

The LICA NEWS

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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

Missouri LICA Backhoe Competition a Huge Success! *by Debbie Dickens*

Who's Missouri's Best Backhoe Operator for 2004? That's what the members of Missouri LICA set out to answer when they hosted the 2004 MLICABackhoe Rodeo Competition. The answer is... Leon Gann, Stewartville, MO with a total time of 4:13:75 ... that's 4 minutes, 13 seconds and 75 100ths of a second!!

Backhoe Rodeos were held in Chillicothe (March 13), Sedalia (March 27), and Fulton (April 10). Each backhoe rodeo consisted of three timed skill tests with a First, Second, and Third prize winner in each city and one overall Grand Prize winner who was declared "Missouri's Best Backhoe Operator for 2004."

Cooke Sales and Service provided the equipment and locations, fed a wonderful luncheon to all the attendees, and helped with the promotion! Agri Drain Corporation and Missouri LICA contributed to the prizes which totaled \$ 2,500!! With help from Jerry Biuso, Cooke Sales and Service, National LICA and Missouri LICA, we distributed press releases to 75 radio stations, newspapers and television stations, as well as promotional pieces to over 1,800 excavating contractors across the state!

Everyone got in the act! Lots of the contractors brought their entire families to share in the fun. One contractor made sure he and his wife attended every event! We even had a few who drove all the way from the bootheel of Missouri. And, if you've ever been there, you know it's a long, long way to anywhere from the bootheel!! Approximately 250 people attended the events, over 75 contractors competed in the events, and almost 40 of those competitors registered their times.

Although the weather didn't exactly cooperate ... it rained in all three cities ... the spirits were high and we even had two television stations cover the event, in addition to a long article in the "farm issue" issue of the Mexico Ledger.

We've already had calls asking if we're going to host another one next year. The members of Missouri LICA would like to thank all those who helped to make the 2004 MLICA Backhoe Rodeo Competition a success!! [Note: If you'd like to see more pictures from the rodeo competition, just go to Missouri LICA's website at: www.MLICA.org <<http://www.MLICA.org>>!]

Missouri LICA may have started what may lead into a National LICA Backhoe Competition with all chapters participating.



Missouri President Eddie Gilmore awarding the grand prize to Leon Gann.

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 day-time 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*

LICA is busy all across the nation. From all the newsletters I see, picnics, field days, backhoe rodeo and on and on. It is so wonderful to see. I am so proud to be associated with such a fine group of people.

I am looking forward to a busy summer visiting with you and joining your efforts to increase membership and working to further our purpose, which is to benefit the members of LICA.

Many times we can't immediately see the good we are doing, it comes over time. It takes dedication and a never give up attitude. We only lose if we quit. It takes faith and a sincere desire to make a difference. I sincerely believe we will succeed in increasing our membership.

ATTENTION LADIES

Remember our agreement in Lexington. To send out 25 or more invitations to non-members for your planned events this summer. The to follow up with phone calls. We can do it. Ten net new members.

WORK THOSE PHONES

They need us and we need them. We must join together to make our industry grow strong and healthy.

Respectfully,

Gerri Mulford

Support Your Industry

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

National Officers

Chairman
Louis McFarland
Ohio

President
Geraldine Mulford
Florida

Vice President
Harry Hauschild
Nebraska

Executive Vice President
Wayne Maresch
Maryland

Region Vice Presidents

Region I & Secretary
Bill Esposito
New Jersey

Region II
Sanford Gulick
Virginia

Region III & Treasurer
Derrell Birge
Indiana

Region IV
Doug Egeland
Iowa

Region VII
Ted Pyle
Montana

2005 National LICA Winter Convention

In 2005, the National LICA Winter Convention will be co-located with the ConEx/ConAg trade show in Las Vegas. The National Convention will be held on the Sunday and Monday (March 13 & 14) just prior to ConEx/ConAg opening on Tuesday, March 15. The LICAmeeeting will only be the two-day business portion in order for our contractors to take advantage of the ConEx/ConAg educational classes and exhibit hall.

On the Saturday prior to the LICA meeting (March 12, 2005), we are planning a one-day educational workshop for all the State LICA Executive Directors. We have several new Executive Directors, along with some "old timers!"

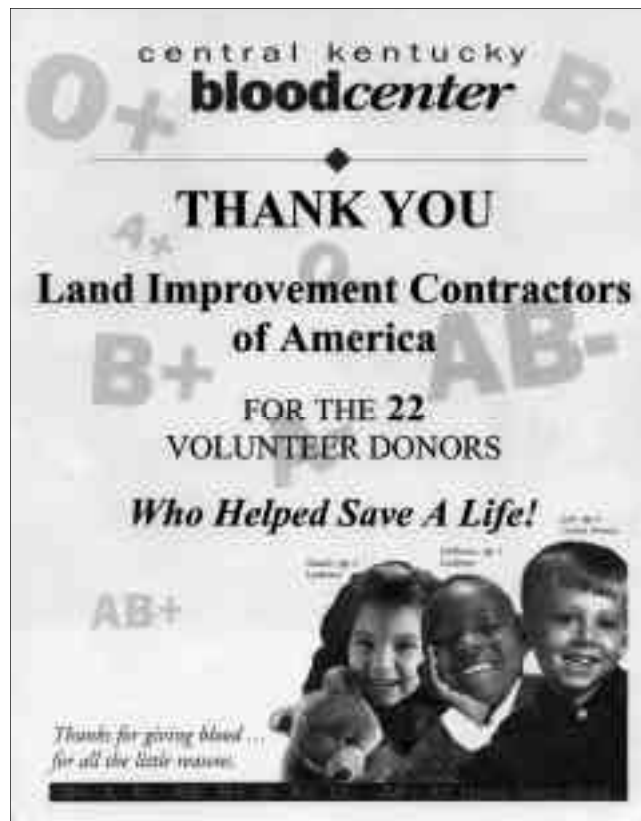
This workshop should be a great opportunity for the LICA Executive Directors to share their successes and find solutions for their problems.

President Bush Signs SBA Bill

President Bush signed into law H.R. 4062, a bill that temporarily reauthorizes and expands one of the Small Business Administration's most popular programs, the 7(a) lending program.

"This legislation will benefit thousands of small businesses across America by giving them the tools to help them grow, expand and create jobs," said Hector Barreto, SBA Administrator. "Small businesses are the engine that drives our economy, and this bill ensures that that engine has the fuel it needs to forge ahead."

Specifically, the law increases the SBA's 7(a) lending authority by \$3 billion through the end of the fiscal year, and lifted a \$750,000 cap that was in place after funding for the popular program ran out in January. Under the new law, the loan cap has been returned to \$2 million.



LICA
Receives
Thank You
Poster
From
Kentucky
Blood
Center

National LICA received a thank you poster from the Central Kentucky Blood Center. Region I VP Bill Esposito, coordinated a very successful blood drive at the National Convention in Lexington, KY. Twenty-two volunteer donors participated.



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Tech Corner

Technology Repeats Itself!

by: David Cantrell
LICA Technology Committee
Chairman

I was reading my latest edition of Construction Equipment Guide when, lo and behold, there is an ad about the new “patented” Seal Saver.

Seal Saver is a cover (sock-like device) that goes over the rod of cylinders. The ad says it stops the dings and dents, the ingression of dirt, the rod scoring, the repair bills, and the down time on almost all machines with hydraulic cylinders.

This device sounds pretty good to me. The funny thing is I have a 1940’s model International Farm Tractor Loader that had leather, flexible sleeves over the cylinders to protect the rods. The rods back then were not even chrome plated.

Technology Does Repeat Itself.

Where Have You Been?

At the Winter Convention Budget Committee meeting a motion was made to offer \$50.00 off member registration for the South Dakota Summer Meeting to members who have not attended National meetings for the past five years.

**Time for Learning and Sharing
Food, Fun and Friends**

See you in July!



Wayne F. Maresch
LICA Executive Vice President

Wayne's World

Safety Planning

Before you start a new job what safety planning do you do? Do you look for the potential pitfalls on the job site? Do you visit the site with your foreman and together, review them, discussing how to avoid potential problems or how to overcome them? After the utility companies have responded to the “one call” do you review the information with all those who will work on the site. Do you go over the site looking for signs of anything they may have missed? Do you make sure that marked utilities are clearly visible? Do you call all the workers together to make sure they are aware of them and to ask them what other problems they might foresee? All this may sound like so much unnecessary activity, but how unnecessary will it seem if someone has an accident that could have been avoided.

Like any other endeavor, a successful safety program does not end with a written document laying in a file drawer. A written safety program is only the basis for actually carrying out a safe operation on the job. Too many things on a site cannot be foreseen even during safety talks. A site review is essential, and the more eyes that look at the site, the less likely a danger may be overlooked.

Wet spots may be a problem, steepness of the slope, rock outcrops, precipices, streams, sinkholes, nearby highways, location of haul roads, etc. These and others may contribute to an accident that could have been prevented. Making everyone involved aware of the potential problems will go a long way toward eliminating accidents. Enough accidents happen that are difficult to foresee, so, take the steps to prevent those that can be identified before work starts. A regular safety review of the site as work progresses may uncover other hazards.

Summer Hazards

The hazard we are most aware of is the sun. It can cause sunburn, heat exhaustion and stroke. While operating equipment, heat exhaustion and stroke can be fatal. An operator passing out while operating a dozer often results in injury or death. The most important things to do to is drink plenty of fluids and reduce exposure to the sun's heat rays. Shades over the operator help, as do light colored clothes and caps. Periodically applying a wet cloth to the forehead also helps. Make sure your workers on the job site are properly clothed and adequately provided with water.

If someone does experience a stroke it may be difficult to identify. If people nearby fail to identify the symptoms of a stroke soon enough, the victim may suffer brain damage. Doctors say you can recognize a stroke by asking three questions: ask the person to smile, to raise both arms and to speak a simple sentence. If they have trouble doing any one of these, call 911 immediately. Facial and arm weakness, and speech problems are symptoms of a stroke. Quick action can result in prompt diagnosis and treatment thereby preventing brain damage.

Summer brings other hazards, such as mosquitoes, flies, and deer ticks that carry Lyme disease. People working in areas where these are a problem they should use the proper insect repellent. If someone is suspected of contracting Lyme disease get medical attention at once.

With summer comes thunder and lightning. Thunder will only hurt your ears, but lightning can be fatal. We hear many stories about people being killed or injured by lightning. If lightning is occurring, get inside. If you are operating equipment get off and into a building or into a car or truck. The rubber tires will provide more protection than the metal tracks. If nothing else is available get into a ditch or a pit. Don't stand under a tree or on any high point. Lightning prefers those things that extend higher than the surrounding ground.



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Safety Tips

From Head to Foot

Business reviews would seem to indicate that today Americans are spending more on clothing than anytime in history. This is in accordance with American standards, and to deny the advantages of being meticulous in dress would be an insult.

And yet, we take so much pride in the social aspect of our dress—what about the really important angle? What about the manner in which we dress for work with safety in mind?

1. Are we meticulous in the protection of our skull, the important guardian of our brain center, through the wearing of a hard hat?

2. What about our sight, our most important sense? Do we have our eyes examined periodically...if necessary, do we use our glasses when reading...and above all, do we cover them with safety goggles when the occasion demands?

3. The shirt, an important piece of apparel. If we operate, or are engaged around moving machinery and equipment, do we wear short sleeve shirts, or have straight cuffs? The same goes for jackets. Never wear a loose fitting jacket, keep it buttoned or zippered shut at least chest high.

4. Our hands are a very vulnerable part of our body. If our work calls for it, do we wear gloves? Also remember, worn or tattered gloves are more dangerous than no gloves.

5. Wearing overalls or pants with cuffed or rolled-up legs is a poor practice. If the legs are too long, have them cut off and hemmed. Straight legs reduce the self-tripping hazard.

6. How about shoes? They don't have to shine with a brilliant luster, but they must be practical. A safe working shoe has a thick sole; thin sole shoes can result in serious foot punctures. To protect against toe injuries, steel capped shoes are most practical. Shoelaces should not be too long.

7. Watch out for jewelry. It can catch on things, too. Don't wear loose watch chains, straps, keys on belt, etc., or any item that might hook on something and place you in a hazardous position. Rings, wristlets and other jewelry belong at home and not on the job.

Remember to dress properly for the job you're doing.

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 =new/changed

LICA Calendar

2004

June 24-25, 2004
Montana LICA Summer Board Meeting, Picnic and Tour
(Carolyn Barnard 406-527-3356)

July 11, 2004 Nebraska LICA Annual Summer Picnic
Neligh, NE
(Patti McArdle 402-289-2489)

July 13-17, 2004
National LICA Summer Meeting
Ramkota Hotel-Conference Center
2111 North LaCrosse Street
(I-90 at Exit 59)
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701
(Jim Keyes 605-224-9915)

July 22-23, 2004
Iowa LICA Summer Board Meeting
AmericInn. Osceola, Iowa
(Dan Rasmussen 319-334-9884)

July 22-24 Iowa LICA Field Days
Site near Osceola, Iowa
(Bill Ohrt 641-394-5062 or
Mark Mease 641-795-4765)

August 19, 2004
New Jersey LICA
Scholarship Golf Outing
Apple Mountain Country Club
(Jerry Biuso 908-996-0058)

2005

January 20-22, 2005
Montana LICA Annual Meeting
Billings, MT
Carolyn Barnard
406-527-3356

March 13-14, 2005
National LICA Winter Convention and CONEXPO

March 15-19, 2005
Circus-Circus Hotel
Las Vegas, Nevada
Debbie Dickens 573-634-3001
or
Paul Sandefur 270-274-3403

"Come See Mount Rushmore in 2004!"

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 won by Doug Egeland of Iowa. Here's what contractors need to do to win the next contest that began 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.

Recruit a New Member Today!

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