

THE LICA CONTRACTOR

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Mid-Spring 2022



**Erosion Control:
Making the Switch**

**CONEXPO 2023
Just Around the Corner**

**National LICA Team
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The Land Improvement Contractors of America

The LICA Contractor 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.

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A Message from the President



I am still having difficulty finding the right words to express my gratitude for being installed as National LICA President in San Antonio, especially as this honor comes from a group of people I consider the finest people in the country. I knew LICA members were a special breed when I attended my first National Conference, and that belief becomes stronger with every conference that Pat and I attend. Before I continue, I must thank outgoing President Bob Clark for not only coming back for a second term as President but hanging in there for an extra year as covid transformed how we operated for two years. An extra big thank you goes to Donna Clark for standing alongside Bob and her commitment to LICA.

I become President as National LICA embarks on an expanded mission, one as exciting and beneficial perhaps as the formation of LICA itself: The Educational Foundation for Veterans. The Foundation has had an incredible journey since we gathered in Niagara Falls. Far too many good things have happened to list here. We gather on May 2 for the first large fundraiser. Information about the Foundation and the First Foundation Golf Outing can be found on the pages that follow.

I ask you to help me make my year as President a successful one. We need to grow membership. National can market LICA. We have expanded our brand recognition. It is well known in the industry and government, but we cannot do what you can do. Plaster the LICA logo on all your trucks and equipment. At the coffee shop in the morning, the supply counter, the equipment dealer and the job sites with multiple contractors, talk about LICA. Explain why you are a member and ask others why they are not. Invite them to a meeting. As Ron, the President of NJLICA says, "LICA is the best kept secret in the state." Let's change that.

I hope to see you on the golf course in May or a tee/green sign with your name on it. Start making your plans for the Summer Conference. Stay well, safe and profitable.

Chris Wagner, National LICA President

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Erosion Control: Making the Big Switch[®] to Switchgrass

By ROYCE MORSE

When Joe Greco, President of BEG Group LLC, conceived of a new method of groundwater and erosion control, people were skeptical. There were other well-established techniques already in use, but his experience in the construction industry had shown him how those methods tend to have some potential shortcomings.

Silt fence, a thin sheet of polypropylene dug into the ground, is time-consuming to place and difficult to remove once its job is done. Wood sock, a polypropylene tube filled with wood chips, is heavy and requires a lot of labor and equipment to move it around. Further, Greco knew from experience there could be problems with using wood chips. He says, "Having and working with horses in the past, I knew their digestive systems were fragile. When selecting bedding material, you had to be careful. For instance, black walnut shavings are a toxic bedding for horses. The innermost wood of the black walnut could cause toxicity after oral or skin contact, so bedding containing a percentage of fresh black walnut shavings made from old or new wood may cause toxicity. Most pine trees may be toxic to horses as well. That is, pine is not immediately poisonous but if horses are allowed to eat it often, over time it may poison them."

Further, removing many standard erosion control materials frequently involved disturbing the soil you were trying so hard to preserve in the first place. There had to be a better, more ecologically-friendly way.



“Approaching an old problem with fresh eyes has made a difference in sustainable erosion control.”



Getting Proactive

When he started his search for another erosion material, Greco was told, “If it could be done, somebody would already be doing it.” In spite of the discouraging words and even the eye-rolling he received, he was undeterred. He started looking for an alternative.

He wanted a material that was weed-clean and lightweight — and switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) looked promising. It’s a common prairie grass native to most of North America, lighter in weight than wood chips and therefore easier to handle and place. “Growers had been subsidized to plant switchgrass for the energy industry, but it doesn’t generate much in the way of BTUs, so other products were getting more use,” he says. That meant there would be a good supply of it, and in addition to its ready availability, it was already known to work well as live cover holding back erosion along streams and riverbanks. Greco thought, “Straw is used sometimes, so why not switchgrass?”

Greco and his partner, Jay Elkin, began to explore their theory. BEG Group worked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Test and Evaluation Center in Cincinnati, Ohio on the absorption properties of switchgrass and experimented with the material at The Wilds safari animal park in Zanesville, Ohio, a Columbus Zoo property. The

A cotton fabric sock used with BEG Group’s biodegradable products is shown being placed on a Cleveland Metroparks erosion/filtration project. Conservation efforts are integral to the work done by Cleveland Metroparks and Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.



Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) had expressed interest in using the switchgrass sock, which BEG Group had branded “The Big Switch®,” and after a year of vetting, both PennDOT and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) approved the use of the material within days of one another as an alternative best management practice statewide.

The Big Switch was also employed on the Hunter Station bridge project in Tionesta Township, Pennsylvania in order to protect a species of endangered mussels located in a stream adjacent to the construction. It worked well — so well, in fact, that the overall project won the Pennsylvania Governor’s Award, and the bridge rehabilitation and replacement project was awarded the Best Use of Technology and Innovation in the medium category in the Northeast region of the 11th Annual America’s Transportation Awards competition.

The Advantages

The Big Switch is lightweight: While a 12-inch diameter wood sock that’s 100 feet long weighs 1,200-plus pounds, an equivalent diameter of The Big Switch that’s 135 feet long

Above: Various diameters of Big Switch erosion/filtration sock are shown on a PennDOT highway expansion project along and near Route 422, Kittanning, Pennsylvania.

About Joe Greco and BEG Group

Greco is the President of BEG Group LLC and has been actively involved in environmental protection and resource conservation for nearly 40 years. His professional affiliations include membership in Trout Unlimited’s Great Lakes Leadership Team representing Pennsylvania; the American Society of Highway Engineers; and Pennsylvania LICA.

BEG Group has won multiple awards, including the 2017 Environmental Protection New Product of the Year Award; the 2018 Northeast U.S. Oil and Gas Award for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship; and the 2018 National Environmental Protection New Product of the Year Award for another product. The Big Switch® has also been nationally certified by the USDA as a 100 percent bio-based erosion/filtration medium.

BEG Group LLC had preferred status at the Franklin Cracker Plant in Pittsburgh as the groundwork was being laid for the Royal Dutch Shell project; and has worked with TransCanada Energy, now known as TC Energy; and Sunoco Logistics, to name a few.

In addition, BEG Group is registered as an associate member of National LICA. LICA members are being offered a five percent discount on all Big Switch products for 28-sack stock orders and will receive an additional two percent for paying their invoices within 10 days. Offer subject to change. Visit <https://biosecurity.biz>.



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Shown is 12-inch diameter Big Switch anchored down a hillside to help absorb and contain contaminants from getting into a waterway near Canton, Ohio. BEG Group's compaction/density calculations, the biodegradable fabric used and per-lineal-foot amount of switchgrass supercharged into the fabric will most likely be different than that of any other manufacturer. As with any environmental erosion control plan, actual project field performance is critical and will be monitored by local, state and federal inspectors, so proper installation protocol must be used.

weighs only about 500 pounds. That makes it easier to place. And if the sock is too long, that's easily managed as well — it can simply be cut to the desired length and the end zip-tied off.

In addition, instead of a backhoe and several people needed to place the material, the switchgrass sock can be installed by just two or three people, making it significantly more economical to use. "I've been told many times that because only a small crew is necessary and less heavy equipment is required, contractors are able to do more with less in a tight labor market," says Greco.

Once The Big Switch is laid down, it will suck itself onto the ground and lock itself in place within a few days. "It lets the water run through but keeps the sediment controlled and absorbs the contaminants," Greco adds.

If the polypropylene sock remains in place for some time, it will eventually start to degrade. At that point, the property owner can determine whether to leave it alone or have the sock cut open and removed, distributing the grass clippings over the ground. Greco prefers the latter method. "The polypropylene sock isn't part of nature, and you can use the switchgrass content as a seed cover."

Finally, switchgrass was by far one of the most economical materials tested and evaluated by the U.S. EPA for treatment of stormwater, and also performed extremely well in tests for removing bacteria, radioactivity and other contaminants. A federally published report was released by the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) in October of 2018 on the tests and evaluation.

The verdict was in: The Big Switch was easy to handle, bio-friendly and cost-effective. BEG Group had a winner on their hands.

Looking Ahead

BEG Group's slogan is, "We BEG to Differ," and it couldn't be more appropriate. Approaching an old problem with fresh eyes has made an important difference in sustainable erosion and groundwater control.

In addition to their plans to increase distribution of The Big Switch throughout Pennsylvania and Ohio, Greco and Elkin are also looking to market it to neighboring states in the Northeast and the nation.

Networking has been a big help in getting the news out — and word is getting around. "It's really all about what the industry wants," Greco says, "and that comes down to protecting the environment."

And where once BEG Group was chasing the industry, Greco finds that same industry is now chasing them. Joe and Jay couldn't be more honored. With his vision for a more ecologically-sound method of erosion control now becoming reality, Joe offers this advice: "You prepare with honesty. You pray for understanding." BEG Group's prayers seem to have been answered. ■



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National LICA Attends NACD Annual Meeting

By BRUCE BARNHART, LICA Liaison National Association of Conservation Districts

The 2022 NACD (National Association of Conservation Districts) meeting was held in Orlando, Florida this year. Shelley and I have had the pleasure of representing LICA at the NACD annual meeting since 2011 with the exception of last year which was held virtually.

We enjoyed seeing everyone. From the LICA booth and walking around to the exhibitors we were able to renew old relationships both personally and for LICA. We sensed a strong feeling of optimism among the group. Conservation and water quality are certainly in the forefront of issues among most of the state chapters.

We had a lot of younger people stopping at our booth. They represented both urban and rural districts and were interested in talking about the difference in conservation practices in those settings.

Many newly elected Conservation commissioners stopped by to see what states we had chapters in and are going to reach out to local LICA contractors to help implement the



Bruce Barnhart, Keith Bartholomay, Director of Ransom County SCD in North Dakota and John Peterson.



Bruce and Shelly Barnhart at the LICA Booth.



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practices. Several longer serving commissioners have used LICA contractors in the past.

After attending for 10 years, we have developed a lot of relationships with attendees from all over the country and also exhibitors. Charlie Schaffer and the Agri Drain team are always there. Charlie has been instrumental in helping to develop LICA MOU's (Memorandum of Understanding) with NACD, NRCS, and ADMC. We would like to thank Charlie for his commitment and passion to the conservation and water quality industry.

Another person we would like to recognize is John Peterson. John served as LICA's government relation person for many years and recently retired. John has a long history with NACD, and he laid the ground work for us to exhibit at their annual convention starting 11 years ago. John was also instrumental in developing LICA's MOU's. It was a pleasure to be in attendance to see John get inducted into NACD's Hall of Distinction. This honor recognizes his lifetime of work for not only NACD but many other facets of promoting conservation. It is a well-deserved honor. ■

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Construction Workers Scarce and Aging!

By DR. ANIRBAN BASU, Chief Construction Economist, Marcum LLP

The construction industry continues to face a skilled labor shortage, with worker scarcity exacerbated since the onset of the pandemic. The resulting surge in construction wages, combined with climbing materials prices, has produced significant increases in the cost of delivering construction services.

These are some of the key findings of Marcum LLP's annual analysis of the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS). The **2021 Marcum JOLTS Analysis** was produced by Marcum's National Construction Services group.

Under the banner *Construction Workers Are Scarce, Aging and Really Popular*, Marcum's chief construction economist, Anirban Basu, details hiring trends, quit rates, and the economic environment shaping the demand for labor in the residential and nonresidential construction sectors.

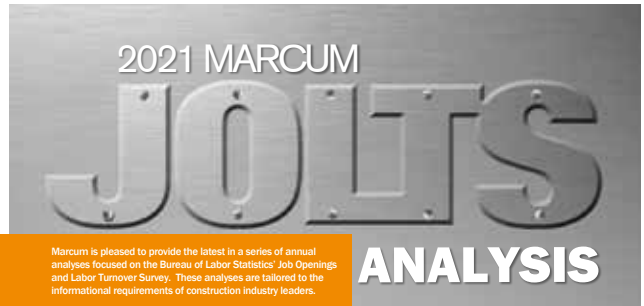
"The pandemic resulted in a 14.5 percent decline in construction employment from February to April of 2020," said Dr. Basu. "Rather than helping the situation, that further exacerbated industry challenges by persuading some workers to enter retirement earlier than anticipated and inducing others to seek employment in other industries, including those that offer the ability to work remotely and/or on flexible schedules."

The construction industry currently faces a historical level of unfilled jobs. On average in 2021, 4.4 percent of construction jobs were unfilled. "That was easily the highest proportion over the course of the two decades that the Bureau of Labor Statistics has monitored such things. The share of unfilled jobs expanded over the course of last year, rising from 3.9 percent in January to 5.7 percent by October," Dr. Basu said.

Labor Shortages and Demographics Jeopardize Industry Recovery

These labor shortages have resulted in rising wages as contractors compete for workers. Over the past 12 months, construction wages climbed 5.1 percent, increasing \$0.19 in January 2022 alone. "Construction input prices have also raced higher. Not only does that squeeze industry margins, it jeopardizes industry recovery altogether by causing certain project owners to delay or cancel projects because of elevated bids," Dr. Basu said.

The median age of construction workers has risen in recent years, and more construction workers than ever consider themselves general construction laborers. "This suggests that the industry doesn't simply face a worker shortage, it faces a skills shortage," said Dr. Basu. "While these dynamics predated the pandemic, they have become especially apparent over the past two years. Above all, this threatens industry profitability as well as creating circumstances that could result in widespread firm failure."



CONSTRUCTION WORKERS ARE SCARCE, AGING AND REALLY POPULAR

In the years preceding the pandemic, the construction industry faced a skilled labor shortage brought on by demographic and cultural factors, with especially severe shortages in certain geographies associated with rapid economic growth. The pandemic resulted in a 14.5 percent decline in construction employment from February to April of 2020. Rather than helping the situation, that further exacerbated industry challenges by persuading some workers to enter retirement earlier than anticipated and inducing others to seek employment in other industries, including those that offer the ability to work remotely and/or on flexible schedules.

With construction deemed an essential industry in much of the U.S. and the recession ending after just three months, demand for workers surged, but in many instances, there were not enough left to hire. Among other things, that has driven wages higher. Construction wages increased \$0.19 on a monthly basis in January 2022 and are up 5.1 percent over the past 12 months.

Construction input prices have also raced higher, resulting in significant increases in the cost of delivering construction services. Not only does that squeeze industry margins, it jeopardizes industry recovery altogether by causing certain project owners to delay or cancel projects because of elevated bids.

The Recovery

The construction industry has regained approximately 91 percent of the jobs lost during the initial two months of the pandemic. As of January 2022, industry employment was still 101,000 jobs short of its February 2020 level. Had industry employment growth proceeded at the pre-pandemic rate, there would have been approximately 8.1 million employed construction workers today, or about 600,000 more than presently in place.

Construction employment growth was disappointing to begin 2022. Despite significant economywide job growth, the construction industry

lost 5,000 jobs in January. There were divergences across segments, however, with residential adding 4,400 jobs in January. Nonresidential construction lost 9,000 jobs that month.

As is well known, residential real estate has been red hot over much of the pandemic period. This has taken the form of bidding wars for homes, rapidly dwindling inventory, and surging prices. Higher home prices have correlated with rising rents, all of which has spurred interest in expanding housing supply.

Since the recession began in February 2020 and through January 2022, residential building construction employment is up 5.3 percent, while employment among residential specialty trade contractors has expanded 3.2 percent. Job growth would have been more rapid had there been more workers available to fill available positions. Skills and labor shortages are not simply apparent in rising wage and extended delivery times. Recently, residential building

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There is some good news, however. "With inflationary prices rising and stimulus payments increasingly in the rear-view mirror, more people are reentering the workforce," said Dr. Basu. "Construction is no exception. By December 2021, the proportion of positions that remained unfilled had declined to 4.3 percent, though that remains well above the 2.5 percent average that prevailed during the decade preceding the pandemic."

To download the full report and for more information, visit www.marcumllp.com. ■

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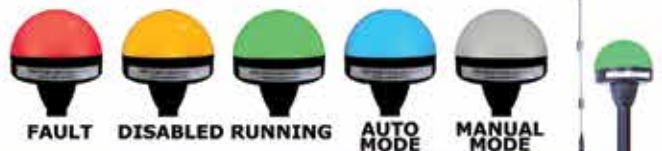
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Everything's Bigger in Texas

By Allison Hack, Director of Communications

When LICA members come together, it's an opportunity to exchange ideas, techniques and catch up with our "LICA Family" from across the country. In San Antonio, members gathered at the Holiday Inn River Walk to participate in educational seminars, committee meetings and tours! Anyone could see it wasn't LICA's first rodeo in good ol' Texas. The buses for the tours were full and everyone used their free time to explore the famous River Walk. The educational seminars were full of members, whom attentively listened to each presenter.

The committee meetings and national board meeting were productive and many new ideas were brought to the table. The LICA Family was sad to leave San Antonio, but have all the memories to hang on to. ■



LICA members at the San Antonio rodeo



Associates' night

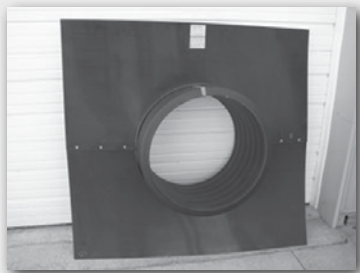


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LICA members dressed for “Back to the 80’s” on Associates Night



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What's Going on with the Federal Contractor Vaccine Mandate?

By CRAIG MARTIN, Construction Attorney with Lamson Dugan and Murray

As you know, Executive Order 14042, the Biden administration's vaccination requirement for federal contractors, has been on hold for more than two months after a Georgia federal court entered an injunction staying the executive Order. A number of courts have weighed in on the Executive Order, but it is far from clear as to how Executive Order 14042 will be resolved. The next significant test for the Executive Order is before the U. S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, where the government has appealed the Georgia federal court's order granting preliminary injunction, preventing the government from enforcing the Executive Order. The appellate court will not hear arguments on this case until April, but the parties' briefs were filed and they shed some light on the arguments being made. Not surprisingly, the government is arguing that the Executive Order is valid, while the various States and construction associations argue

otherwise. Below is a summary of some of the arguments.

Government Arguments Supporting the Executive Order

The federal government claims that the Georgia federal court was wrong in ruling that President Biden lacked the authority to issue the vaccine mandate and the court's order prohibiting the vaccine mandate exceeded the court's authority. Specifically, the federal government is arguing that the Procurement Act authorizes President Biden to issue policies and directives that he believes are necessary to ensure an economical and efficient system for federal procurement of goods and services. Because COVID disrupts the work the federal government wants done, the vaccination mandate is a policy that will help ensure the economical and efficient completion of these projects. The federal government also claims the contractor plaintiffs failed to show that they would be irreparably harmed by the mandate—

meaning that they would never be able to recover damages for the harm caused by the mandate.

State and Associated Builders and Contractors' Argument Against the Executive Order

The various States and Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) argued that the Georgia federal court properly decided the cases, but their arguments differed. The State plaintiffs argued that President Biden exceeded his authority because the Procurement Act does not authorize sweeping changes to governmental operation, it certainly does not authorize extensive health and safety requirements for private companies within their borders. ABC instead relied on the Supreme Court's opinion striking down OSHA's vaccine-or-test mandate regulation and argued that President Biden simply does not have the authority to issue the testing mandate.

What's Next?

The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals has scheduled arguments for April 8, 2022. Once arguments take place, that court could rule at any time. And, then there are still pending appeals from Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, and Florida which will have to be considered. Ultimately, it seems unlikely that there will be a uniform application of the federal contractor vaccine mandate until after the Supreme Court has weighed in on the matter. ■

Craig Martin is a construction attorney with Lamson Dugan & Murray, LLP law firm in Omaha, Nebraska, and a member of the collaborative Johnson Team. The Johnson Team consists of a group of specialists serving LICA members on matters of significance – planning, protection, and preservation of their businesses and families. If you have any questions, Craig's e-mail is cmartin@ldmlaw.com.



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CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2023 Is Just Around the Corner..

By ALLISON HACK, LICA Director of Communications

It is hard to believe, but CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2023 is only a year away. It seems like only yesterday we scrambling to get home at the very beginning of the pandemic. LICA's 20'x 20' booth will be relocated in the new West Hall Lobby. The new location is advantageous to signing-up new membership, near an entrance, seminars and the food court, there will be plenty of foot traffic! This will be the fifth consecutive time we will exhibit at this show.

Through the years this show has been a tremendous source for LICA to identify with the construction industry and to promote our brand.

CONEXPO-CON/AGG Unveils New Logo, Brand Identity

CONEXPO-CON/AGG, is the premier event that connects experts from every major construction sector, unveiled



a new brand identity and tag line, *Taking Construction to the Next Level.*

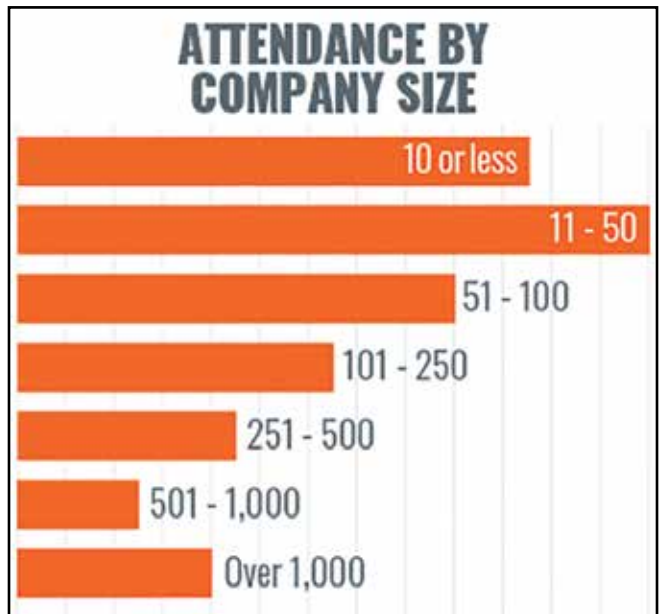
The updated branding reflects the growth and momentum of the construction industry and the role the exhibition plays in connecting innovators, equipment manufactures and construction professionals. Held every three years in Las Vegas, CONEXPO-CON/AGG is North America's largest construction trade show featuring the latest construction equipment and technology applications for the industry.

"The launch of a new identity for CONEXPO-CON/AGG reflects how the show and our industry has evolved and what it aspires to be in the future," said Dana Wuesthoff, vice

president exhibitions and event services at the Association of Equipment Manufacturers and CONEXPO-CON/AGG show director. “The forward motion of the logo matches the forward motion of the show, where construction professionals experience the latest equipment, participate in demonstrations and education, make new professional connections, and grow their own marketability within the industry.”

The forward-pointing arrows indicate progress and momentum, while the deepening colors represent growth. The tread-like arrangement of the arrows conveys traction and making a mark on the construction industry. This is the first complete overhaul of the CONEXPO-CON/AGG identity since CONEXPO and CON-AGG combined in 1996.

“It’s been exciting to see the construction industry grow and evolve in so many ways since the shows combined and we launched our previous logo for CONEXPO-CON/AGG in 2005,” continued Wuesthoff. “The show’s brand identity is evolving to match what CONEXPO-CON/AGG is today and in the future. CONEXPO-CON/AGG remains North America’s number one event that construction pros consider to be the best place to connect with opportunities, equipment and products that advance their businesses, and this new brand image helps us translate that mission to the future of the industry.”



About the Show:

CONEXPO-CON/AGG is the largest construction trade show in North America and the premier event that connects professionals from every major construction sector.



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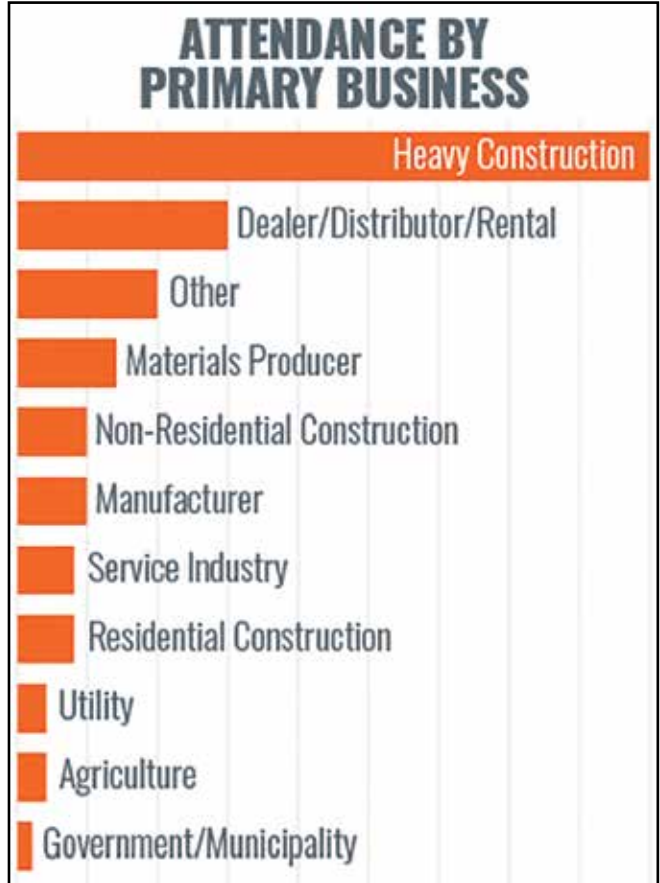
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Held every three years, CONEXPO-CON/AGG takes the construction industry to the next level by helping construction professionals elevate their industry expertise, experience the newest equipment and products through demonstrations and industry-leading education, make new professional connections, and grow their own marketability within the industry. The next CONEXPO-CON/AGG will be held March 14-18, 2023 in Las Vegas, Nevada. For more information on CONEXPO-CON/AGG, visit <https://www.conexpoconagg.com>.

About the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)

AEM is the North America-based international trade group representing off-road equipment manufacturers and suppliers with more than 1,000 companies and more than 200 product lines in the agriculture and construction-related industry sectors worldwide. The equipment manufacturing industry in the United States supports 2.8 million jobs and contributes roughly \$288 billion to the economy every year. AEM is a co-owner and operator of CONEXPO-CON/AGG.

The LICA 400' booth will be located in the new West Hall lobby #WL2000



CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2023 West Hall & Diamond Lot (Mar 14 - Mar 18, 2023) Log In

CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2023 West Hall & Diamond Lot

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WL2002

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LICA Booth Location # WL2000



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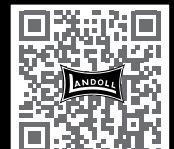


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National LICA Goes on the Road

By: ALLISON HACK, Director of Communications

In the first part of 2022, the National LICA Team was on the road, attending the Nebraska, Missouri and Illinois State Chapter Winter Conventions. Caroline Krug, Assistant to the C.E.O. and Allison Hack, Director of Communications were eager to join LICA members in their State Chapters and see what each convention was all about.

Allison and Caroline packed a car and set out for Kearney, Nebraska on a sunny January morning. Nebraska LICA had a variety of education classes which included topics like: workers' compensation and construction law. LICA Associates, Machinery Trader and BusyBusy, presented on the benefits that they offer our membership. Members were quite attentive in each class, asking questions and interacting with each presenter.

That evening, Caroline and Allison attended the Nebraska



Patti McArdle

LICA Awards Banquet, where Patti McArdle was honored for serving as the Executive Director for 23 years. There were several people that spoke about Patti's dedication to LICA. The evening concluded with Big Iron running a live auction. Contractor and associate members donated a plethora of items to be auctioned and the proceeds went to scholarships and Nebraska LICA.

Past Nebraska President's in attendance



Rick Vlach, Ted Lashley, Harry Hauschild, Current President Jon Schueth, Steve Kriewald, Lawrence Fischer, Patti, Jim Pruss, Jim Wemhoff, Brad McArdle, Rod Hooker, Ray Cooney, and Kenneth Porter.

Missing Norma Lashley, Charlie Llyod, and Wes Malone, Ivan Regier.

Nebraska LICA is dedicated to helping future contractors and presented scholarships to students enrolled in the Heavy Equipment Operator Training Program from Central



Caroline Krug, Assistant to the C.E.O., informing members about the LICA Safety Manual.

Community College. The scholarships were a "surprise" for the students, and they were extremely grateful for Nebraska LICA's support. The exhibit hall was bustling with Nebraska Associates' that afternoon. The exhibitors and contractor members were busy networking and the rest of the day seemed to fly by.

When the Nebraska LICA Convention came to a close, the national team headed to Columbia, Missouri. Caroline and Allison arrived just in time for the Missouri LICA Exhibit Hall, which was in full swing. Many exhibitors and members donated auction items to raise money for the Missouri LICA Memorial Scholarship and the LICA Educational Foundation for Veterans. Bruce Mosier of Prins Insurance and Tim Rozendaal of Precision Intakes, manned the microphones for the live auction. Missouri members bid on everything from tool kits to clothing and the auction was very successful.

The National LICA Team was ready to go the next morning, after such a great introduction to Missouri. Allison and Caroline were able to attend a seminar called "Three Seconds Later", presented by Craig Potts of The Drain Tile Safety Coalition. This was a heart-wrenching story about a farmer hitting a natural gas line in Dixon, Illinois and the aftermath that followed. The video really hit home about the importance of always "Call Before you Dig."

That afternoon, Caroline, presented on "Selling a LICA Membership" to current Missouri members. She discussed some of the national benefits we offer: safety programs, equipment discounts and new technology. Caroline told attendees that highlighting each of these programs will encourage non-members to sign-up. She reiterated that the intangible benefits of being a LICA member are often overlooked. The networking and exchanging of ideas within the association, is a benefit by itself and you can't put a price on that. At the



Allison Hack, Director of Communications, Presenting the National LICA Benefits.



Chris Brauer, Region 4 Vice President, speaking at the Illinois LICA Welcome Luncheon.

end of the hour, it had become a discussion and everyone in the room was focused on the benefits, tangible and intangible, within LICA.

That evening, Missouri members and the national team, dressed in business casual attire, took their seats for the Awards Banquet. The room was full of chatter about the convention: the classes, meetings and exhibits were a complete success. After the awards it was time to get in the competitive spirit! People were divided into teams and the night ended with a Cornhole Tournament. Some members undeniably had some skills, while others were there just to have a good time.

The National LICA Team was all set to visit Springfield, Illinois that following week – but the weather had other plans. A snowstorm ripped across the Midwest and Illinois LICA had to delay their convention. But, in true LICA fashion, the convention was rescheduled and Illinois carried on! Caroline and Allison headed to Springfield, luckily without any snowfall, and they arrived safely.

Illinois LICA hosted members and non-members at their Septic Training, which gained them 3 CEUs (Continuing Education Credits). Caroline was invited to speak during one of their breaks about LICA and how it can benefit your business. She went into detail about how the LICA Contractor Safety Manual could save you thousands in fines and by using BusyBusy Time-Tracking Tool, you can add to your bottom line. After the seminar, Caroline was able to catch up with a non-member. He had questions about the Safety

Manual and how it could help his employer. Caroline was happy to answer his questions and encouraged him to join Illinois LICA.

At the “National LICA Benefits” presentation, Illinois members listened intently while Allison discussed where to find the benefits and what each one offered.

The Welcome Luncheon was packed and Chris Brauer, National Region 4 Vice President, shared updates from National LICA to the audience. A representative from the Illinois Association of Drainage Districts also shared his thoughts during the meal.

Illinois LICA really knows how to host an Awards Banquet, the ballroom was decorated beautifully, and the “LICA Green” was front and center. Following the awards presentation and dinner, was an act by mentalist, Jym Elders, who dazzled the audience with his insight.

Each State Chapter Convention was unique in its own way, but the same theme runs throughout: education, networking, safety and the LICA Family. Every chapter had a variety of classes: from septic training to self-defense. At each event there were always opportunities to network and learn something new. Safety is the bedrock of this association and all the State Chapters take pride in sharing safety procedures, rules and how to implement them. Caroline and Allison saw many new faces, and were welcomed with open arms in each state. Which proves once again we aren’t just an association – but family as well. ■

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St. Charles, MO • Ameristar Casino & Spa

Room Rate: \$179/night • FREE Garage Parking

Tuesday, July 12

9:00 am - 5:00 pm Tour (TBA)

Wednesday, July 13

9:00 am - 5:00 pm Tour (TBA)

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Executive Committee

Thursday, July 14

9:00 am - 2:00 pm Ladies' Tour

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Educational Seminars

6:00 pm - 6:45 pm Associates' Meeting

7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Associates' Night
"1904 Worlds' Fair"

Friday, July 15

8:00 am Breakfast

9:00 am - 5:00 pm Committee Meetings

12:00 pm Lunch

3:45 pm - 4:45 pm Region Meetings

6:00 pm - 10:30 pm Cardinals Game

Saturday, July 16

8:00 am Breakfast

10:00 am - 11:00 am Board Meeting

12:30 pm Lunch



Just west of St. Louis you'll find St. Charles, a river city with a unique historical perspective, beautiful sites and a pace just a little slower than that of the big city. Just a five minute drive from the Ameristar, members will be enchanted by the quaint and historical town of St. Charles. Restaurants, shops, and historical attractions. LICA can see the first Missouri State Capital Site or visit the Lewis & Clark Boat House & Museum.

Of course we are planning LICA tours as well: Grant's Farm, visiting downtown St. Louis and more is in the works. Watch for more details in the coming months on LICANational.org.



Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

Friday, July 15 : Reds @ Cardinals

Join us for America's favorite past time at Busch Stadium in St. Louis. Watch for Summer Meeting registration to sign-up.



Congress/States Shortsighted in Efforts to Reduce Federal Gas Tax

By NICK YAKSICH, LICA Director of Government Relations

Temporarily cutting or repealing the federal motor fuel user fees that support the nation's transportation network has been a recurring dialogue for more than 20 years. Moreover, the correlation of these maneuvers to their desired outcome—immediate price relief at the gas pump—is uncertain at best.

Legislation introduced recently in the Senate to temporarily suspend the \$18.3-cent-per-gallon federal gasoline user fee and alter the carefully-negotiated revenue structure that will pay for the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) three months after enactment is shortsighted and misguided.

According to a 2020 study from the Transportation Investment Advocacy Center (TIAC), 29 states made changes to their motor fuel user fee rates—both increases and decreases—from 2013 to 2018. A total of 113 adjustments were made, ranging from one-time increases approved by state legislatures to automatic changes for variable rates based on formulas written into law. Of the 113 changes, the rate increased 75 times and decreased 38 times. Notably, the report found that on average, one-third of an increase—or decrease—was passed through to consumers in the retail price on the day that change takes effect, with no significant impact after that time. The

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results confirm previous research that suggest user fees are just one component of a complex pricing scheme that includes consideration of the price of crude oil and other factors.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget recently estimated it would cost roughly \$20 billion to suspend the federal gas tax from March to December 2022. That's almost half

of the \$43 billion in total revenue the Congressional Budget Office expects the Highway Trust Fund to raise in the next year; the excise tax on diesel fuel would still be in effect as the proposal does not call for suspending it. Rising prices will mean highway maintenance becomes more costly, so cutting highway funding by nearly half at a time when costs are higher makes little sense.

Furthermore, the Feb. 8 U.S. Energy Information Administration "Short-Term Energy Outlook" projects a 57 cent-per-gallon decline in gasoline prices over the next year. When put in real terms, this will reduce gasoline prices close to the historic lows reached during the heart of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. It must also be emphasized such a proposal would establish a precedent that the federal gas tax should be suspended during times of economic distress or when fuel prices are deemed too high. Such a practice would surround the largest single source of revenue for federal highway and public transportation investment with disruptive uncertainty.

The same industry groups that lobbied successfully for the record investment bill are now urging the Senate to resist this proposal which could open the door to unravelling the largest infrastructure package in American history and instead focus on delivering the first year of promised investments by completing the FY 2022 appropriations process.

It is a difficult time with mounting economic uncertainties. Congress must strongly consider the long-term consequences and not make decisions based on a short-term gain when it comes to infrastructure investment. ■

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CASE G Series Wheel Loaders Approved for Use with B20 Biodiesel

FPT Industrial announced at the National Biodiesel Conference & Expo that it has approved B20 biodiesel for use in its NEF4, NEF 6 and CURSOR Tier 4 Final diesel engines. This announcement makes all CASE Construction Equipment G Series wheel loaders approved for use with B20 biodiesel directly from the factory.

Wheel loaders in these size classes are used extensively in construction, public works, road and bridge construction, concrete and asphalt production, aggregates and agriculture. The announcement comes after extensive testing by FPT where it was confirmed that these engines performed comparably to the same engines powered by off-road diesel. The study highlighted no adverse effects to the engines. This approval is inclusive of the NEF 4 (4.5L), NEF 6 (6.7L) and CURSOR (8.7L) diesel engines already featured in CASE G Series wheel loaders.

“The push for renewable resources and reducing the carbon footprint of heavy equipment will include many technologies and approaches — biodiesel is one of the fastest and most efficient ways that we can benefit from renewable energy today,” says Terry Dolan, vice president – North America, CASE Construction Equipment. “FPT has long been at the forefront of off-road diesel engine technology built to lower emissions and reduce the carbon footprint — and the fact



Fiat Powertrain Technologies approves B20 for use in NEF 4 (4.5L), NEF 6 (6.7L) and CURSOR (8.7L) diesel engines.

that our diesel equipment that already features these engines can help contractors, municipalities and farms better achieve their renewable goals is a massive step forward.”

B20 biodiesel is the most prevalent blend of biodiesel available in North America. Even with this announcement, it is important that all owners of construction equipment consult with their dealer and the warranty of their equipment before using biodiesel in their machines.

This is the second major renewable energy announcement from CASE for commercially available equipment — who delivered the first electric backhoe loaders to customers in 2021. For more information on the full lineup of products and services from CASE, visit CaseCE.com. ■

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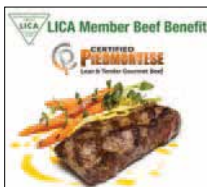
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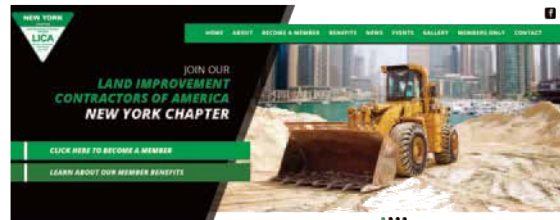
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	Nebraska			South Dakota	
Unidentified			Bryan VanderPol		1
		1		Virginia	
	New Jersey		Mack		1
Apprenticeship Program		5			
			Total		22

Market Watch

Morooka MST-2000VDL Tracked Carrier



The MST-2000VDL Morooka rubber track carrier features a channel frame rather than the standard box frame so owners do not have to weld on permanent attachments. The new

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The carrier's dimensions are 23 feet 4 inches long, 10 feet 6 inches wide, and 10 feet 2 inches high. Operating weight is 22,740 pounds.

It is powered by a 249-horsepower Cat C7.1 engine. Maximum load is 22,000 pounds, and ground pressure is 2.7 to 5.4 psi.

Morooka MST-2000VDL Specs:

- Length: 23 feet 4 in.
- Width: 10 feet 6 in.
- Height: 10 feet 2 in.
- Operating weight: 22,740 lb.
- Power: 249 hp
- Maximum load: 22,000 lb.
- Ground pressure: 2.7 to 5.4 psi

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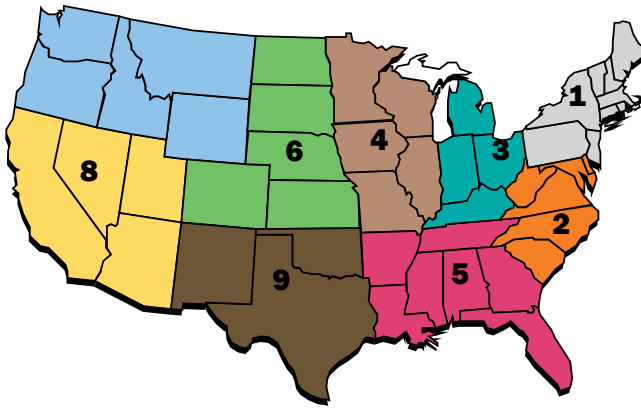
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Executive Directors Workshop Fall of 2019

Executive Directors meet twice a year during national meetings. In 2020 and 2021 they had a series of zoom meetings focusing on a wide variety of topics.

STATES WITH MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

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- Delaware
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- Texas
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