

# The LICA News

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The Land Improvement Contractors of America

March/April 2016



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## 2016 Winter Convention



*Fiesta Theme Associates' Night*

LICA members got to experience Texas and had a great time. From the old west at Enchanted Springs Ranch to the up and coming capitol of Austin there was plenty to see on the tours. After the two days of exploring, members had a few options in educational seminars including "Employees and Technology" and the "Business Succession Panel". We had a ton of people get in the "Fiesta" spirit and dress up in costume for Associates' Night. Meetings were well-attended and important issues were discussed. The hotel was in the center of San Antonio and attendees were able to take in the River Walk at their leisure. If you weren't able to attend the 2016 Winter Convention mark your calendars for the next National Meeting.



*Delegates' Meeting*



*Business Succession Panel*



*Mt. Bonnell in Austin, Texas*



*Enchanted Springs*

**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

This is an exciting time for LICA and I am proud and honored to represent you this year. I plan to focus on safety, member benefits and continuing to grow the membership.

Our National Convention in San Antonio was well attended. I would like to thank the Associates for their support and the attending members who made it a huge success.

The committee meetings were stimulating and informative. The Convention Committee has the locations for National Meetings set through 2018. There is the possible National Septic Warranty Program being explored by the Onsite Waste Committee. These are just a few highlights from the meetings and I hope more members will participate in the future.

The summer meeting in Kansas City this July is shaping up to have a good blend of exciting tours and informative educational programs. I want to thank you for this opportunity and urge you to work safe.

### David Rule

David Rule  
National LICA President

## Upcoming National Meetings & Conventions

**2016 National Summer Meeting**  
Intercontinental Kansas City at the Plaza  
Kansas City, Missouri • July 18-23

**2017 National Winter Convention**  
Harrah's (tentative)  
Las Vegas, NV • March 4-6

**2017 National Summer Meeting**  
Elegante Hotel  
Colorado Springs, CO • July 11-16

**2018 National Winter Convention**  
Charleston, South Carolina

**2018 National Summer Meeting**  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

# Land Improvement Contractors of America Delegates' Meeting

March 5, 2016 • San Antonio, Texas

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Anderson at 9:00 am at the Drury Plaza Hotel in San Antonio, Texas.

## CREDENTIALS REPORT

Brad McArdle called roll and declared a quorum present. A complete roll call is listed below:

**Arkansas** absent

**California** Absent

### Illinois

Pres. Tom Beyers

1. Jon Seevers
2. Lee Bunting
3. Bill Doubet
4. David Kennedy

### Indiana

Pres. Tony Cain

1. Dean Neiswinger
2. James Ramsey

### Iowa

Pres. David Flewelling

1. Mark Erpelding
2. Russ Peters
3. Bruce Barnhart
4. Maretta Grattan
5. Leo Rieken
6. Dean Speicher

### Kansas

Pres. Jeff Schell

1. Dave Bose
2. Clem Karlin

### Michigan

Pres. Trevor Young (proxy)

1. Dave Aurehamer

### Minnesota

Pres. Karlen Nelson

1. Don Loken
2. Mark Morriem
3. Doug Breberg

### Missouri

Pres. Chris Brauer

1. Tom Lawlor (proxy)
2. Jake Gingerich (proxy)
3. Dennis Brinton(proxy)
4. Mont Gilbert

**Montana** absent

### Nebraska

Pres. Ray Cooney

1. Rick Vlach
2. Norma Lashley
3. Keith Samuelson

### New Jersey

Pres. Shelly Hewson

1. John Rothberg
2. Ron Garafalo
3. Chris Wagner

**New York** Absent

**North Dakota** absent

### Ohio

Pres. Doug Schwieterman

1. Larry Orr
2. Steve Gerten

**Pennsylvania** Absent

### South Dakota

Pres. Larry Gossard (proxy)

1. Bryan Vanderpol
2. Bob Bak

### Virginia

Pres. Dave Gallahan (proxy)

1. Kim Johnson

### Wisconsin

President Rusty Curtis

## Executive Committee

Chariman	Bob Clark
President	Steve Anderson
Vice Pres.	David Rule
Region 1	Dan Micsky
Region 2	Chris Johnson
Region 3	Mike Cook
Region 4	Nordis Estrem
Region 5	Dirk Riniker
Region 6	Brad McArdle
Region 7	vacant
Region 8	Merlin Welch

## Past Presidents

Steve Gerten  
Steve Miller

**Associates** absent

**Ladies** absent

## NEUCROLOGY

Greg Hoogstraat  
Shirley Knupple  
Larry Meddars  
Verle Streitmatter  
Allen Heltzel  
Dean Derry  
Franklin Kinkade  
Fred DeJong  
Merle Hershberger  
Marvin Peery  
Edward Pacey  
Rex Gerard  
Kevin Rackers  
Hollis Boyer  
Dave Warner  
Phil Nelson  
Mike Adams  
Ray Koch  
Bud Lashley  
Virgil Wrich  
Bruce Cook  
John R. Schuette  
Robert Rich  
Betty Brown

Clifton, IL  
Morton, IL  
Mt. Vernon, IL  
Toulon, IL  
Akron, IN  
New Market, IA  
Creston, IA  
Pringhar, IA  
Jesup, IA  
Gerard, KS  
Ellsworth, KS  
Concordia, KS  
New Bloomfield, MO  
Arbela, MO  
Kansas City, MO  
Mexico, MO  
Arapahoe, NE  
Columbus, NE  
Curtis, NE  
Blair, NE  
Manlius, NY  
Powell, OH  
Somerville, OH  
Guys Mills, PA

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Nordis Estrem made the motion to approve and open agenda, seconded by Clem Karlin. Motion passed.

## APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Chris Johnson made the motion to approve the previous minutes of February 14, 2015 as printed in The LICA News, seconded by Chris Brauer. Motion passed.

## Delegates Meeting (from page 3)

### REPORTS

#### Chief Executive Officer- Jerry Biuso

##### Membership

LICA is enjoying one of the most exciting growth periods in its long history. Every day National LICA receives new members from across the country. Within the last five years we have had a steady increase in membership. State chapters are reporting a record number of new members. Iowa with 49 new members Missouri right behind with 47 and New Jersey rounding off the top three states with 37. Iowa exceeding 500 total members a goal the worked hard to reach, it is a great accomplishment. I ask every state when you go home make it a priority to plan a membership drive, we have a lot to offer. This month I plan to assist with membership drives in Minnesota, Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey.

As we increase our presence throughout the country past national LICA presidents have represented LICA and taken an active role in a variety of groups and organizations.

ADMC (Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition) – Bob Clark

IECA (International Erosion Control Association) – Bruce Barnhart

NACD (National Association of Conservation Districts) – Bruce Barnhart

NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) – Steve Anderson

Transforming Drainage Study funded by the USDA – Bob Clark  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Ag Training (Independent committee that advises EPA) – Bob Clark

##### Benefits

We continue to offer more diversified benefits than any other association in the country. At this convention we launched three important new benefits. I will continue to search for benefits that offer our members added value to their membership. I plan to launch two additional benefits at the summer meeting in Kansas City.

Safety and OSHA is an Issue I will Focus on this Year  
OSHA fines could increase over 80 percent in August of this year. Our industry will be targeted because of our high visibility. I urge members to comply with OSHA and take extra care with safety. Not only because of the increase in fines because it hurts any business to have injuries.

##### OSHA has a Good-Faith Effort

When a company can show that it has made a “good-faith” effort at safety compliance, OSHA fines may be reduced. A reduction of up to 25 percent for a “good faith” effort normally requires a written safety and health management system. Please use the LICA Safety Manual as a safety program or as an addition to your current program. It is given free to all contractor members.

##### The LICA Contractor Magazine

Our very popular LICA Contractor Magazine will have a new look the summer 2016 issue. This will be the first redesign of the publication since the first issue was published in the summer of 2007.

### BY- LAW COMMITTEE

By Laws- March 4, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am.

Those in attendance were: Steve Gerten, OH; Norm Rozendaal, IA; Nordis Estrem, MN; Dean Neiswinger, IN; Chris Johnson, VA; Tony Cain, IN; Dirk Riniker, KS; and John Weatherhead, FL.

Motion for an open agenda by Nordis, seconded by Dirk.  
Passed.

Motion for an approval of the previous minutes by Nordis, seconded by Chris. Passed.

Discussed the use of drones and regulations on using them. The use of drones for capturing data to be used as Topo information.

No issues to be brought up. Have national LICA provide a paper on drone use and regulations.

Motion to adjourn by Chris, second Tony. Adjourned.

### ELECTION OF NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Bruce Barnhart nominated Brad McArdle for Vice President, seconded by Dirk Riniker. Dirk Riniker spoke on Brad McArdle's behalf. He met Brad at a Region 6 meeting 15 years ago. They have become good friends. He describes Brad as prompt, good manners, family man, loves work, and proud.

Motion by Dean Neiswinger to close nominations, seconded by Chris Johnson. Motion by proclamation to elect Brad McArdle Vice President. Motion passed.

Brad thanked the association for nominating him. He said he has a tough act to try follow Steve and all his travels. Brad will try to help Jerry on the Associate level. He hopes to do half the job of his predecessors.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2017 DELEGATE

Chris Johnson motioned to accept Dean Neiswinger on the Nominating Committee. Motion Passed. Steve Anderson appointed Mont Gilbert from the floor.

### ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mike Cook, seconded by Nordis Estrem to adjourn at 9:30 am. Meeting adjourned.

# Land Improvement Contractors of America Board Meeting

March 5, 2016 • San Antonio, Texas

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Clark at 9:00 am at the Drury Plaza Hotel in San Antonio, Texas.

## CREDENTIALS REPORT

Brad McArdle called roll and declared a quorum present. A complete roll call is listed below:

**Arkansas** absent

**California** Absent

**Illinois**

Pres. Tom Beyers

**Indiana**

Pres. Tony Cain

**Iowa**

Pres. David Flewelling

**Kansas**

Pres. Jeff Schell

**Michigan**

Pres. Trevor Young (proxy)

**Minnesota**

Pres. Karlen Nelson

**Missouri**

Pres. Chris Brauer

## Executive Committee

Chairman Bob Clark  
President Steve Anderson  
Vice Pres. David Rule  
Region 1 Dan Micsky  
Region 2 Chris Johnson  
Region 3 Mike Cook  
Region 4 Nordis Estrem  
Region 5 Dirk Riniker  
Region 6 Brad McArdle  
Region 7 vacant  
Region 8 Merlin Welch

**Montana** absent

**Nebraska**

Pres. Ray Cooney

**New Jersey**

Pres. Shelly Hewson

**New York** Absent

**North Dakota** absent

**Ohio**

Pres. Doug Schwieterman

**Pennsylvania** Absent

**South Dakota**

Pres. Larry Gossard (proxy)

**Virginia**

Pres. Dave Gallahan (proxy)

**Wisconsin**

President Rusty Curtis

## Past Presidents

Steve Gerten  
Steve Miller

## Associates

Kent Rodelius

## Ladies

Veronica Seevers

## REPORTS

### Chairman of the Board- Bob Clark

Bob thanked all the State Chapters, Executive Committee and the National Staff for all that they do. He also thanked the Associates for their great products and their support. He also wanted to acknowledge his wife, Donna, for her support. He pointed out the great leadership in LICA from the Contractor members to the Associate members. The association has a great network and good people coming down the pipeline. All businessmen understand that success is earned and takes self sacrifice. The positive energy is contagious and he is looking forward to the future.

### President- Steve Anderson

Steve thanked everyone, particularly the states. He crossed Mississippi five times in his travels. Steve said it was good to get out and feel the energy in each state. He said every state is more active and vibrant. As the membership grows there are new faces to get to know. He has some lasting memories as President. We are often resistant to change, but in change comes opportunity.

### Treasurer- Mike Cook

Before you are the balance sheet and income statement for five months ending February 2016. We have a healthy bank balance of \$389,000, of that \$200,000 is in a CD per the bylaws. The dues are still coming in, we are at 80% of budget now. The expenses are within budget.

### Executive Committee- Brad McArdle

The Executive Committee met on Tuesday night. All officers gave reports. Attendance was up at most state conventions, as was membership. Jerry previewed benefits and updated us on his travels.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Associates' Advisory Committee- March 4, 2016

Those in attendance were: John Downey, Mike Hagen, Kevin Rapp, Ryan Carter, Charlie Schafer, Jim Jansen, Jason Oswald, Amber Bosma, Jason Brown, Sheena Brown, Justin Brown, Veronica Seevers, Xenya Mucha, Chris Johnson, Debbie Dickens, and John Weatherhead.

Motion for an open agenda was made and approved.

A motion to accept the minutes as read from July 17th, 2015 was made and approved.

We discussed the topic from the last meeting where the Water Table Management Committee suggested that a water quality seminar be prepared for presentation at the 2017 Con Expo. The Water Table Committee reported this morning that Con Expo was contacted but expressed no interest in a seminar on that topic. Bob Clark is going to speak with Jerry Biuso and try and get something arranged. The LICA associates and the ADMC would help facilitate this seminar if it moves forward.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Nordis Estrem to approve an open agenda, seconded by Dirk Riniker. Motions Passed.

## APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion by Dirk Riniker to approve the previous minutes from July 18, 2015 as printed in the LICA News, seconded by Chris Johnson. Motion passed.

## Board Meeting (from page 5)

### COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

#### Associates' Advisory Committee (Continued)

Veronica Seevers spoke to us from the ladies committee. They would like to do a fundraiser at the summer meeting in 2016 similar to what they did at the Illinois State LICA. A gift will be placed in the associate booths and a silent bid auction will be held on those items. The ladies will supply the gifts and the rules. We as associates will display the gifts at our booths and help with the process. It was agreed that we will enthusiastically participate.

Kent Rodelius gave a report on recent activities of the ADMC and thanked the associate members for their help and support on these important efforts. We continue to appreciate the support from both several states and the National LICA.

Debbie Dickens gave a report on the upcoming summer meeting in Kansas City this summer. The associates will once again be glad to help with educational seminars. An evening of displays is planned as usual. Sounds like a lot of great events are planned.

I was instructed to ask the National LICA Board to consider making the current Secretaries of Ag in states with LICA chapters honorary members of LICA. We would encourage that action and ask that we then invite the current Ag Secretary of the states to the state convention. The associates would support this action.

There was a general always discussion of the meeting format and arrangements. Thank you for another well planned event. The associate night went well – the room could have been a bit larger but the atmosphere was great and the event went well. We always enjoy the opportunity to be together with all of you.

A motion was made by Jason Oswald and Seconded by Kevin Rapp to adjourn.

#### Budget Committee -March 4, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 by Chairman Mike Cook. Those in attendance were: Brad McArdle, NE; Nordis Estrem, MN; Chris Johnson, VA; Dan Micsky, PA; Merlin Welch, CA; Steve Anderson, IL; Bob Clark, IN; and Bruce Barnhart, IA

Motion for an open agenda Chris Johnson, second Nordis Estrem. Passed.

Approval of previous minutes Nordis Estrem, second Brad McArdle. Passed.

Old Business: Chris Johnson will get the incorporation papers from the Carolinas.

New Business: Water Table Management committee requested \$5,000 dues for ADMC. Motion by Merlin Welch, second Chris Johnson. Discussion. Motion passed.

Bob Clark will be the liaison. The national office will receive reports from ADMC.

Discussed executive directors visit to Chicago.

Motion by Nordis Estrem to adjourn at 4:50, second Chris Johnson.

#### Conservation, Excavating and Earthmoving Committee March 4, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am.

Those in attendance were: Tom Beyers, IL; Doug Schwietzman, OH; Lee Bunting, IL; Larry Orr, OH; Blair Sobba, CA; Merlin Welch, CA; Jeanie Bakken, MN; Kevin Bakken, MN; Don Loken, MN; Clem Karlin, KS; Worthin Grattan, KS; Dave Bose, KS; Russ Peters, IA; Mark Erpelding, IA; Dean Speicher, IA; Jeff Schell, KS; James Ramsey, IN; Ryan Carter, IL; Kevin Rapp,

### COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

#### Conservation, Excavating and Earthmoving (Continued)

OH; Jon Seevers, IL; Wayne Litwiller, IL; Karlen Nelson, MN; Douglas Breberg, MN; Jennifer Breberg, MN; Peter Rochelle, NJ; Dave Flewelling, IA; Bruce Barnhart, IA; Chris Brauer, MO; Dave Aurehamer, MI; Adam Aurehamer, MI; David Kennedy, IL; Brad McArdle, NE; David Rule, NY; Bryan Vanderpol, SD; Mont Gilbert, MO; Chris Smidler, IN; Leo Rieken, IA; Rick Vlach, NE; Kent Rodelius, MN; Dan Micsky, PA; Mark Morreim, MN; Ryan Arch, IL; Xenya Mucha, IL; Maura Dibble, NY; Mike Hagen, MN; Rusty Curtis, WI.

Russ Peters moved for an open agenda, seconded by Jon Seevers. Carried

Tom Beyers read the minutes from Little Rock, AR. Mark Morreim, Made the motion to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Dan Micsky, PA, Carried.

Mark Morreim asked how the prevailing wage rate laws are affecting the different states. Several of the state reps present gave brief updates of the impacts in their states.

Tom Beyers asked Mark Morreim to provide an update on the Minnesota Buffer Law. Mark discussed the requirements and the developments. Vegetative filter strips next to streams and ditches is very good conservation practice to filter out nutrient and sediment before it enters the watershed. Minnesota does not provide any compensation for this required land conversion. Other states reported that their states had enacted tax relief on filter strips to provide incentive to convert crop land into the conservation practice.

Bruce Barnhart talked just briefly about WOTUS recent developments and this report quickly prompted a lengthy discussion about nutrient (Nitrate and Phosphate) loading into public water supplies and the watersheds. All of the states in the Mississippi basin have been required by USEPA to develop Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategies to voluntarily reduce this total loading to aid in the cleanup of the Gulf Hypoxia. Some states like Iowa have had their plan in place for nearly two years and are beginning to implement best management conservation practices to reduce the loss of nitrates and phosphates. Of special interest to many LICA members is the Nitrate loss in the Ag tile and Drainage District tile effluents. Des Moines Waterworks has a pending lawsuit against some Iowa drainage districts requesting that the tile outlets be classified as a point source and eventually need NPDES permits. This could be a precedent setting judicial ruling that will impact many states and possibly all ag tile systems. Discussion about cover crops and soil health followed. Tom Beyers briefly explained a possible ILICA project with Illinois Corn Growers developing nutrient loss research farms.

Kent Rodelius gave a report on the progress and developments of the research efforts of the Ag Drainage Management Coalition (ADMC). Research at several of the Midwest states is providing positive results in retaining the Nitrates and water soluble Phosphates. Positive results also produced from the subsurface irrigation efforts. Saturated buffer results are promising. Kent also mentioned work being completed on the bioreactors constructed on the tile outlets to filter nutrients. There was also mention of a wetland project in Illinois constructed in conjunction with the Wetlands Initiative group as an edge-of-field filter to remove nitrates and phosphates from tile effluents.

Brad McArdle asked if any other contractors were encountering problems hiring qualified heavy equipment operators.

## Board Meeting (from page 6)

### COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

#### Conservation, Excavating and Earthmoving (Continued)

This prompted a discussion about efforts in several states community colleges developing curriculum to address this need. Merlin Welsh presented his views on heavy equipment operator training programs.

Don Loken reported that MSHA usually always show up some time during autumn to do an inspection. Last fall he did not hear from them, Don was not complaining.

Mark Morriem made the motion to adjourn at 11:30, seconded by Doug Breberg, MN. Carried.

#### Convention Committee- March 4, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 11:47 am  
Those in attendance were: Kim Johnson, VA; Nordis Estrem, MN; David Rule, NY, Allison Hack, IL; Mike Cook, MI; Brad McArdle, NE; Chris Wagner, NJ; Sarah Cook, MI; Veronica Seevers, IL; Maretta Grattan, IA; Nanci Schlatter, IN; Debbie Dickens, MO; Mont Gilbert, MO; Steve Anderson, IL; John Rothberg, NJ; Pat Wagner, NJ; Chris Wagner, NJ; Joanie Micsky, PA; Penny Hughs, KS; John Weatherhead, FL; John Downey, OH; Kala Bose, KS; Amy Gerten, OH; Donna Clark, IN; Becky Riniker, KS; Marsha Schell, KS; Amber Bosma, IA; Shelly Hewson, NJ; Debbie Garofalo, NJ; Ron Garofalo, NJ; Maura Dibble, NY; Jeanie Bakken, MN; Coretha Rozendaal, IA; Norma Lashley, NE and Patti McArdle, NE.

Motion for an open agenda Nordis, Mike second. Passed

Regions 1, 2,3, 4, 6 were present. Region 5 & 8 not represented.

David read the minutes from the 2015 Summer Meeting in Little Rock, AR.

Motion to approve the previous minutes by Nordis, Chris. Passed.

Debbie talked about the 2016 Summer Meeting in July 18-23 at the Intercontinental Kansas City at the Plaza. Possible pre tours construction and the Steamboat Arabia. Seminars all day Thursday. Saturday we'll go to Foley CAT for food and a backhoe rodeo with a cook off. Sports theme on Associates' Night. Possible Kansas City Royals game on Friday night.

Nordis spoke about the (July 10-16) 2017 Summer Meeting in Colorado Springs, CO. The hotel is a beautiful hotel called the Elegante close to shopping and restaurants. Flying into Denver. Possible tours: rodeo, mine, baseball game, tour of the Olympic facility.

Kim talked a little about the 2018 Winter Meeting in Charleston, SC. There are 3 hotels that could possibly accommodate our group.

Sarah talked about the 2018 Summer Meeting in Grand Rapids, MI. They looked at a Crowne Plaza and Amway Grand. The Amway is in a central location and close to shops.

#### Winter 2019

Nordis looked into Tucson, AZ. She had several possibilities where our group could stay. Rates from \$139 to \$249. Possible tours: Tohona Chul Park, University of Arizona's Biosphere 2, Mission San Xavier del Bac, and Hohkam Indian Village.

Short discussion on Sacramento, CA. Many people agreed that it would be expensive. Motion by Nordis to narrow down the possible locations to New Orleans, LA and Tucson, AZ for the 2019 Winter Convention, second by Kim. Passed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

#### Convention Committee (Continued)

There will be a vote on it at the 2016 Summer Meeting. Allison will look into New Orleans and Nordis will do Tucson.

#### Summer 2019

Allison discussed Chicago, IL. Staying in the suburbs is our best option. Downtown the parking rates are \$60 plus per night. Hotels within walking distance of malls and restaurants. Near a highway for easy access. Downtown Chicago: Navy Pier, Millennium Park, Adler Planetarium, Field Museum, Museum of Science and Industry, Willis Tower, Boat tours on the Chicago River and Lake Michigan, Lincoln Park Zoo. Baseball game: Sox, Cubs or there are (3) minor league teams in the suburbs.

Maura Dibble talked about Niagara Falls. Huge outlet mall, waterparks, the falls themselves. The Canadian side would require passports. Debbie talked a little about Portland, OR.

Nordis made a motion to investigate Portland, OR and Niagara Falls for the 2019 Summer Meeting, second by Mike. Passed.

Maura will look into Niagara Falls, NY. Debbie and Allison will look into Portland, OR.

2020 Winter Convention: CONEXPO in Las Vegas, NV

2020 Summer Meeting: Either Portland, OR or Niagara Falls, NY

Mike made the motion to adjourn, second by Chris. Passed.

#### Education and Technology Committee- March 4, 2016

Those in attendance were: Merlin Welch, CA; Steve Miller, IA; Ryan Arch, IL; John Downey, OH; Jeannie Bakken, MN; Kevin Bakken, MN; Blair Sobba, CA; Shelly Hewson, NJ; Rick Hewson, NJ; John Rothberg, NJ; Ron Garofalo, NJ; Deb Garofalo, NJ; Xenya Mucha, IA; Maretta Grattan, IA; Tony Cain, IN; Leo Rieken, IA; Chris Johnson, VA; Steve Anderson, IL; Jason Oswald; CNA, Maura Dibble, NY.

Xenya Mucha, asked that the Membership committee discuss ConExpo and panel discussions.

John Downey of Trimble talked about the next big thing, and that is drones. He thinks of drones as a tool in the agriculture business. Trimble has a drone that is self-contained, it is programmed ahead of time, to collect topography. Drones now need to be registered if they weigh more than ½ lb.

#### Con-Expo topics

Xenya Mucha told the committee that Jerry has proposed that we have 2 panel discussions, one on Excavators, and one on Backhoes.

Sub topics within each of the equipment discussion:

Choosing the right machine for application

How to project cost of job and then versatility

Tier 4 and how to maintain

Rebuild vs. new

Reading critical monitor information

Payback for coupler

Working in tight quarters

The different states offer Continuing Education Classes to their members. They all have to contact their state, county, colleges, soil and water, state troopers, or insurance companies to present these classes. Septic Certification, First Aid/CPR, MSHA, 10 hr. OSHA, DOT, Competent Person, Pipe Layer Classes

Topics to discuss in July: Continuing discussion on Drone Technology. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

## Board Meeting (from page 7)

### COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

#### Executive Directors Meeting-March 3, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm

Those in attendance were: Allison Hack, National; Eileen Levy, National; Debbie Dickens, MO; Ryan Arch, IL; Sarah Cook, MI; Tim Street, OH; Nanci Schlatter, IN; Kim Johnson, VA; Kevin Bakken, MN; Jeanie Bakken, MI; Maura Dibble, NY; Joanie Micsky, PA; Penny Hughs, KS; Blair Sobba, CA; Jerry Biuso, National; Mike Cook, MI; Doug Breberg, MN; Patti McArdle, NE; Diane Curtis, WI and Merlin Welch, CA.

Motion to approve an open agenda Maura Dibble, Tim Street seconded. Passed

Patti read the previous minutes from the Little Rock, Arkansas in July.

Motion to approve the previous minutes as read by Jeanie, Kim second. Passed.

Jerry Biuso came and spoke to the Executive Directors about national benefits. He reiterated the importance of getting new members. He also talked about the safety manual and getting the message across about its usefulness. Spoke about the importance of getting good board of directors that supports the chapter.

Eileen talked about sending in a membership list by April 1st. She is working on a new magazine mailing list and all Executive Directors should send in their affiliates (state associates). She will send out a new list of Executive Directors.

Everyone spoke about their State Chapter events. Most State Chapters have had membership go up and well attended conventions. Everyone that has United Fire Insurance reported that these new members don't know about LICA. There was discussion on how to make sure the insurance recruits know about being a member.

Debbie updated everyone about the 2016 National Summer Meeting in Kansas City, MO, July 18-23.

Allison told everyone about how new benefits get out to the Executive Directors via emails.

There was discussion about the Executive Directors Guide and the recent changes since the 2015 National Summer Meeting.

Debbie pointed out that we should have an Executive Directors in Chicago at the National Office in the fall.

It was decided to make the summer Executive Directors meeting a shorter (1 ½ hours) meeting to accommodate the educational seminars.

Allison explained Facebook and how National uses it.

A topic suggested for another meeting was membership applications.

Motion to adjourn Penny, second Kim. Passed.

#### Insurance and Safety Committee- March 4, 2016

The meeting called to order at 11:45 am.

Those in attendance were: Chris Johnson, VA; Elsie Bak, SD; Bob Bak, SD; Jason Oswald, CO; Merlin Welch, CA; Bryan Vanderpol, SD; Keith Samuelson, NE; Dave Bose, KS; Jeff Schell, KS; Rick Vlach, NE; Jim Jansen, IA; Rusty Curtis, WI; Mark Morreim, MN; Ryan Arch, IL; Corey Rimmer, PA; Eric Hale, TX; and Don Loken, MN.

Merlin Welch motioned for an open agenda, seconded by Mark Morreim. Passed.

Read previous minutes. Motion to approve previous minutes by Bob Bak, seconded Dave Bose. Passed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

#### Insurance and Safety Committee (Continued)

Discussion on OSHA fines from \$7,000 to \$12,500 and \$70,00 to \$125,000. Injury is now 8 hours instead of 24 hours. CNA will write up what to do if you have an OSHA inspection. Also use the LICA Safety Book.

We should watch our contracts to see if we are covered as a subcontractor or as a general contractor.

If you are using drones make sure your insurance covers your liability.

Remember the basics shoes, vests and hard hats.

Motion to adjourn by Keith Schell, second Jeff. Adjourned.

#### Ladies Committee- March 4, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am.

Those in attendance were: Janice Litwiller, IL; Lori Kennedy, IL; Maretta Grattan, IA; Nanci Schlatter, IN; Sarah Cook, MI; Jenna Schwieterman, OH; Donna Clark, IN; Miranda Benedict, MO; Donna Rieken, IA; Judy Speicher, IA; Sue Gilbert, MO; Rogene Samuelson, NE; Norma Lashley, NE; Patti McArdle, NE; Joanie Micsky, PA; Kala Bose, KS; Coretha Rozendaal, IA; Nordis Estrem, MN; Judy Beyers, IL; Marie Bunting, IL; Debbie Garofalo, NJ; Sue Orr, OH; Veronica Seevers, IL and Steve Anderson, IL.

Motion for an open agenda by Donna Clark, second by Patti McArdle. Passed

Motion for an approval of the previous minutes by Linda Pruss, second Lori Kennedy. Passed

Bruce Barnhart won the 50/50 raffle in Little Rock.

Treasurer's report was given.

Watch sales are slow. Tickets still available. Debbie Dickens filled us in on plans for Kansas City. Ladies would like to have a tour planned.

Ladies will have a designer purse silent auction in Kansas City. We will have a hospitality room for all 3 days. Several craft projects are planned. Nordis Estrem is donating a lap quilt for a silent auction as well as purses.

Motion made by Nordis Estrem to give \$2,000 to Scholarship Fund, second by Judy Speicher.

One suggestion for Las Vegas- have a show girl give a talk/history.

Motion to adjourn by Sarah Cook, second Norma Lashley. Passed.

#### Legislative Committee- March 4, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 by Bruce Barnhart.

Those in attendance were: Bruce Barnhart, IA; Dirk Riniker, KS; John Weatherhead, FL; David Rule, NY; Lee Bunting, IL; Dean Speicher, IA; Pete Rochelle, NJ; Bob Bak, SD; Elsie Bak, SD; Mark Morreim, MN; Jeff Schell, KS; Leo Rieken, IA; Norm Rozendaal, IA; Dean Neiswinger, IN; Bill Doubet, IL; Patti McArdle, NE; Brad McArdle, NE; Diane Curtis, WI; Dan Micsky, PA; Tom Beyers, IL; Dave Bose, KS; and Nordis Estrem, MN.

Minutes were reviewed and approved.



## Board Meeting (from page 8)

### COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

#### Legislative Committee (Continued)

##### Old Business

WOTUS: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corp of Engineers (ACE) attempt at redefinition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS) as it pertains to the Clean Water Act continues to remain challenged on a number of fronts and is not in effect at this point. Cases are now active in state and federal courts.

It is expected that this situation will continue for the foreseeable future. At present there is some concern regarding the outcome of U.S. Supreme Court action given the current balance of the Court and the impact of any new appointments.

Des Moines Water Works (DMWW) Suite: A case was filed last year by the DMWW against three counties and their ten drainage districts that would require drainage districts to obtain pollution discharge permits similar to those required by regulated factories.

The LICA Legislative Committee continues to follow this closely because of the national implications it could have to farm drainage issues and the subsequent impact on issues such as agricultural tiling.

At present, action appears to be on hold due to a number of legal questions. John Peterson will continue to keep the Committee apprised of this situation.

Minnesota Buffer Law: In 2015, Minnesota passed the Riparian Protection and Quality Practices law commonly referred to as "buffer law." Although the state's DNR continues to map public waterways and drainage districts as required for implementation of this law, there are a number of issues still being contested. The first is the apparent enactment of eminent domain practices without compensation to the landowners as landowners now face the prospect of bearing the full expense of both building the buffers and taking land out of production to do so.

Nordis Estrem and Mark Morreim brought the Committee up to date on the current status of this issue. The Committee is inclined to continue supporting Minnesota LICA in either opposing this legislation or resolving some of the many outstanding issues.

Pete Rochelle reported a similar situation in New Jersey.

##### New Business

Highway Bill: The U.S. Congress has finally passed a highway bill after seven years of delay and confusion. Dirk Riniker reported that the main aspects of the bill are that it offers states and other entities some stability in planning their own highway funding for the next five years, and, most importantly, does include a minimal increase in funds for highway development. It does not, however, put any restrictions on use of those funds such as those recommended by LICA in its position paper on this issue.

Clean Power: John Peterson continues to update Committee members on the Clean Power bill currently before the U.S. Supreme Court. Although this bill affects coal power plant usage and does not directly affect LICA members it does have a bearing on the appropriate use of natural resources and changes to the economy. This issue could also be at jeopardy of the current court makeup.

It was suggested that the Committee consider developing a position paper related to this issue stressing the important of balancing natural resource usage and the effect policy changes in this field could have on the economy from a cost benefit perspective.

Candidate endorsements: A question was raised regarding the likelihood of LICA making a formal endorsement of any candidate. The Committee agreed it would like to have John Peterson look into what all that process might entail. The Committee declined to consider any specific races or endorsements at present.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

#### Legislative Committee (Continued)

2017 National Legislative Trip: The Committee indicated that it would like to see LICA make a team visit to Washington D.C. in the Spring of 2017 to visit various legislators with regard to issues of common interest to our members. It is suggested that this trip be held in conjunction with an Executive Committee meeting in order to achieve fullest participation.

The meeting was adjourned by comment consent at 9:55.

#### Long Term Planning and Past Presidents Committee March 4, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 11:50 am.

Those in attendance were: Steve Miller, IA; Dean Neiswinger, IN; Steve Gerten, OH; Dirk Riniker, KS; Bob Clark, IN; and Bruce Barnhart, IA.

Motion for an open agenda by Bruce, second by Steve. Passed.

Motion for an approval of the previous minutes by Steve, second by Bob. Passed.

Reviewed the Strategic Plan.

Goal I and Goal II are okay. Goal III: more education at the National Conventions geared for younger contractors (18 holes to 9) (promote benefits at state level, use time for classes)

Goal IV is okay. Goal V: request John Peterson arrange another partnership meeting with like minded associations and meet with NRCS. Goal VI: Jerry has done an excellent job. Goal VII: need leadership skills seminar for new people. So they can move association forward motivational speaker.

Meeting adjourned.

#### Membership Committee- March 4, 2016

Called to order by Chairman, Bruce Barnhart at 2:15 am  
Present: Bruce Barnhart, IA; Maretta, IA; Worthin Gratten, IA; Donna Clark, IN; Bob Clark, IN; Dave Flewelling, IA; Jeff Schell, KS; Clem Karlin, KS; Don Loken, MN; Dave Bose, KS; Dan Micsky, PA; Joanie Micsky, PA; Bryan Vanderpol, SD; Jennifer Breberg, MN; Douglas Breberg, MN; Larry Orr, OH; Doug Schwieterman, OH; Steve Gerten, OH; Mark Morreim, MN; Jeannie Bakken, MN; Kevin Bakken, MN; Ray Cooney, NE; Kira Cooney, NE; David Rule, NY; David Kennedy, IL; Kim Johnson, VA; Wayne Litwiller, IL; James Ramsey, IN; Jon Seevers, IL; Brad McArdle, NE; Penny Hughs, KS; John Rothberg, NJ; Shelly Hewson, NJ; Diane Curtis, WI; Rusty Curtis, WI; Patti McArdle, NE; Blair Sobba, CA; Merlin Welch, CA; Ron Garofalo, NJ; Chris Brauer, MO; Mont Gilbert, MO; Tom Beyers, IL; Lee Bunting, IL; Matt Palmer, F; IA, Ryan Arch, IL; Nordis Estrem, MN; Maura Dibble, NY.

Chairman, Bruce Barnhart read the minutes from the Membership committee in Little Rock, AR. Bob Clark made the motion to accept the minutes as read, Clem Karlin seconded. Carried

Bruce Barnhart asked the states what they are doing to promote membership. Shelly Hewson of NJ talked about their Insurance Program with United Fire, and that has brought in 37 new members. They also had training programs in Septic and the 10 hour OSHA. They also changed the content of the specific meeting topics, having less meetings, but better content.

Wayne Litwiller of Illinois talked about the continuing education now required by the septic tank installers. They had that training in conjunction with their convention.

"Board Meeting" > 10

## Board Meeting (from page 9)

### COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

#### Membership Committee (Continued)

Bob Clark of Indiana, reported that the Insurance program with United Fire is starting to take off in their state.

Chris Brauer of Missouri talked about the great success with their convention, they concentrated on "Building a better business", and they also offered a seminar on septic installer credits. They are picking up quite a few members through the Insurance program.

Patti McArdle talked about the convention in Nebraska, they had the Dept. of Revenue in for tax concerns their members might have. They also had FEMA in for some issues on tornados in Nebraska. They are just getting started in the Insurance program.

Some ideas for some meeting topics from the audience included information on drones, GPS, fuels and oils, developing subdivisions, collecting money due, liens, contracts, litigation, DOT.

The membership committee would like to have golf shortened to 9 holes, and have 1 more educational session. The committee also wants to keep the Benefit session, but would like more detail on each benefit, possibly focus on a few at a time.

Motion to adjourn at 3:09 by Chris Brauer, MO, seconded by Ron Garofalo. Carried.

#### On Site Waste Committee- March 4, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 am.

Those in attendance were: Wayne Litwiller, IL; Jerry Biuso, NJ; Matt Palmer, FL; Clem Karlin, KS; Tony Cain, IN; Wes Litwiller, IL; Lee Bunting, IL; Norm Rozendaal, IA; Clem Karlin, KS; Worthin Grattan, IA; Larry Orr, OH; Tom Beyers, IL; Jennifer Breberg, MN; Kevin Bakken, MN; Jon Seevers, IL; David Kennedy, IL; Dan Micsky, PA.

Accepted motions for an open agenda.

Read previous minutes. Motion by Clem Karlin to accept the previous minutes, second Tony Cain. Passed.

Jerry presented an idea of insurance for on-site septic system. Discussion was rapid and energetic showing optimism.

Motion by Tony Cain to have Jerry further pursue the idea of septic system insurance, second Clem Karlin. Passed.

Discussion on nutrient management of open discharging systems.

Motion to adjourn by Clem Karlin, second Lee Bunting. Adjourned.

#### Policy Committee- March 4, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 2:18 pm.

Those in attendance were: Steve Anderson, IL; Mark Erpelding, IA; Nordis Estrem, MN; Dirk Riniker, KS; and Keith Samuelson, NE.

No motions to add to the policy book.

Motion to adjourn by Nordis Estrem, second Dirk Riniker. Passed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

#### Water Table Management Committee- March 4, 2016

Meeting was called to order at 9:14 am by chair Mike Cook. Those in attendance were: Matt Palmer, FL; Don Loken, MN; Karlen Nelson, MN; Nate Cook, MI; Russ Peters, IA; Kevin Rapp, OH; Mike Hagen, MN; Wes Litwiller, IL; Wayne Litwiller, IL; Ryan Carter, IL; Jon Seevers, IL; Larry Orr, OH; Bob Clark, IN; Doug Schwieterman, OH; Rusty Curtis, WI; Chris Brauer, MO; Mont Gilbert, MO; David Kennedy, IL; Steve Gerten, OH; Charlie Schafer, IA; James Ramsey, IN; Chris Smidler, IN; Doug Breberg, MN; Jennifer Breberg, MN; Kent Rodelius, MN; Mark Erpelding, IA; Worthin Grattan, IA; Bryan Vanderpol, SD; and Rick Vlach, NE.

Motion for open agenda Russ, 2nd Chris, motion carried. Minutes from summer meeting in Little Rock read by Sarah Cook. Motion to approve Worthin Grattan, 2nd Steve Gerten, motion carried.

Mentioned raised dues to ADMC by National board, which now allows us a vote with ADMC. IN, IL, IA, Minnesota LICA chapters are all part of ADMC.

Kent updated on meeting from ADMC: education on bioreactors. Need to be willing to engage people and educate them accurately on water quality.

Russ asked if there's any information on chips used in bioreactors. Response from Kent talking about studies. Russ asked where does someone get information on what chips to use, how much to use, where do you get the chips? There is no standard yet. Kent mentioned that phosphates are entering the ground water anyways, even if there isn't tile. Because we can study what enters the tile, we're being held to a higher standard. People want to blame tile installation. Mike stated that in Michigan different extension groups are coming to LICA to help put on educational field days.

Bob presented an update about his work with Purdue University. They are compiling data in various states, and trying to mitigate weather fluctuations to be able to retain water when it's wet and use the retained water when it's too dry. 4 more years left in study. Need to continue to work with the professors when we can, and present their findings to the public. LICA is trying to be proactive. Farmers are looking at tile from a production aspect and don't want to wait a year to have a TSP help.

Matt from FL added several hundred acres now have control structures in place. St Cloud has seen a million gallon water reduction over the last 5 years. ADS donated a structure a couple years ago. University of FL, Dr. Mark Clark, has been conducting a study on that structure. Yields have significantly increased. Resources are being used much more effectively. Food safety has them a little nervous, because of using nutrient rich water. Golf courses aren't regulated.

Charlie from ADMC asked to update group on Eco Systems Exchange. A TSP company to assist Midwest states. Mention of Elkton MI project.

Don from Minnesota spoke about how the state is mandating buffer strips. Karlen added the requirement is 50 feet for public waterways. 27th of Feb there was a Water Quality Summit held. Governor feels drainage and agriculture are the problem, but that they need to advance in technology. There has been some compensation to land owners. Mike mentioned in Michigan, a lot of the buffer strips were removed for more acreage when crop prices were high, and compensation from government was not high enough.

## Board Meeting (from page 10)

### COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

#### Water Table Management Committee (Continued)

Russ mentioned IA Supreme Court is determining Des Moines case.

EPA ruling on "Waters of the United States" will affect quite a bit. Mike mentioned work stoppage of a couple contractors in Michigan.

Kent brought up that we have abundant farmland. Only about 11% of land in the world is farmable, and we have plenty of it. We need to make sure we're using it well, along with our abundance of water.

Kevin stated that as a group the magazines are informative and members need to work on educating the public.

Mike mentioned Jerry is always looking for articles for LICA magazine. The magazine is becoming well known.

Matt mentioned that in FL working with the 4H kids, parents really listen to what their kids are being taught. They are more receptive than at Growers conventions.

We are the bread basket of the world. Some people don't think beyond the store for where their food comes from.

Don mentioned you have to touch the soil to do something good with it...if you don't touch it, you can't improve it.

We suggest talking with Jerry to have an educational session at Con Expo on water quality. Focus..practices MLICA promotes to improve & industry items available

Motion to adjourn at 10:15 am by Russ, second by Kent. Motion carried.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Plan 5 year LICA Plan. Goals & Action of the Association. 1 more year. Brief review of it. Goal I is Promote LICA

### OLD BUSINESS (Continued)

membership and membership is up. Goal II Encourage appropriate contractor certification where applicable. That is a State issue. It's complicated to achieve at the national level. Goal III-Provide, promote and support educational opportunities. It has been decided to have more education at National. Goal IV Position Land Improvement Contractors of America as a professional trade association.

That is still a work in progress. DC meeting with the other associations. Goal V Monitor and maintain working relationship with local, state, and federal government. Leadership in DC great relationships in the states. Goal VI Develop and expand membership benefits. That is being accomplished. Goal VII-Mentoring, develop future LICA leaders. Its starts from state chapter president to Regional Vice President.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Dan Micsky challenged Committee Chairman.

Bob Clark explained LICA's relationship with Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition (ADMC). Indiana LICA & National has supported it and pays dues. Bob Clark is the National LICA representative for ADMC. Advanced Drainage Systems and Prinsco are part of it. They establish relationships on a level that LICA doesn't have. ADMC takes a proactive role on issues that could change for the worse. Several research sites where they monitor water quality.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Chris Johnson, second by Tom Beyers. Meeting adjourned.

## National LICA Award Recipients



**Contractor of the Year**  
**Mark Morreim, MN**  
Presented by: Steve Gerten, OH



**Top State**  
**New Jersey**  
Presented by: Don Loken, MN



**Lady of the Year**  
**Janet Doubet, IL**  
Presented by: Veronica Seevers, IL



**Entrepreneur of the Year**  
**Bob Clark, IN**  
Presented by: Bruce Barnhart, IA



**Kemps Award**  
**Minnesota**  
Presented by: Bruce Barnhart, IA



**Hancor Award**  
**Dan Micsky, PA**  
Presented by: Mike Hagen

**Land Improvement Contractors of America**

3080 Ogden Ave. Suite 300

Lisle, IL 60532

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