



Winter 2012

MLICA News

Michigan Land Improvement Contractors of America

LICA Legislation Signed Into Law

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



(L-R) Scott and Ella Everett, Dewey Pennington, Representative Kevin Daley, Mike Pennington, Governor Rick Snyder, Gene Izydorek, Will Word, Senator Mike Green, Mike Cook, Russ Talaski

Members of the MLICA Board of Directors traveled to Lansing in January to attend a bill signing ceremony for legislation that the organization has been working toward for nearly two years.

HB 4582 and SB 563 were signed by Governor Snyder into Public 289 and Public Act 290 of 2011. The legislation exempts equipment used to install drainage tile and equipment used to construct conservation techniques from the Personal Property Tax beginning in 2012.

MLICA would like to thank the sponsors of this legislation Representative Kevin Daley (Lapeer County) and Senator Mike Green (Thumb) for their leadership in making this happen.

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President's Desk



As 2011 comes to a close, I hope all of your businesses had a successful year. There is no question, Michigan's economy remains challenging and let's hope things will improve in 2012.

Speaking of 2012, please consider attending the 2012 MLICA Annual Meeting and better yet, please take the time to bring someone that has never attended before with you.

This years annual meeting is slated to take place January 8-9-10 at the same location it was at last year, Ramada Inn – Lansing. We have shortened the program up a bit in hopes we can attract more attendance. You will be receiving more details soon about the specific agenda but our intent is to have informational sessions that will do nothing but help your business.

For example, last year we had a speaker from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth that talked about unemployment insurance. Not just about how we have to provide it, but he went into details about exactly what we need to do and how to go about it to avoid someone drawing unemployment insurance that shouldn't be.

In addition, please consider spreading the word about the Michigan LICA Drain Water Management training taking place on January 10th.

We have also made great progress on the legislative front addressing personal property tax on equipment and we will have a complete update about what is going on legislatively.

Again, I hope you can attend this years annual meeting and more importantly bring someone along new with you.

Best Wishes,

Trevor Young, President



Contact **Chad Fullerton** at
the Bridgeport office at
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Chapter News

We welcome a new addition to the MLICA family, Morgan Ann Cook. She was born August 16th at 9:45 p.m. weighing 8 lbs 9.2 oz and stretching out to 22 inches long. Her proud parents, Nate & Sarah Cook, are excited for everyone to meet her at the convention January 9th, 2012.



2012 MLICA Field day

Mark your calendars for August 1 & 2, 2012 for the Michigan LICA Field day!

The field day will be held in the southern part of the state this year, in Jonesville. It will be held at the Pleasant View Dairy Farm, owned and operated by the Lewis family. This will be a great event drawing people from all over the tri-state area.

This year we are partnering with Michigan State University Extension, who will be demonstration manure management and application as well as various tillage and cover crop practices. The focus of the field day is to demonstrate a proactive approach to water quality in relation to drainage and nutrient management.

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More details will be provided as they are available.

Current partners are the Hillsdale County Drain Commission, Michigan NRCS, and the MSU Ag Extension Service.

Annual Michigan LICA convention



The annual winter convention was one of the best attended meetings in years. The convention itself was condensed into one day, with a special MLICA sponsored NRCS Technical Service Provider training and certification program. MLICA and the NRCS had joined together in coming up with a process of certifying contractors to do Drainage Water Management Plans for ag producers. This may be a valuable service for some contractors to offer their customers.



Monday was a full day of seminars, luncheon with the associates, annual meeting and evening banquet. The auction raised \$5,500 with \$1,700 of that being the JP Hecksel Memorial Dozer. This year members and associates joined together to bid on the memorial with it being decided to have Sherm Hecksel keep it for the year.



New MLICA Board of Directors

Mike Pennington was elected as the new MLICA President for 2012!

Rob Cook will serve as the Vice President, with Trevor Young stepping into the Chairman of the Board position. Dave Dunne and Russ Talaski offered to take another term on the board. We would like to congratulate the new officers and thank them for stepping up and leading us into a new year!



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Submitted by :

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Legislative Report March 2012



GVWR Amendment Has Legs

During the past two years, MLICA members have been subjected to changes in Federal law that has automatically applied to Michigan. Namely, vehicles used for business previously exempted as Commercial Vehicles became subjected to a wide variety of additional regulations.

There is legislation introduced in the House that may be on the fast track that will return the exemption to the way it was before:

House Bill 5228 Sponsor: Representative Greg MacMaster is currently before the House Transportation Committee.

HB 5228 amends the Motor Carrier Safety Act, to only apply the following commercial transportation:

- A vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating, combination weight rating, or combination gross weight rating of 26,001 or more pounds.
- A vehicle that transports hazardous materials that require
- A vehicle that is designed and used to transport more than 15 passengers, including the driver.

Meaning, anything under 26,000 combined GVWR and less than 15 passengers is exempt from Commercial Vehicle requirements.

MLICA fully supports HB 5228

LightSquared to Be Blocked by FCC After U.S. Interference Report

Todd Shields, ©2012 Bloomberg News

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

The U.S. Federal Communications Commission vowed to block LightSquared Inc. after the Obama administration found the wireless venture backed by hedge-fund billionaire Philip Falcone would disrupt navigation gear.

Federal agencies determined that LightSquared's signals interfere with global-positioning system devices, Tammy Sun, an FCC spokeswoman, said yesterday in an e-mailed statement. The FCC is preparing to withdraw the preliminary approval it granted last year for the company to build a high-speed network serving as many as 260 million people, Sun said.

"The commission clearly stated from the outset that harmful interference to GPS would not be permitted," Sun said. "The commission will not lift the prohibition on LightSquared." The FCC's action marks a blow to LightSquared and a setback for Falcone's Harbinger Capital Partners hedge fund, which has invested \$3 billion in the venture. It follows a yearlong lobbying fight between LightSquared and opposing GPS companies that featured a series of government tests denounced by LightSquared as flawed.

2011 Summer Picnic



The annual summer picnic was held at Reed Park in Gratiot County, near St Johns. It was a wonderful spot and 40-45 people attended. The weather was nice until a quick thunderstorm moved in towards the end of the day. The park had a nice playground, swimming area and a challenging Frisbee golf course. Trevor brought fresh sweet corn and Scott manned the grill. A short board meeting was held to discuss upcoming events such as convention, DWM training and the 2012 field day.



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2012 Event Calendar

March

19-23 Overholt Drainage School
Paulding, OH
27 Field Day committee meeting
9:00 AM Pleasant View Dairy - Jonesville

June

13 Wed. 5:30 PM - Board Meeting

July

10-14 National LICA Summer Meeting
Manhattan, Kansas
18 Wed. 5:30 PM - Board Meeting
30-31 Field Day set-up

August

1-2 MLICA Field Days - Jonesville, MI
1 - LICA Family Picnic @ field day location
3 - tear down/cleanup

October

17 Wed. 5:30 PM - Board Meeting

December

5 Wed. 5:30 PM - Board Meeting

January 2013

14-15 Annual MLICA convention

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