



Spring 2010

MLICA News

Michigan Land Improvement Contractors of America

Please check out the
Michigan LICA
Web site at
www.MichiganLICA.org.

Michigan LICA - Full Steam Ahead!

WOW! What a jam packed year it has been. If you've been wondering what has been going on, please read on!

For some of you, it has been a busy and trying spring, with a pretty good workload and some crazy weather in some parts of the state. From what I have been hearing, most of the drainage contractors have been busy and now what is coming off, so another wave of work should be starting. I am hearing that the commercial and residential contractors are picking up some work, but it's still not where we'd like to see it. As LICA members, we need to make sure we work with each other and try to send work to other contractors whenever possible. For example, many of the drainage contractors have excavators and can do larger pipe projects, but if it takes away from your drainage production, it may be wise to send that work to a fellow excavating contractor and keep moving ahead with the drainage work. Sometimes we fail to realize the benefit of networking together.

We would like to welcome all of the new members! Since we have been holding the **Regional Membership Meetings**, we have seen tremendous growth in membership. At last count we were at 41 members, up from 28 members a couple years ago. If you are a new member, WELCOME! And Thank You for joining LICA. You won't regret it.

The **GPS FIELD DAY** is quickly approaching! The dates are August 11 & 12th, so mark them on your calendar. It is being held in Elkton, MI, in the "thumb". It is a Wednesday and Thursday. We really need all members to attend and help out. The past events have went over great and I still run into random people that attended the past field days who were thoroughly impressed with our event. If you are a new member, please try to make the effort to attend. It may be a long ways to drive for some, but it is the best opportunity to get to meet the rest of the members and see what we do and what LICA can do for you!

Next Board Meeting
Field Day Committee
Wednesday July 21st at 1:00 PM
Field Day site
5171 Whalen St. Elkton, MI 48731

Michigan LICA Board Members

Chairman of the Board

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Associate Board Members

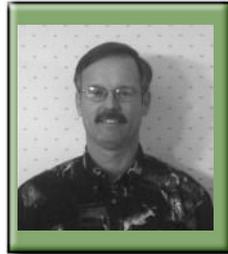
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Seth Mellott

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President's Desk



Presidents Report April News letter 2010

Spring is here and the best part this year is that we are now working for an industry that is the number one leading industry in Michigan, that is Agriculture. Our outlook for this year is great and we have the opportunity to support our communities with jobs and advance our business through this economic down turn. Talking with others in my communities they are amazed that we have a great year to look forward to.

The second round of Region LICA meetings went very well, our numbers were up and the support of all the Associate members involved was the most important part of our success. Will Word started the meetings in the South Region at D-P Equipment in Camden MI. They had over 20 members, guests and D-P Equipment employees attend. The next day Will and Jerry Biuso Sr. our National Executive Vice President from the National Land Improvement Contractors of America visited contractors in that area and explained the benefits to joining our organizations. That afternoon Jerry drove up to Saginaw the East Region Meeting sponsored by Michigan Cat and Co-Sponsored by Baughman Tile Co. of Paulding, Ohio to meet myself Russ Talaski. We had about 22 members attend, James Proffer sales rep. from Baughman Tile and the sales and staff of Michigan Cat. The meeting was very well accepted and we had a lot of questions that night. Jerry and I visited contractors in the Thumb area the next day and Jerry left to attend the Central Region Meeting at AIS Equipment in Lansing and meet with Mike Pennington. They had about 21 members, contractors, sales staff and employees of AIS Equipment attend. The next day Mike Cook and Jerry visited contractors in the Lansing area and that afternoon Jerry drove to Grand Rapids to attend the West Region Meeting sponsored by JDE Equipment. They had about 20 contractors, members and the sales and staff of JDE Equipment in attendance. Trevor Young and Jerry visited contractors in that area and Jerry flew back home.

As we talked to contractors and the Sponsors of these meetings we are very encouraged to have another round of meetings in July of this year with local topics to be entertained

Have a Safe and Prosperous Spring
MI LICA President Russell Talaski

Legislative Report June 2010

Scott Everett, Director
MLICA Government Relations
517-204-3328
Everett.erm@earthlink.net



SB 1012 Sponsors-- Senators: Jim Barcia - (primary) Gerald Van Woerkom, Mark Jansen, Mike Nofs, John Gleason, Alan Cropsey, Cameron Brown, Roger Kahn

The bill exempts Personal Property Tax on equipment used to install field tile for agricultural purposes on qualified agricultural land. Introduced on 12-8-09, Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. **MLICA Supports.**

HB 5984 Sponsors—Representatives: Kevin Daley (primary) Tyler, Pavlov, Huckleberry, Bryum, Hansen, Mayes, Espinoza, Kurtz, Meltzer, Haase, Barnett, Liss, Proos, DeShazor, Denby, Bolger, Nerat, Genetski, Sheltroun, Valentine, and Stamas.

- The bill also exempts Personal Property Tax on equipment used to install field tile for agricultural purposes on qualified agricultural land. **Introduced on 3-23-10- Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture. MLICA SUPPORTS**
- Discussion taking place to expand the legislation to include exemption beyond field tile to include any conservation type work taking place.

August 11-12 2010 Field Day

Invitations are going out to legislators to attend. Any MLICA member that would like to invite their legislator or a candidate for state elected office, please feel free to do so.



MLICA Legislative Day

Submitted by :
Mike Pennington
Michigan LICA Board
Member

On March 1st --myself along with MLICA Board Members Russ Talaski and Trevor Young traveled to Lansing to make legislative contacts with our MLICA Legislative Director, Scott Everett.

Prior to this day I didn't know really what to expect. Like you, I spend my days moving dirt and let others worry about having meetings. But, since I've been elected to the MLICA Board, talking to legislators comes with the job, that's what I was told anyway.

The day was not what I expected, I kind of thought we'd end up talking mostly about legislation or a bunch of things I didn't understand. That didn't turn out to be the case. I found both legislators and their staffers to be very interested in what we do and about the business that we are in. They asked about what ideas we had that would help us to improve our businesses. You know, the type of things you sit in the excavator and sometimes think about-- but don't have anyone to tell. So, Russ, Trevor and me made the most out of letting them know what was on our minds.

We met with Senator Jim Barcia and his Chief of Staff , Brandon Dillion about Senate Bill 1012 that would exempt Personal Property Tax on our equipment used for an agricultural purpose.

Next, we met with Senator Gerald VanWoerkom's staff Jeff Cobb and Derek Bagma, to further talk about our industry, along with the arguments for and against our legislation. I found both of these guys very sharp, wanting to know everything because they wanted to help us.

We also met with Representative Kevin Daley. Representative Daley is in his first term and what a great visit we had with him. Representative Daley is a farmer from Lapeer County, so we had a good long visit about agricultural drainage because he knew exactly what we were talking about. Representative Daley is going to also sponsor the personal property tax exemption bill in the House.

Overall, an unexpected and successful day, the type of thing I am convinced we need to do more of. If we don't take the time to visit with our elected officials-- even just about what we do everyday, nobody else is going too.

Next year when you see the date for the MLCA legislative day, take the time to make the trip to Lansing.



Michigan LICA March Region Meetings



Eastern Region Meeting at Michigan Caterpillar in Saginaw.



Department of Transportation speakers give information about oversized load permits.



Central Region meeting at the AIS Lansing facility.



Members and guests getting information at the Central Region meeting.



Southern Region met at D-P Equipment in Camden.



Western Region meeting at JDE in Grand Rapids.

*Submitted by:
Russ Talaski*

Hotel Information for GPS Field Days August 11-12, 2010

Bad Axe is only about 15 minutes from the field day site in Elkton. Keep in mind that there is a big festival in Caseville, only a few miles from Bad Axe, so lodging may be scarce. If you are planning on staying at a campground, contact Russ soon, because they fill up with advance reservations as well. Also remember, we will need extra help one day before and after the event to help with set-up and tear-down duties. So, plan your hotel stays accordingly. Michigan LICA has blocked rooms at the Holiday Inn Express . Econ Lodge is also listed below.

Holiday Inn Express
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Bad Axe, MI. 48413
Ph. 989-269-5293 email gmalchow@juno.com

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Ph. 989-269-3200

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Camp Grounds Information Call Russ Talaski (989) 479-9340 or (989) 550-1889

2010 Field Day Update

The GPS Field Day is moving along. We installed an eight inch main through the field west of the site because it will be planted into sugar beets in the next few days.

Again the days are August 10 setup , August 11 and 12 for the field day show and August 13 to clean up.

If you can help in any way call me at 989-550-1889 or I Will Be Calling You.

Thank-You,
Russ Talaski

LICA Family News



An Update From Dave Gordon:

Friends & Family.....Well I went to the see a Dr. Chen at U of M in Ann Arbor on the 6th of May. I was referred to them by my, Dr.Fouts from Ft. Wayne, In. I was able to take along all my records from 11 months ago when I was first diagnosed. They, (U of M), did a high resolution cat scan on my lungs. The results were not positive. My disease has advanced to a degree of only 48 % lung elasticity or volume. They also saw more scaring and more honey combing compared to my last scan. This means according to the Dr. my lungs are not getting any better. and their lung transplant cut off date is 62 yrs. old. They claim their research and studies prove that anyone over 62 years old doesn't have much success with transplants. Plus the patient has to be in very good physical condition. Some good news is that they want me in a research program ASAP! To see what they can do for me, and learn as much information as possible about me and my family and work history. They also want me to continue to loose weight and enter me in a pulmonary exercise program that I can do at Hillsdale Comm. Health Center.

So to sum it al up, I have already lost 22 lbs. I still have a lung disease. But I know the God that created me is still on His Throne and He still cares and loves me and will continue to do his good work in me until the day of His return. Phil: 1:6

Please keep **Steve Cook** in your thoughts and prayers. Steve just underwent brain surgery to remove a tumor July 8th. I talked to Rob and he said the operation went better than expected and Steve was doing GREAT. He was even home 3 days later. He will have to try to take it easy for about 6 weeks, but we know how hard that will be for someone like Steve! Hopefully he will be doing well enough to stop in at the field day in Elkton.

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Submitted by :
Internet

A man and his wife were awakened at 3:00 am by a loud pounding on the door. The man gets up and goes to the door where a drunken stranger, standing in the pouring rain, is asking for a push.

"Not a chance," says the husband, "it is 3:00 in the morning!" He slams the door and returns to bed. "Who was that?" asked his wife. "Just some drunk guy asking for a push," he answers. "Did you help him?" she asks. "No, I did not, it is 3:00 in the morning and it is pouring rain out there!" "Well, you have a short memory," says his wife. "Can't you remember about three months ago when we broke down, and those two guys helped us?" I think you should help him, and you should be ashamed of yourself! God loves drunk people too."

The man does as he is told, gets dressed, and goes out into the pounding rain. He calls out into the dark, "Hello, are you still there?" "Yes," comes back the answer. "Do you still need a push?" calls out the husband.

"Yes, please!" comes the reply from the dark. "Where are you?" asks the husband.

"Over here on the swing set," replied the drunk.

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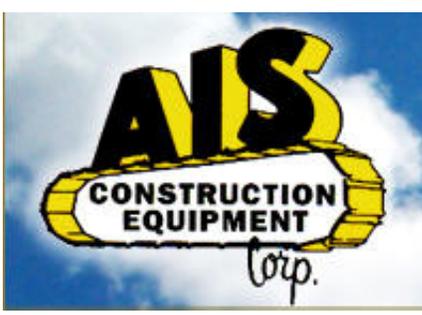



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Michigan LICA on the Move!

After a great turnout at the annual convention, we are happy to report the attendance at the latest round of regional meetings was also well attended and a wonderful improvement over the first region meetings held last August. The goal of the region meetings is to get the word out about LICA and to provide more value and information to the members. By holding the meetings around the state, members and guest don't have to travel far to attend a meeting. At the meetings we will continue to focus on education, safety, profitability and networking. The Board is excited about the response from the members and associates and are planning on continuing to hold these regional meetings quarterly as long as there is interest.

We plan to continue to work with the associates on hosting the locations as long as they are willing. We also want to focus on having speakers there that will make it worth your time and effort in attending. Some of the topics being discussed are trucking issues, work site safety and OSHA compliance, insurance, small business topics and many more.

At the last round of meetings we recruited several new members and associates. We also signed up 3 new Drain Commissioners under the new "Supporting Member" category!

You don't have to be a member to attend either, and if you are a member, try to bring along a fellow contractor to show them what Michigan LICA has to offer.



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Submitted by:
Will Word

Send suggestions and
info to me at
(517) 368-5931
Or e-mail to
wconfd@frontiernet.net

Editors Note:

Well, if time flies when you're having fun, I must be having a blast. I apologize for the timeliness (or lack there of) of the newsletter. Being busy in business is a good thing, but it has been a struggle to keep up on the extras. I have several pages of new information to get into the newsletter and new members introduce, so be looking for that in the next edition. I hope you enjoy this issue, and I will do my best to keep them coming.

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Editors note:
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2010 Event Calendar

July

Michigan LICA Regional Meetings

- Monday 5th - Southern Region
6:00 PM Seybert's Kubota - Coldwater
- Tuesday 6th - East Region
6:00 PM Michigan Cat - Saginaw
- Wednesday 7th - Central Region
6:00 PM AIS - Lansing
- Thursday 8th - West Region
6:00PM JDE - Grand Rapids

21 Field day committee meeting -
1:00 pm - onsite in Elkton

August

11-12 Field Day - Elkton,MI

November

3 Board Meeting -
Location: Scott Everett's Office

January 2011

10-11 Michigan LICA
Annual meeting
Lansing, MI

Industry and Associate Websites

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

<http://www.michigan.gov/>

<http://www.micountyroads.org/page.cfm/22/>

<http://www.michigan.gov/mdot>

<http://www.truckingsafety.org/>

<http://www.michiganfarmbureau.com/>

<http://michiganlica.org/>

<http://www.licanational.com/>

<http://www.drainage.org/>

<http://www.bigodrain.ca/>

<http://www.agpsinc.com/>

<http://d-outlet.cfans.umn.edu/>

<http://www.bronrwf.com/>

<http://www.aisequip.com>

<http://www.jdeequip.com/>

<http://www.baughmantile.com/>

<http://www.mayanagency.com>

<http://dpequipment.com>

Michigan Legislature
Michigan Government
Seasonal county weight restrictions
Michigan DOT website
Michigan Center for Truck Safety
MI Farm Bureau
Michigan LICA
National LICA
LICO (Ontario)
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