

MLICA Scoop

LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ~ MICHIGAN CHAPTER

2017 ISSUE 1

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From the Lead Plow, Trevor Young, President MLICA

Happy Spring MLICA members & associates,

I hope everyone has had a good winter. It sure was a mild one. Not good for those of us who enjoy winter sports, but I'm sure most didn't mind it. Lots of things have been happening since our winter convention that can have an impact on our industry. On Feb. 28th President Trump signed an executive order, mandating that the EPA revamp their WOTUS policy. Personally, I believe this could be a great step for agriculture. I hope it will force governmental deregulation and put the waters back to the individual property owners and states. Second, HB4167 was introduced and supported by our own Russ Talaski last week in Lansing. This bill will allow for longer trailer lengths in Michigan. Tile companies would be able to haul bigger loads, thus keeping costs down. (Don't forget to remind your tile salesman of this.)

Most importantly, Mike Cook has become the new VP of National LICA!!!! Congrats, Mike. Make sure all of you take the time to call him or shoot him an email of congratulations. This means that Mike will be our National President when Michigan hosts the Summer Convention in 2018. What a great honor for Mike and our State Chapter.

Well, I hope everyone is ready for spring work. It is always a stressful and hectic time of year, but by far my favorite season. We are all itching to get busy in the fields again. Remember, be safe and keep in touch with Scott Everett's "Lansing Matters". In today's time of changing rules and regulations we all need to stay informed and proactive for the betterment of our businesses.

Until next time, happy tiling,

Trevor Young



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Diary of an Executive Director

With the end of Con Expo and National LICA's Winter Convention, convention season has come to a close. Many of you were able to work in the fields this winter, which is a bit unusual. National Convention in Las Vegas was an exciting time for Michigan LICA, as Russ Talaski accepted the role of National LICA Region 3 Vice

Adam Cook,
pictured top
right, nominating
his father,
Mike Cook,
pictured
bottom
right.



President, since Mike Cook was voted to become National Vice President. Mike is extremely proud to follow in his father, John Cook's footsteps.

Congratulations to both Russ and Mike! To see a video of Mike's nomination and acceptance speech, you can find the link on the Michigan LICA website or Facebook page.

It was great that so many were able to make it to Lansing in January for MLICA's Annual Winter Convention!

Sunday night was a great start to convention, with the board members meeting followed by the 2nd annual cornhole tournament. Special thanks to Chuck & Bonnie Braje for donating trophies for first and second place, as well as Jason Bleach and everyone who brought cornhole boards. Monday included several educational seminars. **If you missed Scott Everett's legislative update session, make sure to read his article on sales tax exemption, which you can find on page 11.** Thank you to all of you for your continued support in making our auction great by donating and bidding on items!

I look forward to seeing all of you this summer in Colorado Springs and at the Michigan LICA Summer Picnic & Field Day!

UPCOMING EVENTS

2017 National LICA Summer Meeting

Hotel Eleganté
Colorado Springs, Colorado
July 11 – 16

Go to www.licanational.com for the link to make your hotel reservations.

2017 Michigan LICA Summer Picnic & Field Day

August 11th & 12th

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2017 MLICA Winter Convention Highlights



Morgan Cook building her leadership skills by talking with others and telling them how she wants things done.



MLICA's 2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament
Left: Adam Cook and Jason Bleach awarding **second place** trophies to Randy Nosek and Eric Wilson
Right: Adam Cook and Jason Bleach awarding **first place** trophies to Travis Holdwick and Ben Cook



Kim Cook chatting with Joann & Russ Talaski during the cornhole tournament.



Nate Cook, reliable for his technical support, even for new phones.

Troy Warweg & Steve Gerten watching the cornhole tournament and catching up on what happened throughout the year.



Representative Triston Cole speaking to convention attendees; stressing the need to know your representatives.



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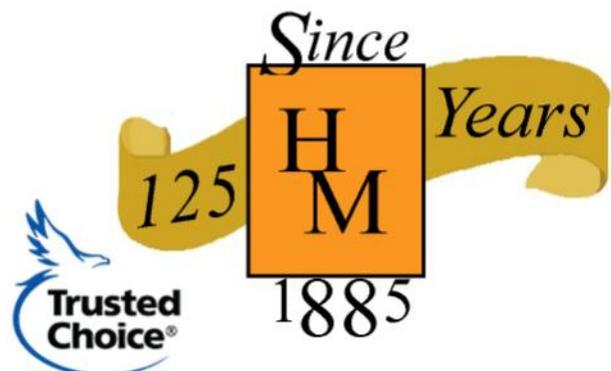
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Michigan LICA Members Attend Con Expo 2017 Submitted by Will Word

Con Expo only happens every 3 years, and several Michigan contractors and employees made the journey to Las Vegas this year. I traveled out there with Dave Kemp and one of his employees, John. Once there, we met up with several other Kemp family members and employees, as well as Mike and Larry Cook and their families.

Prior to the construction show was the National LICA meeting where I had the honor of casting one of Michigan's votes to elect Mike Cook as National Vice President. It's safe to say that Mike has dedicated his life to LICA and it is nice to see him advancing in the ranks at National level. Next step.....National President! Hats off to Adam for his moving nomination speech.

As for the show, if you've never been to Con Expo, mark your calendars for 2020! It is amazing. This year there was 2.8 million square feet of exhibition area! Anything and everything related to construction was there. The most impressive thing to me is the large sky cranes and off road equipment that they move in and set up just for this show. Attendance this year was near 128,000 people, with 26,000 international attendees from 150 different countries. There were over 2,800 exhibitors.

One of the new additions this year was the technology area. There was an excavator that had a 3-D printed boom as well as a 3-D printed cab! Drones and wearable hologram computers were also on display and available to try out.



(Continued on next page)

Some highlights for me were seeing the cast of “Gold Rush,” randomly bumping in to the Cooks at such a giant place, and seeing RWF Bron’s new Mean Green 550 Plow. We also had the pleasure of dining with Eric Baughman and James Proffer from Baughman Tile Company and had a special invitation to the AIS suite at the Winn Hotel.

If you get the chance to go, you won’t regret it. It is a fun, insightful, yet exhausting week, but well worth it!



**Congratulations
to Haley Talaski
for being voted
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President and
receiving the State
Horticultural
Award and State
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Lansing Matters: From the Desk of Scott Everett

Tile Trucks:

House Bill 4167 amends Section 2 of the Michigan Vehicle Code, which sets the maximum length of vehicles and combinations of vehicles operated on a highway. The bill adds an additional subsection to apply only to trucks and trailers transporting agricultural drainage tubing, and restricts them to a maximum length of 75 feet.

Specifically, the bill adds subsection (j) to restrict truck and trailer combinations designed and used to transport agricultural drainage tubing to a maximum length of 75 feet, and exempts such vehicles from subsection (e), which provides a maximum length for a truck and semitrailer or trailer of 59 feet.

MLICA supported this legislation in the House Agriculture Committee, the bill passed the full House 97 - 11.



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Michigan Sales and Use Tax Law Amended By Scott Everett

HB 5889 (Sales Tax) HB 5890 (Use Tax) were both introduced by Representative Dan Lauwers in September and were signed into law by the Governor on 12/31/16 into Public Acts 431 and 432 of 2016.

There are two significant changes to the Sales and Use Tax Laws that involve MLICA Member Businesses.

FIRST:

Drainage Tile has been exempt from Sales Tax for a number of years. However, the law was unclear as to if a contractor was eligible to buy drainage tile sales tax free versus a farmer. The law is now clear. It doesn't matter who buys the drainage tile, so long as it's used for an agricultural purpose, it is exempt from both sales and use tax.

NEW LANGUAGE:

THIS EXEMPTION ALSO INCLUDES THE SALE OR ACQUISITION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND TILE, PORTABLE GRAIN BINS, AND GRAIN HANDLING EQUIPMENT PURCHASED OR ACQUIRED BY A PERSON IN THE BUSINESS OF CONSTRUCTING, ALTERING, REPAIRING, OR IMPROVING REAL ESTATE FOR OTHERS TO THE EXTENT THAT IT IS AFFIXED TO OR MADE A STRUCTURAL PART OF REAL ESTATE USED BY THAT PERSON FOR A PURPOSE EXEMPT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

SECOND: *And probably a more significant change that will benefit MLICA Members.*

Historically, all equipment purchased for agricultural production is exempt from sales and use tax. Equipment used to install drainage tile for farmland drainage was not part of the description of equipment eligible to be exempt. That has changed.

The word "*draining*" was inserted and is now part of the description of equipment eligible to be exempt from the Michigan Sales and Use Tax:

NEW SALES AND USE TAX LAW (Excerpt):

Sec. 4. (1) The following are exempt from the tax levied under this act, subject to subsection (2): (f) Property sold to a person engaged in a business enterprise and using and consuming the property in the tilling, planting, **DRAINING**, caring for, or harvesting of the things of the soil, . . .

LAST:

This package of legislation did NOT receive Immediate Effect. Public Acts 431 and 432 of 2016 go into effect on **3/29/2017**



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Buckeye-Link 175 Plow

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The Story Of Michigan LICA's Traveling Dozer

Submitted by Dave Auernhamer

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S.J. Hecksel Memorial Auction Item

For the benefit of supplemental funding for legislative activity and action, the 2010 Michigan LICA board came up with an idea and plan to present a fund raising auction. Board member, Trevor Young, from Ravenna, approached his aunt and uncle, Ruth Ann and Sherman Hecksel, with the concept of making an auction item donation. The Hecksels have retired, but remain in contact and have made appearances at LICA events. The camaraderie and memories of past relationships stimulated the desire to remain in touch with the Michigan chapter.

While attending a national LICA convention in the early 2000's, the Hecksel's became recipients of a wooden model of a CAT ripper bulldozer. The scaled model was crafted by a hobby artist, befriended for the Illinois LICA chapter. The assembly is sharply contrasted with varieties of wood and grain patterns. Its display shows hours of thought, reflecting the artisan's appreciation for the mechanics of the machine. Intricate detail and precision reflect the patience and passion for this work. The model graced a focal area in the Hecksel home for years.

Sherm and Ruth Ann made a decision to donate this model artifact to the Michigan LICA in memory of their son S.J. (Sherman John) Hecksel. S.J. was taken from them in a tragic accident on February 1, 1998. To appease the memories of their family loss, they donated this model to accentuate the memories and relationships they've garnered over the years with their LICA family. Though bitter sweet, the model's repeated sale and display give credible opportunity to memorialize and acknowledge the valuable, intangible benefits of being a LICA family member.



To preserve and protect the integrity of the model, Bill Holdwick, from Harbor Beach, crafted a glass case and mount platform to properly house the treasure.

Michigan LICA's Traveling Dozer

Honoree Recipient Displayers

2013	Mike Cook	Mike paid \$750 for the honor of being the first to display the S.J. Hecksel Memorial Dozer
2014	RWF	RWF paid \$2200, while various members paid a total of \$1600 as insurance that the dozer would return
2015	Charlie Braje	Various members paid \$2600, while RWF paid \$1000 and requested for Charlie Braje to display
2016	John Cook	Northland Trenching Equipment paid \$2000, while various members paid a total of \$2000 and requested for John Cook to display
2017	Ruben Auernhamer	Northland Trenching Equipment paid \$1200, while various members and associates paid another \$1600 and requested for Ruben Auernhamer to display



2010 Bron 450 PU



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 - Ben Cook (810) 650-0403

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Dave Auernhamer accepting MLICA's S.J. Hecksel Memorial Traveling Dozer for his father Ruben Auernhamer.



Ruben Auernhamer pictured with family telling him the history behind MLICA's S.J. Hecksel Memorial Traveling Dozer.



Michigan Land Improvement Contractors Association

Sarah Cook, Executive Director

scook@michiganlica.org

517-282-1083

4372 S. Wright Road

Westphalia, MI 48894

Mike Cook, Secretary/Treasurer

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MLICA Lansing Office

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The MLICA Scoop is the official publication of the Michigan Land Improvement Contractors Association, dedicated to the professional conservation of soil and water.

The MLICA Scoop welcomes letters, subject to editing for accuracy and brevity. The MLICA Scoop also welcomes articles relevant to the land improvement industry. All letters and articles can be emailed to scook@michiganlica.org. Please include your name and phone number for verification purposes.