

# The LICA NEWS

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The Land Improvement Contractors of America

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2008 LICA  
Summer Meeting

Great for the  
whole family!

Get your  
reservation in ...  
June 10 is the  
Early Bird  
deadline!!!

## Farm Bill

by Wayne F. Maresch

We have felt for some time that the currently-proposed Farm Bill probably would not pass before the general election. However, there are enough food provisions in the bill that make it imperative for Congress to act on it, soon. It now appears that passage is only a few weeks away. The cost of this bill is an astounding \$300 billion.

The President would like to have Congress cut farm subsidies sharply and has made it clear that he will veto the bill if it does not suit him. However, Congress complains that they could not pass a bill that would give the President all that he wants. With farm prices at record highs and the demand for ethanol pushing up corn prices even further, the need for crop subsidies is questionable, at best. Coupled with this is the fear that farmers will bring land that is marginal, at best, into production for biofuel crops. That would heighten the need for more conservation assistance to protect those lands from further deterioration.

The White House wants to limit farm subsidies to wealthy individuals, close a loophole that allows farmers to sell crops above the support price and still collect a subsidy, etc. Under the current laws, a farmer can collect subsidies if he/she has an adjusted gross farm income of \$2.5 million. One proposal would lower that limit to \$950,000. Another proposal would increase maximum direct payments from \$40,000 to \$50,000. Included in the bill being considered are an increase of \$10.4 billion for food stamps and nutrition programs, incentives for production of biofuels, increases for conservation programs, organic farmers and Chesapeake Bay cleanup. All of these are good, but how much can we afford?

Some in Congress think it will be unwise for the President to veto this bill in an election year, while others think such an action would strengthen the Republican Party's standing with voters who are angry over pork barrel spending and waste. We will have to await the results.

PA LICA Invites YOU  
to the 2008 LICA Summer Meeting!



## The LICA NEWS



### The Land Improvement Contractors of America

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

*Publisher*  
**Eileen Levy**

*Contributing Writers*  
**Jerry Biuso**  
**Wayne Maresch**  
**Eileen Levy**

*Art Direction*  
**Jerry Biuso**

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

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

3080 Ogden Avenue  
Suite 300  
Lisle, IL 60532

PHONE: 630-548-1984  
FAX: 630-548-9189  
Email: waynef86@aol.com  
or nlica@aol.com

Visit our website  
[www.licanational.org](http://www.licanational.org)



### *A Message from the President* *Dean Neiswinger*

Hello,

It's time to make your reservations and plans to attend Harrisburg. There are many wonderful sites to see in the area. The Pennsylvania chapter is hosting the meeting and they have been busy putting together the pre-tours. Information for the meeting and tours is in this newsletter. I know gas prices are a problem, but LICA has been working hard for member benefits and we need everyone to attend the meeting to keep LICA moving ahead with the business of the organization.

I wish everyone had had a good spring, however, I know this is not the case across the country. Many of us have been hindered by way too much rain. I told Rhonda I was going to have to take up a hobby to keep myself busy. I'm considering macrame.

There continues to be a lot of interest in LICA due to the new benefits. It's important to attract new members so the organization will grow, but it's just as necessary to retain the members we already had for years. Jerry is always looking for more benefits. We're now seeing growth in members and benefits. Thank you, Jerry!

The Executive Directors recently met at the home office for a workshop. Eileen said they had a very productive meeting. Our Executive Directors are the driving force behind our state chapters.

Hopefully the weather will start cooperating so we can all get out and really work hard. By the time the meeting in Harrisburg rolls around, we'll all need a break. I look forward to seeing you in July, so does Grace. She's already asking who all will be there, so don't disappoint her because you're not.

*Dean Neiswinger*  
National LICA President

## Executive Directors' Workshop



A workshop was held for LICA Executive Directors at the national office on April 23, 2008. Twelve people were in attendance representing eight chapters.

Training was provided in the Excel program in order to network all chapters with the national office. Other topics reviewed were: 1) National LICA benefits; 2) The revision of criteria for the national awards; 3) State newsletters and revision suggestions for the national newsletter; 4) Policy books; and 5) Entertainment and seminar ideas for future conventions. Mike Ahern, CNA Insurance, attended briefly to speak about the OSHA training sessions for LICA chapters.

This workshop was considered invaluable to those in attendance. The national office serves as a great meeting place. Another workshop will be held in April 2009.

*Patti McArdle*  
Executive Director Chair



# Now more than ever...a LICA Membership has more value!!!

By Jerry Biuso, National LICA Executive VP

For the past eighteen months I have dedicated my efforts in two primary areas. The first was to secure real member benefits and the second was to establish LICA's image in the industry. Both of these areas needed immediate attention. I was successful in securing the following exclusive new **LICA member benefits**:

**LICA Mini-Med Basic Healthcare Program** - The LICA Mini-Med program, a basic no frills, low cost indemnity plan. This program provides basic healthcare benefits at an affordable price. It is not an unlimited major medical plan. Employees can select one of four plans. Employee premiums are payroll deducted, and can be pre-tax when a section 125 premium conversion plan is adopted. The benefits include outpatient office visits, diagnostic, x-ray and laboratory benefits as well as hospital indemnity and prescription drug benefits.

**LICA PerksCard Program** - One LICA PerksCard will be issued FREE to all LICA Contractor members. The LICA PerksCard will provide members with discounts to a host of stores and entertainment venues, both locally and nationally. This free program gives LICA members access, by computer or phone, to an expanded range of discounts.

**LICA Transamerica Retirement Program** - The LICA membership is diverse and includes contractors of all sizes. LICA has found and adopted a plan with every feature available in the retirement world built in. The member can tailor the plan design to exactly fit their business model and personal need. The unique design is built to allow each user to fashion the plan to their needs. It makes no difference if you are a C or an S or an LLC or a partnership, the LICA Plan is the retirement vehicle of your choice.

**LICA 6-Pack Health Care Savings Card Program** - This discount program was created exclusively for LICA Members. This program is designed to deliver discounts in the areas of Dental Care, Eye Care, Hearing, Chiropractic Care, Alternative Medicine and offers a 24-Hour Nurse Advisory Line.

**LICA FlexSystem** - The LICA FlexSystem helps LICA Members save an average of \$300 per employee every year in payroll taxes. Create a comprehensive benefits package by using a flexible spending account. With FlexSystem, employees pay for medical, dental, vision and childcare expenses using pre-tax dollars. That means you can provide better benefits at a lower cost to you and your employees.

**LICA BizPlan** - LICA members can average \$2,450 in tax savings with the LICA BizPlan. As a small business owner you can deduct 100% of your health care costs by participating in BizPlan. Unlike the Government's plan, with BizPlan you can deduct 100% of your family health insurance premiums, as well as uninsured medical, dental and vision care expenses, employee disability, and term life insurance premiums. These deductions apply to federal, state and self-employment taxes!

## The LICA Image

I created and produce the LICA Contractor magazine. This magazine is a huge success and has been very well received in the industry and by our members. This quarterly publication features LICA members and chapter activities that demonstrate LICA's impact on the construction community.



From advertising sales to editorial content I focus on the both LICA contractor and associate. This publication should grow to be a powerful voice in the industry and be a very important sales tool to promote membership.

To further establish LICA's image it is important that we are visible throughout the country so I attended and exhibited national and regional trade shows: The World of Concrete, CONEXPO, Carolinas CONEX, Connecticut CONEX. Thirteen Trade shows are scheduled for the coming fall and winter.

An important part of my responsibilities is to coordinate the national summer and winter meetings. Scheduling is on going from facility selection, tours, educational seminars and exhibitors for the next four national meetings: Harrisburg, PA, Summer 2008, Nashville TN, Winter 2009, Des Moines IA, Summer 2009 and Austin TX Winter 2010.

I have been able to visit and address annual board meetings in California, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York state chapters. I planned to kick-off membership drives in the Illinois, Minnesota, New England, New York and Pennsylvania.

I will continue to search for new member benefits and to travel the country promoting the benefits of a LICA membership. I hope to see you at your next state event. Remember the "Just One" membership drive is in full swing ...**Recruit a new member today!**

# The National Summer Tours and Special Events

## The Extraordinary Story of the Battle of Gettysburg

A virtual look at the history of the famous battle!

The story of Adams County, from the days of Indian raids to the development plans of today, spreads over two centuries. But our area is best known for just three days of that time, July 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1863 - the Battle of Gettysburg. Though the conflict ended well over a century ago, each year nearly 2 million people make the pilgrimage to this venerable site, the largest battlefield shrine in America with over 1,000 monuments and cannon and over 40 miles of scenic avenues. They come to see for themselves the spot where thousands fought and died for their "cause", the spot where President Lincoln spoke and still speaks to us today.

Why do they come here? Because of the drama and courage of all the men who fought here and our curiosity to answer questions like:

- What would cause these Americans to kill their fellow countrymen?
- Why were the casualties so high?
- What was life like for Johnny Reb and Billy Yank?
- How do we benefit from the heroism and valor of these soldiers?

You will visit this pivotal place in American history which is now a 5,733 acre National Park. The courage and valor of the men on both sides who fought and died for their cause on the fields surrounding this little country town of Gettysburg are remembered and endowed in the spirit of freedom of human kind. Your visit will not only inspire but taking time to pause, will rekindle the flame of liberty and mans unquenchable thirst for individual freedom. Picture left: The Battlefield as it appears today. Picture right: Sunset behind a Battlefield monument.



### Ike, Gettysburg, and the Cold War

Eisenhower National Historic Site is the home and farm of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Located adjacent to the Gettysburg Battlefield, the farm served the President as a weekend retreat and a meeting place for world leaders. With its peaceful setting and view of South Mountain, it was a much needed respite from Washington and a backdrop for efforts to reduce Cold War tensions.

## JERRY'S CLASSIC CARS & COLLECTIBLES MUSEUM

### Jerry's Classic Cars & Collectibles Museum

Over 20,000 collectible items of interest are on display and they will stir your fond memories of past decades. You will step back in time to the glory days of the 50's and 60's classics! From period murals, drive-in theatre, snack bar, soda fountain and rock-n-roll bandstand, the library, barbershop, and millinery you will relive them all.



### The Pioneer Tunnel gives a sense of the way of life and challenges in the early days of Anthracite coal mining.

Pioneer Tunnel is a horizontal drift mine. Its level tunnel runs 1800 feet straight into the side of the Mahanoy Mountain. You make the trip in comfort, riding in open mine cars pulled by a battery-operated mine motor. The mine is inspected daily by the mine's foreman and periodically by state mine inspectors. The temperature inside the mine averages 52 degrees, so a sweater or jacket is recommended. The tour lasts about 35 minutes. Deep inside the mine, you will alight from your car and follow your miner-guide as you are given an explanation of how coal is mined. There are storyboards inside the mine depicting the mining operation. Your guide will point out the numerous coal seams and describe various configurations of passageways, some cut from solid rock in order to reach the coal. The tour is educational as well as entertaining. Each year, 40,000 people including students from pre-school through college visit Pioneer Tunnel. There are approximately 350 bus tours each season. In 1979, Pioneer Tunnel was given an award for excellence by the PA Travel Industry Advisory Council as one of the top 10 tourist attractions in the State of Pennsylvania.

### A reminder about clothing...

The temperature inside the mine averages 52 degrees Fahrenheit throughout the tour season, so we recommend that you bring a sweater or jacket. If necessary, we will gladly provide you with one to wear.



### Yuengling Brewery Tour

Since 1829, D.G. Yuengling & Son, Inc. of Pottsville, Pennsylvania has produced a complete line of fine brewed products to satisfy the most discerning tastes of beer connoisseurs. For over 175 years each recipe has called for both American six row and imported two row barley malt along with a combination of Cluster and Cascade hops. Coupled with longer aging times, each of these craft-brewed beers offers its own unique appearance, aroma, taste, and mouth-feel. This home town brewer has the distinction of being a regional brewery without sacrificing flavor to appeal to the masses.

Limited space. Please make your reservations early. For more information call National LICA (630) 548-1984

# The National LICA Summer Meeting - July 8-12, 2008

Hosted by Pennsylvania LICA at the Holiday Inn East, Harrisburg, PA

## Welcome to Harrisburg!

PALICA is excited to host the 2008 summer meeting. The Holiday Inn East in Harrisburg has been selected to be the site of the meeting. The Harrisburg area offers many wonderful historical sites. A few area Attractions...

### Harrisburg

Harrisburg State Capital  
National Civil War Museum  
Whitaker Science Center  
Farm Show Complex  
Hummelstown/Middletown

### Hershey

Hershey Park  
Hershey's Chocolate World  
Indian Echo Caverns  
Hershey Gardens

### Lancaster

Dutch Wonderland  
Amish Country

### Gettysburg

Boyd's Bears  
Battlefield  
Civil War Museum

### York

Harley Davidson



### Cruise on Pride of the Susquehanna

The Pride of the Susquehanna is an authentic stern paddlewheel riverboat owned and operated by the Harrisburg Area Riverboat Society. You will enjoy dinner and dancing on "The prettiest little riverboat this side of the Mississippi."



### Amish Country Tour

Buggy ride, Amish homestead attractions, quilt shops and museum, farmers' market, crafts and local jam/relish/canning shops. The tour includes the Lancaster Quilt & Textile Museum - Bold colors...intricate designs...dazzling artwork... and most of all, a rich sense of history and tradition. The newly-renovated Quilt & Textile Museum offers fascinating exhibits of an incredible world-famous collection of Lancaster Amish Quilts. In addition to the quilts, don't miss the inaugural exhibition Rags to Rugs: Hooked and Handsewn Rugs, an ice cream parlor and an expanded museum store.



### Visit Boyd's Bear Country

Discover how company founder Gary Lowenthal and wife Tina built the world's most famous bear company! Your tour is led by Bennie B., an overstuffed Boyd's Bear who serves as Boyd's Bear Country's resident historian! Your trip down memory lane includes old family photos of both Gary and Tina's families.

## Summer Meeting Tentative Agenda

### Wednesday – July 9, 2008

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Pre-Tours  
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting

### Thursday - July 10, 2008

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Pre-Tours  
6:30 pm – 9:30 pm LICA Opening Reception

### Friday – July 11, 2008

6:00 am – 8:30 am Breakfast  
8:30 am – 8:45 am Region Meetings  
8:45 am – 9:00 am Welcome Pennsylvania LICA  
9:00 am – 10:00 am LICA Perks Card, Mini-Med Program and LICA Retirement Plan  
10:00 am – 11:00 am Committee Meetings  
Awards, Legislative, Membership, CE & E  
Water Table Management  
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Safety, Convention, Technology  
12:00 pm – 1:15 pm Lunch  
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm Devotions, Insurance, Long Term Planning  
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm Certification, By-Laws, Education, Associates, Ladies, Policy  
4:00 pm – 4:45 pm Region Meetings  
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm Cruise on Pride of the Susquehanna (Optional)  
9:00 pm – 10:00 pm Ice Cream Social

### Saturday – July 12, 2008

7:00 am – 8:45 am Breakfast  
9:00 am – 10:00 am Budget, Executive Directors  
10:30 am – 12:00 noon LICA Board Meeting  
12:00 pm – 1:15 pm Lunch  
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm All American Barbeque Pool Side

### Hotel Information

**Holiday Inn Harrisburg East**  
4751 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111

**For hotel reservations call:**  
**717-939-7841**

(Inform them you are with the LICA group)

Room rates: \$112.00 plus tax for single or double  
Reservations must be made by June 10th.

### Airport Information

**Harrisburg International Airport**

Free shuttle service available to the hotel. (Approx. every 10 minutes.)

# 2008 National LICA Summer Meeting

Hosted by Pennsylvania LICA  
Holiday Inn East, Harrisburg, PA ■ July 9-13, 2008

## General Registration

Includes: Opening Reception Thursday evening,  
Friday: Breakfast, Lunch and Ice Cream Social, Saturday: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

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Company Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Early Bird Registration** – Postmark before June 10, 2008..... \$ 130.00      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Youth – 15 years of age and under..... \$ 60.00      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Registration After June 10, 2008**

Members, Spouses, Associates, Government Employees, Consultants.... \$ 150.00      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Youth – 15 years of age and under..... \$ 75.00      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Children Under 3 years of age..... FREE      FREE  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### PRINT NAME(S) FOR NAME BADGES

Age (if Youth or Child)

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) \_\_\_\_\_

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### **ADD TOUR REGISTRATION**

(Please complete tour registration form on reverse side and post total tour cost here) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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### **TOTAL TOUR AND MEETING REGISTRATION FEES**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**Registration Policy:** Only individuals who are registered and wearing badges may attend Summer Meeting events. The spouse/guest of a registered member need not register to share a room. All must register to attend conventions, programs or functions. No registration will be processed without payment.

**Refund Policy:** For cancellations received prior to June 20, 2008 a \$30.00 charge will be deducted from your original amount paid. No registration payments will be refunded after June 20, 2008, unless you have experienced an emergency.

*Please return this form with payment to:*

**National LICA  
3080 Ogden Ave., Suite 300  
Lisle, IL 60532**

For additional information call (630) 548-1984

# Summer 2008 Tour Registration

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please note: Prices are per person. All tours include bus transportation. Copy this form for additional attendees.**

**July 9 Gettysburg Battle Field** - A guided tour of the battlefield, lunch at the historic Dobbin House and a visit to the Eisenhower Farm. Depart 8:00 am return to hotel 5:00 pm \$ 65.00 \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Attendees \_\_\_\_\_ Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Gettysburg Battle Field** - A guided tour of the battlefield, lunch at historic Dobbin House, and Visit Boyd's Bear Country. Depart 8:00 am return to hotel 5:00 pm \$ 60.00 \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Attendees \_\_\_\_\_ Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**July 10 Tour of Lancaster** - Amish Farmlands guided tour, Amish Quilt & Craft Shop Lunch in an Amish home. Shopping at Kettle Kitchen Village. Depart 8:00 am return to hotel at 5:00 pm \$ 60.00 \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Attendees \_\_\_\_\_ Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Tour of the Mines of Ashland, Yuengling Brewery and Jerry's Classic Car Museum.** Lunch on your own Depart 8:00 am return to hotel at 5:00 pm \$ 55.00 \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Attendees \_\_\_\_\_ Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**July 11 Dinner Cruise on The Pride of the Susquehanna (Cash Bar)** Depart at 4:30 pm - return to hotel 8:30 pm \$ 65.00 \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Attendees \_\_\_\_\_ Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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## TOUR REGISTRATION

Please complete tour registration form and post here and on reverse side.

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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# Spend the Summer with LICA

## June

- 7 Illinois Picnic & Members Meeting  
Horseshoe Lake State Park  
For more information: 309-446-3700
- 19-20 Iowa Summer Convention  
Moline, IL;  
For more information: 319-631-2292
- 28 Ohio Summer Picnic  
London; OH  
For more information: 419-694-6404

## July

- 8-13 National LICA Summer Meeting  
Harrisburg, PA  
For more information: 630-548-1984
- 12 Kansas LICA Summer Meeting &  
Picnic; Junction City, KS  
For more information: 785-594-3120

## July (Continued)

- 17-18 Missouri LICA Drainage Field Day  
MU - Bradford Farms; Columbia, Mo  
For more information: 573-634-3001
- 19 Missouri LICA Summer Meeting  
MU- Bradford Farms; Columbia, MO  
For more information: 573-634-3001
- 19 Minnesota Family Fun Day  
Shakopee; MN  
For more information: 507-446-8478
- 27 Nebraska LICA Summer Picnic  
Norfolk; NE  
For more information: 402-289-2489
- 27 Indiana LICA Golf Outing  
Geneva; IN  
For more information: 765-593-1901
- 28 Indiana Board Meeting  
Bearcreek Farms  
For more information: 765-593-1901

## August

- 6-7 Michigan LICA Field Day  
Vermontville  
For more information: 989-587-3528
- 17 Michigan Family Picnic  
Sebawaing  
For more information: 989-587-3528
- 19-21 Illinois Conservation Expo  
Decatur,  
For more information: 309-446-3700

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