to provide value for its members, education in the fields they work in, better ways to manage those businesses, and a connection with others striving to do the same thing you are. And for this to exist it takes the efforts of its members to provide direction, leadership, input, and presence. As I travel around to visit in the many states of this group, I find the troubling aspect of a leadership vacuum. Our membership grows yet the same faces are seen being directors and officers. Its time to step outside your comfort zone.

Life certainly can throw a lot at a person at times, family, business, local involvements, and other priorities that pop up. We all have that. I just want you to look at where you are and see if you need a new challenge. You can use the excuse of "I am not a leader type" but that just doesn't wash since the person reading this most likely owns and runs his or her own business. LICA is in need of the fresh input of its members. I know not everyone is in the position where they can do this due to workload, commitments etc. Yet there are many that can but are tied down by their level of comfort.

I was one of them not so many years ago. I have been around LICA since I was a kid, going to board meetings with my dad. I am a second generation member, with my father and brother serving as state presidents before me. Both of them I could see, me not so much. Yet, out of that process of committees, conventions, and the officer track, I found some strengths inside I hadn't seen before. I found a sense of confidence and an ability to communicate better (even though I dreaded it before). I actually like to stand before a group and speak. That doesn't even cover the best part which is the people I call friends that I got to know along the way. Those friends are really what this group is all about, you can pay your dues, use your benefits, (please use your benefits) and still miss out on the greatest value there is with LICA, the people you meet who share knowledge with you, listen to you, and respect your value to the group. Uncle LICA needs you, see your local recruitment officer today. Get involved in your state and get involved nationally. Sure it takes some time, sure it can be uncomfortable at first, but its worth it.

Like anything in life, the more you invest, the greater the return.

Steve Anderson

Steve Anderson
LICA President

2016 Winter Convention Tentative Agenda



Tuesday, March 1

12:15 pm - 4:00 pm Enchanted Springs
6:00 pm Executive Committee

Wednesday, March 2

8:00 am - 6:00 pm Austin

Thursday, March 3

8:00 am -12 pm Educational Seminars
 (TBA)
11:45 am Golf Outing
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Executive Directors
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Associates' Night

Friday, March 4

7:00 am - 7:30 am Devotions
7:30 am - 8 :00 am Committee Chairs
9:15 am - 10:15 am Education/Tech
 Legislative
 Water Table Mgmt...
10:30 am - 11:30 am By- Laws
 Conservation, Exc.
 Ladies/Devotions
11:45 am - 12:45 pm Convention
 Long-Term/Past Pres.
 On-Site Waste
 Safety/Insurance
1:00 pm **John Deere Lunch**
2:15 pm - 3:15 pm Associates
 Awards
 Membership
 Policy
3:15 pm - 4:15 pm Region Meetings
4:15 pm - 5:15 pm Budget

Saturday, March 5

7:00 am - 7:30 am Devotions
9:00 am - 10:15 am Delegates Meeting
10:30 am - 11:45 am Board Meeting
12:00 pm **Lunch**
6:00 pm **CNA Reception**
7:00 pm **Caterpillar Awards
 Banquet**

Drury Plaza Hotel

Complimentary hot breakfast served every morning. There is also an evening reception at 5:30 pm, which includes 3 free beverages per adult.



2016 Winter Convention Tours

Tuesday, March 1

Enchanted Springs Ranch

As you stroll through this old west town, experience the nostalgia of being transported back in time. Take a tractor-pulled wagon ride through the Wild Animal Park to see longhorn cattle, zebras, and many other exotics. Listen to live western music, while you enjoy some good, old-fashioned barbecue brisket, chicken, potatoes, beans, bread and dessert. Our afternoon will conclude with a Wild West Show, spotlighting famous entertainers who will impress you with whip and gun tricks.

Wednesday, March 2

Austin Showcase

We will take a trip to the capitol city. The first stop will be Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, which is the Texas official history museum and features three floors of galleries with artifacts that span more than 13,000 years, as well as an IMAX® Theatre and a 4D special-effects theater.

Then we will spend some time in the South Congress neighborhood (SoCo); for some exploring and lunch on your own. This neighborhood has an energetic feel with an assortment of restaurants and shops. From high-end boutiques to antique shops, SoCo has it all.

The last leg of our trip will cover 30 miles, which will include downtown, the Texas State Capitol, a drive through the University of Texas campus, a little of the trendy and historic East Austin, West Austin, Lady Bird Lake South Shore, then on through beautiful Zilker Park for a peek at the Hill Country and the Lakes.

Thursday, March 3

Golf Outing

The Quarry Golf Club is a great golf course with 9 of the 18 holes located in a quarry. A very unique and beautiful setting, about 2.5 miles away from the hotel.

Your registration fee includes: green fees, carts, starter kit, and lunch. (Rental clubs available at the pro shop for \$50.00) We will be carpooling to the course and lunch will be served there.

2016 Winter Convention

Local Information

The Drury Plaza Hotel is right on the River Walk minutes away from many local attractions, restaurants and landmarks. These are a few suggestions for members to check out during their stay in San Antonio.

For more information go to visitsanantonio.com. There you can find public transportation, itinerary ideas, and much more. Make the most of the week by planning ahead!

Alamo

300 Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, TX 78205
(210) 225-1391 www.thealamo.org

Located on Alamo Plaza in downtown San Antonio, Texas, the Alamo houses exhibits on the Texas Revolution and Texas history. Visitors are welcome to stroll through the beautiful Alamo Gardens. Just a short distance from the River Walk, the Alamo is a "must see" for all who come to San Antonio.



The Alamo

Alamo City Ghost Tours

317 Alamo St., San Antonio, TX 78205
(210) 336-7831 www.alamocityghosttours.com

We visit 13 different haunted locations. This tour does not stay very long at one location. This is a fast-paced high-action tour. You will visit hanging trees, old cemeteries, and haunted hotels, along with places where people are entombed in the walls.

Alamo Trolley

216 Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, TX 78205
(210) 247-0238 www.thealamotrolley.com

The narrated tour will take you to the heart of old San Antonio to discover the most treasured cultural attractions; The Alamo, Tower of the Americas, River Walk, Market Square, the Mission Trail and more. Enjoy all-day unlimited reboarding at Hop Stops with your Hop Pass.

Buckhorn Museum & The Texas Ranger Museum

318 E Houston St, San Antonio, TX 78205
(210) 247-4000 www.buckhornmuseum.com

Established in 1881, The Buckhorn features one-of-a-kind animal exhibits, a historic saloon, Café, Gift Shop and The Texas Ranger Museum. Explore the newly remodeled animal halls and prepare yourself for an immersive Texas Experience. Practice your sharp shooting skills in our Toepperwein Shooting Gallery and explore hundreds of rare and unique animal species from around the world. Next stop, The Texas Ranger Museum which has hundreds of Texas Ranger artifacts including revolvers, automatic handguns, badges, photographs and much more.



Buckhorn Museum

City Sightseeing Double Decker

204 Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, TX 78205
(210) 224-8687 www.city-sightseeing.com

City Sightseeing Double Decker, located in downtown San Antonio operates a brand new, open-topped, double decker tour of the city. Tours begin every 20 minutes, all day, every day from Alamo Plaza, Market Square, Hemis-Fair Park and six other central locations. It is a hop-on, hop-off service; pay on boarding. There is an onboard commentary and a great view of the city.

Botanical Garden

555 Funston, San Antonio, TX 78209
(210) 207-3250 www.sabot.org

Cultivate yourself at this 38-acre botanical garden in the heart of San Antonio. Explore the futuristic Lucile Halsell Conservatory or walk the Texas Native Trail for a close-up encounter with the beautiful world of plants. Seasonal floral display beds complement formal garden settings that include a rose garden, old-fashioned garden, sensory garden, and Kumamoto En Japanese garden.



Botanical Gardens

Six Flags Fiesta Texas

17000 IH 10 West, San Antonio, TX 78257
(210) 697-5050 www.sixflags.com/fiestatexas

Make plans now to visit Six Flags Fiesta Texas! Enjoy an array of world-class shows and thrilling rides for the whole family! Come see why Six Flags Fiesta Texas is America's favorite show park with shows like Roadhouse Country and #iPoP. Enjoy one of the park's thrilling roller coasters, including the epic Iron Rattler, Goliath and more.

San Antonio Zoo

3903 N. St. Mary's St., San Antonio, TX 78212
(210) 734-7184 www.sazoo-aq.org

Open 365 days a year, the San Antonio Zoo is situated in an old limestone quarry and is home to more than 8,500 animals of 779 species. Several interactive exhibits include Africa Live!, Lory Landing, Butterflies, Real Wild Fun Farm and more. Don't forget to take a ride on the San Antonio Zoo Eagle, a miniature train that treks around Brackenridge Park. Open every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

2016 Winter Convention Associates' Night



Thursday, March 3
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Associates' Night is the official opening of the LICA National Convention. Many national associates exhibit their products and services, while networking with LICA members. This year, the theme of the night is Fiesta! Everyone is encouraged to join in the fun and dress the part.

Interested in exhibiting?
Contact the National LICA Office
Phone: 630-548-1984
Email: anational.LICA@gmail.com

2016 Winter Convention Registration

San Antonio, Texas • March 1-6, 2016

Company _____
 City _____ State _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Names of Attendees (for Badges)

Name _____
 Name _____
 Name _____
 Name _____

Early Bird Registration Postmarked by **January 29, 2016**

Members, Spouses, Associates **\$250**
 Number Attending _____ Total \$ _____
Youth: 13 Years & under (Under 3 Free) **\$235**
 Number Attending _____ Total \$ _____

Registration Postmarked after **January 29, 2016**

Members, Spouses, Associates **\$275**
 Number Attending _____ Total \$ _____
Youth: 13 Years & under (Under 3 Free) **\$255**
 Number Attending _____ Total \$ _____

*Registration Includes: Associates Night, John Deere Lunch, Saturday Lunch,
 CNA Reception & Caterpillar Awards Banquet.*

Optional Tours

Tues. March 1
 Enchanted Springs Ranch No. Attending _____
 Cost \$ 65 per person Total \$ _____

Weds. March 2
 Austin Showcase No. Attending _____
 Cost \$ 70 per person Total \$ _____

Thurs. March 3
 Golf No. Attending _____
 Cost \$100 per person Total \$ _____

Tour Total \$ _____

Convention total \$ _____
(tours plus convention registration)

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____
or charge my credit card
 Credit Card MC Visa

Cardholder _____
 Card # _____
 Exp. _____ 3 Digit Code _____
 Billing zipcode _____

Hotel Information:

Drury Plaza Hotel
 105 South St. Mary's Street; San Antonio, TX 78205
 \$159/night (plus taxes)

Call: 800-325-0720
 Group Name: Land Improvement Contractors
 Group Number: 2248503
 Reserve by: **January 29, 2016**

Registration Policy: Only individuals registered and wearing badges may attend Winter Convention events. No registration will be processed without payment. Registration fee deadlines will be strictly enforced.
Refund Policy: For cancellations received prior to February 12, 2016 a \$30.00 charge will be deducted from the original amount paid. No registration payment will be refunded after February 12, 2016 unless there has been an emergency.

Return this form with payment to:
LICA Winter Convention
 3080 Ogden Ave. Suite 300, Lisle, IL 60532

Land Improvement Contractors of America

3080 Ogden Ave. Suite 300

Lisle, IL 60532

**National LICA Award Forms are
available at LICANational.org**

**Print out applications desired and follow the instructions. Awards are given at the
National LICA Winter Convention at the Awards Banquet.**



Submissions are due to the National LICA office by February 1st.