

The LICA NEWS

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The Land Improvement Contractors of America

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"Come See Mount Rushmore in 2004!"

At the 53rd LICA Summer Meeting

in the Beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota

July 13-17, 2004

LICA GOES TO WASHINGTON

LICA National President Geri Mulford is the former LICA Legislative Committee Chair. Geri goes to DC each March well versed and ready to make legislators aware of the impact of federal laws and regulations on our industry. Peggy Graham is the newly appointed Legislative Committee Chair.

Executive Vice President Wayne Maresch works out the visit logistics weeks in advance. All year Wayne is our DC liaison, researching LICA areas of interest and representing LICA at many Federal Agency meetings. Guided by the concerns of the Legislative, Certification and other LICA committees Wayne's utilizes his long USDA career knowledge to cut through to the facts and issues. He assists and coaches any LICA member making appointments for visits "to the Hill" and strategy during the meetings. Wayne also makes the many Memorandum of Understanding revisions, this involves many hours and persistence. Dealing with the huge NRCS takes many approaches, he pushes through all of them, never letting LICA interests be diminished.

This March LICA officers and members descended on Washington DC to let Congress know what LICA members think. Thirty-three LICA representatives from twelve states visited 172 members of government and presented these positions: All of these positions below, with pages of back-up information were given to each legislator in a packet promoting LICA.

LICA Supports legislation permitting Associations to offer health care to members.

LICA Opposes programs that give the Government more control over private land.

LICA Supports Tort Reform, limiting pain and suffering awards to \$250,000.

LICA Supports making permanent President Bush's tax cuts in the 2001 and 2003 tax packages, especially the Death Tax reduction.

LICA Opposes multi-employer liability for worksite accidents.

LICA Opposes removing the exemption of mobile machinery from the tax code.

LICA Supports Senator (R-OR) Gordon Smith's bill, Endangered Species Planning Act (S.2009) This bill requires the EPA to use sound, proven science when making decisions under the Endangered Species Act.

Wayne Maresch arranged a meeting for all of us with the NRCS and EPA. Sam Carlson of the NRCS hosted the LICA members at the USDA building. NRCS officials updated LICA members on EQIP and other programs. Officials from the US EPA discussed Phase II Stormwater standards. LICA had many questions for the EPA and some resistance from LICA members questioning "scientific facts."

If you would like more information about the seven issues presented this visit, or in the past please contact the National office.



The LICA Legislative team.

The LICA NEWS



**The Land Improvement
Contractors of America**

THE LICANEWS is the official publication of Land Improvement Contractors of America, dedicated to the professional conservation of soil and water. LICAWAS founded in 1951 and is today comprised of twenty eight chapters across the continental United States.

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THE LICANEWS welcomes letters, subject to editing for accuracy and brevity. The LICANEWS 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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A Message From the President Geri Mulford

I would like to give a GREAT BIG Thank You to all who attended our annual trip to Washington. It takes a lot of effort, time and expense. Believe me, our Congressmen and Senators do not forget that we are there.

They record our position on the various issues and they are most certainly considered when the votes are cast.

We must never give up our fight to protect our Industry, Property Rights and all the issues we value. To build a stronger America we must keep our basic rights in order to provide the welfare of our families and businesses.

WHERE WOULD WE BE IF NO ONE RAISED A VOICE?

This year 33 LICA members representing 12 States visited 172 Congressmen and Senators, that is 1/3 of the entire House and Senate.

If you were not able to make it this year please set aside time next year. We need all the help we can get.

On another note, we need an IDENTITY. Iowa's GREEN JACKETS really stood out and caught the attention of many.

I have asked to have a representative who can take orders for GREEN JACKETS at the Summer Meeting in Rapid City.

Please consider buying a jacket, especially for Legislative visits to Washington DC. Perhaps we can arrange to visit the House and Senate. If we all wear them it will look like we have taken over Congress. We would make quite an impact.

THINK ABOUT IT.

Respectfully yours,

Geri Mulford
National LICA President

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Dear LICA Members:

We have just returned from our Annual LICA Legislative Visits to Washington, D. C. Attending were thirty-three people from twelve states, visiting a total of one hundred and seventy-two, Congressmen and/or Senators. WOW! Folks, when we hit those offices in those numbers, we really make a dynamic impact.

I thank each and everyone that participated this year. If you have not participated in these visits, I truly urge you to do so. This is an awesome experience and it is extremely important that we make our concerns know, in Washington, where it counts.

For us to be effective, I need to know issues that you are concerned about. Please let me hear from you. You can reach me at phone @ 843-358-3381, mail me @ P. O. Box 275, or e-mail @ peggyg@sccoast.net.

Thanks again everyone and I'll see you in South Dakota.

Sincerely,
Peggy H. Graham
LICA Legislative Chairman (Member Carolinas Chapter)

Jo Ann Huff ILICA Executive Director Retires

JoAnn Huff who has worked with ILICA, as executive director, for the past 24 years has recently retired. She was honored at the Third Annual Conservation Academy Awards. She had established a great rapport with the NRCS, as evidenced by their glowing tribute.

The State Conservationist's Choice Award is presented to JoAnn Huff, Executive Director of Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association (ILICA) in recognition and appreciation of her long-term partnership and coordination with NRCS.

As the leadership figure and guidance provider for the contractors who actually build and install many, if not all, of NRCS's approved conservation practices, JoAnn plays a crucial role in ensuring that the connection between NRCS and on-the-ground conservation installers is intact.

ILICA is a crucial link in the chain, as they take conservation plan elements, the design, and technical standards NRCS staffers prepare and make them real life, working solutions. Without a secure and solid relationship with these individuals and this organization, both the quantity and quality of the conservation measures installed across this state would be severely impacted.

JoAnn's ability to communicate with ILICA members, policy makers, combined with her natural collaborative spirit have all been instrumental in helping NRCS accomplish our goals to serve clients and protect the soil and water resources of Illinois. Thank you, JoAnn.

Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it.

Every month we will publish past minutes to give everyone a view of LICA history - Might as well start at the very beginning. A business meeting of the Missouri Terracing Conservation Contractors Association was called to order on Feb. 17, 1952, by President C.W. McIntyre, in Columbia, Missouri.

It was at this meeting that Marion Clark indicated that a number of states were interested in a National Contractors Association. Some felt that more states should be represented in starting such an association. After much discussion as to whether or not to start now, a motion was passed, 14 to 2, that a National Contractors Association be organized today.



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Tech Corner

Pill to Cut Noise-Related Hearing Loss

by: David Cantrell

LICA Technology Committee Chairman

Scientists have been accumulating evidence in lab animals for years that a pill might be able to reduce the damage loud noise does to your hearing.

Starting in a few months, a group of 600 Marines at Camp Pendleton in California will face rifle training with not only foam ear plugs in their ears, but also a drink that tastes very much like Wild Berry Zinger herbal tea. The results should show that a substance dissolved in the drink made the difference.

This is the latest in research toward finding a pill that will help protect and even treat hearing loss from exposure to loud noise. Nobody is saying such a pill could replace earplugs and other mechanical ear protection. But it's clear that the standard protections so far haven't prevented a wide-ranging problem.

Noise-induced hearing loss is one of the most common occupational diseases and the second most self-reported occupational illness or injury. But the problem is not just in the workplace. Hobbies like recreational shooting, motorcycling and snowmobiling pose a risk, too.

Earplugs and specialized sound-deadening earmuffs are clearly helpful, but they're not always enough. Some sounds overwhelm them. Some people don't wear them when they should, and other people are unusually susceptible to hearing damage. And some sound levels can damage hearing by going through the skull, no matter what's protecting the ears.

That's the reason Scientists have pursued a variety of approaches toward an ear-fortifying pill.

Source: *Construction Equipment Guide*
- November 12, 2003



Wayne's World

Wayne F. Maresch
LICA Executive Vice President

Personnel Protective Equipment

What's your policy on personnel protective equipment (PPE)? When must it be worn? And who must wear it? There is PPE for various situations on the job site. When working near moving traffic orange vests help motorists to see workers. When working on high structures safety harnesses provide fall protection. Hardhats guard against head injuries at all times. Safety glasses and face shields protect eyes and faces. There is protective equipment for ears, hands and feet, as well.

While it is true that if a worker wears all the safety equipment at once he or she will have trouble performing on the job. No one really expects that. However, the supervisor or safety director knows when conditions require extra protection for the workers, and what protective equipment is needed. Hardhats should be worn at all times on the worksite when operations are underway. Since LICA contractors work with dirt, gravel, stones, wet concrete, etc. safety glasses are a good bet most of the time. Working equipment throws dirt and stones, so the best way to avoid an injury is to wear safety glasses. Obviously, they provide protection when grinding or chipping.

What will it cost you if one of your workers suffers an accident that protective equipment would have prevented? The trip to the hospital, the time there, while you are paying his or her wages and the wages of the person accompanying them, not to mention the lost time of two people on the job. Don't forget the medical costs. If the injured worker is unable to return to work, what will it cost to hire and train a replacement? Take a look at your operation to see if your workers are adequately protected, if not, then take the necessary steps to see that they are.

Fraud

Have you been a victim of fraud? How do you know? In today's high tech world it can happen to you and you won't know it until you get a call from your bank telling you that you're overdrawn.

If you are at an ATM machine withdrawing money make sure no one in the vicinity is using a camcorder. They can aim it at the machine when you enter your code and PIN number, and as soon as they get to where they can display it, they will have access to your bank account. With it can go your vacation plans, your daughter's wedding plans, your plans for a new car, etc.

How about insurance fraud? Do you think it's OK to conspire with an auto repair shop to inflate the repair cost of your car so that you don't have to pay the deductible? After all it's the insurance company's money and they have plenty. The fact is that along with others who engage in this activity, it's your own money you are taking. Yes, it isn't as dramatic as setting fire to your shop for the insurance money, but it works the same way.

How about the employee who fakes an injury to collect workmens compensation? Or the person involved in a vehicle accident who claims injuries that are false in order to collect from the insurance company? Do you know that if you are a "tailgater" some drivers will deliberately slam on their brakes to cause you to hit them so they can scam your insurance company?

The best advice is to avoid getting involved in anything that even smells of fraud, to report any suspicions of fraud, and be wary of the activities of those around you. Don't give your credit card information over the telephone unless you initiated the call and you are certain the recipient is legitimate.



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Safety Tips

Job Training Is a Must

Reams and reams of paper have been used in efforts to convey to all concerned the full responsibility of those at the supervisory level for the preventions of accidents in construction. Included in Supervisory responsibility, and with high priority, is the training of the new employee for the work he or she is to perform.

All too often new employees are hired, given their assignment, and are then expected to perform efficiently and safely without adequate job instruction. Even new employees with previous experience often need retraining and reorientation if job efficiency is to be maintained, for all skills and work habits the worker must possess must be taught to him or her. Training begins when the employee is hired if our efforts are to be most effective.

Who, then, should be responsible for training the new employee? We believe, and it is generally agreed, the logical person to impart the required knowledge and technique required for the job is the safety Supervisor or the worker's immediate supervisor. They are in the best position to give actual on-the-job instruction and, in addition, they are the persons to whom the employee will be directly responsible. This accomplishes two things: First, it makes for job efficiency and second, it manifests interest in the employee's welfare.

What should we teach and what procedures should the supervisor follow? Quite logically, the Supervisor's task is to instruct the worker on the job to be done so he or she can produce it in as short a time as possible. Yet, safety precautions should be taught by the safety Supervisor prior to the beginning of the job, and instructions should be given on specific safe work practices that will help him or her avoid these hazards. Poor instruction or none at all results in injuries or production inefficiencies.

Many organizations have found from experience that effective job training is a must if an efficient operation is to be maintained. Proper job training means efficiency with safety. Efficiency and safety get the desired results: quality and production.

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 =new/changed

OSHA's Dirty Dozen

Have you ever wondered what the most commonly cited OSHA violations for the construction industry were? Well, according to a current U.S. Department of Labor release, the top 12 Dirty Dozen are as follows:

Rank	Description	Standard Violated
1.	Scaffolding	1926.0451
2.	Fall Protection Scope/Applications/Definitions	1926.0501
3.	Electrical, Wiring Design and Protection	1926.0404
4.	Excavations, General Requirements	1926.0651
5.	Hazard Communications	1926.1200
6.	Construction, General Safety and Health Provisions	1926.0020
7.	Electrical Wiring Methods, Components and Equipment, General Use	1926.0405
8.	Ladders	1926.1053
9.	Head Protection	1926.0100
10.	Excavations, Requirements for Protective Systems	1926.0652
11.	Construction, Safety Training and Education	1926.0021
12.	Lead	1926.0062

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At the 53rd LICA Summer Meeting



in the Beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota

July 13-17, 2004

Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center
Rapid City, South Dakota

National Membership Contest

The Membership committee passed a new member competition similar to the one just won by Doug Egeland of Iowa. Here's what contractors need to do to win the next contest that started March 1, 2004 and ends February 7, 2005:

Sponsor 10 or more new contractor members and receive \$500 cash and 50% off convention registration.

Sponsor 5 to 9 new contractor members and receive \$250 cash and 50% off convention registration.

Sponsor 3 or 4 new contractor members and receive \$100 cash and 50% off convention registration.

Union "Salting" of Small Businesses

In order to put a stop to "salting," the U.S. Chamber testified in favor of H.R. 1793, the "Truth in Employment Act of 2003," which removes any requirement that an employer hire any person who is not a bona fide employee applicant. "Salting" is the act of deliberately inserting a union organizer, or "salt," into a non-union company. The "salt" applies for a position with the company, not always notifying the small business owner of his or her union status. The purpose is either to establish support for unionization or simply to disrupt the business and its employees. In most cases, the "salt" is paid for his or her services by a local union of which he or she is a member.

Once the "salt" is exposed as such, employers can either hire the applicant, often leading to a disruption in the business, or, fearing that, reject the application and face charges of unfair hiring practices with the National Labor Relations Board. These charges often lead to a long, costly, litigation process that becomes an enormous financial burden for the company. In more than one case, this process has driven the company out of business.

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