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From the Lead Plow, Ben Cook, President MLICA

Hello fellow MLICA members,

It's getting to be that time of the year again, where we're all get itching to get back out in the field again to start making some money instead of just spending it on repairs. I hope everyone got all the maintenance done that they wanted to during the winter season.

I had the opportunity this year to attend the National LICA Winter Convention in Charleston, South Carolina. The meetings were very informative and there were some great tours that everyone enjoyed. In Charleston, Mike Cook was elected national president; congratulations to him on that achievement. Also, as a state, Michigan LICA was recognized as a top finalist for the Kamps Legislative Award. This award is privately funded by John Peterson, the National LICA Director of Government Relations, recognizing a state that has made considerable progress for their members on the legislative level. We did not win the award, but just being recognized as a top finalist is an achievement in itself. If

you ever get the chance to attend a National LICA Convention, I strongly encourage you to. With this year's National LICA Summer Meeting being in Grand Rapids, it is the perfect opportunity to attend.

As I am sure most of you know, Jerry Biuso, LICA CEO, is working on a book on the history of drainage. He is on a data hunt for any information, pictures, articles, etc. on the history of drainage. If you have something that he might find helpful, email Sarah Cook for Jerry's contact information.

Sadly, as some of you may already know, Michigan LICA recently lost long time member and supporter, Bonnie Braje, unexpectedly. She will be greatly missed by many within the organization. My condolences go out to her family in this difficult time.

Hope everyone has a great spring season,
Ben Cook



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IN MEMORY OF BONNIE BRAJE

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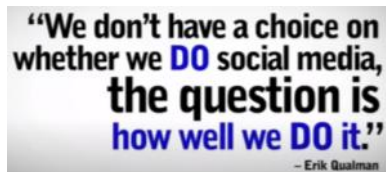
Diary of an Executive Director

Another Annual Winter Convention is in the books. It was great to see many of you in Lansing! While the cornhole tournament, educational seminars, and annual auction were all great, we will likely be searching out a new location for next year's convention. Make sure to check out the convention highlights on the next couple pages.

This year, the National LICA Winter Convention took place in Charleston, South Carolina. With many educational opportunities, as well as Mike Cook planning to take the role of National LICA President, I took the opportunity to turn this into a family trip. It was great to tour Fort Sumter and help Morgan earn her Junior Ranger Badge, (pictured to the right,) as well as take time to go to the aquarium.



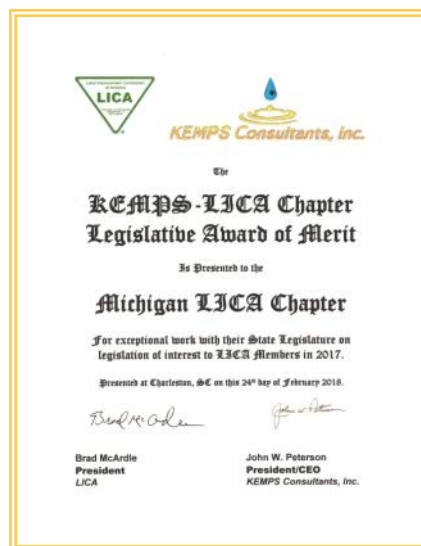
While in Charleston, I attended the Executive Director's meeting. For much of the meeting, Amber Bosma of Prins Insurance spoke with the Executive Directors about adapting to get/keep members engaged. It was definitely an insightful meeting.



I also attended the National Benefits meeting. There are so many benefits available to LICA members thanks to the hard work of Jerry Biuso. I encourage you to check out the complete list of benefits on National LICA's website www.licanational.com. One existing member benefit, Petrocon, has expanded, now

offering savings on pistons & piston kits, as well as Cooper Tires & Rubber in addition to oils, tires, electric, and cellular expenses that were already available to members. Check out www.Petrocon.org

While I always look forward to the banquet concluding the National Winter Conventions, this year I was more eager to attend the banquet as Mike Cook took on the role of National President, along with the possibility of Michigan earning the Kemps National Legislative Award. While Michigan did not win the award, we did receive a Legislative Award of Merit, pictured below.



As Mike Cook stood behind the podium, accepting Presidency of National LICA for 2018, he paid a heart-felt tribute to his roots in land improvement, as well as formally announcing his efforts to bring back the children's programs. This summer in Grand Rapids, children will be able to attend for a much lower cost than in recent years and there will be specific tours set up for children, as well as kids meals. Details are still in the works, but plan to bring the whole family this summer! We look forward to seeing you there!

UPCOMING EVENTS

National LICA Summer Meeting

July 10-14, 2018

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

Grand Rapids, MI

Reservation information coming soon! Make your reservations early, as the room block fills up quickly!

STAY TUNED
TO EMAIL &
FACEBOOK FOR
RESERVATION
INFORMATION!



Pictured above: Outgoing President Brad McArdle pinning the LICA President's Pin on Incoming President Mike Cook, during the banquet in Charleston, SC. Photo courtesy of Patti McArdle.



Rob Kovacs and Brandon Theis playing in the cornhole tournament with Troy Warweg, Will Word, Kevin Holdwick, and Travis Holdwick watching and visiting in the background.

Randy Nosek playing in the cornhole tournament with Haley Talaski, Joann Talaski, and Russ Talaski sitting back and watching.



Pictured to the left:
2nd Place Team, Larry Cook & Randy Nosek
Trophy Donators, Bonnie & Chuck Braje
1st Place Team, Rob Kovacs & Paul Liggett

Co-Hosts, Adam Cook & Jason Bleach along with Morgan Cook

Pictured below is Russ Talaski speaking to members.



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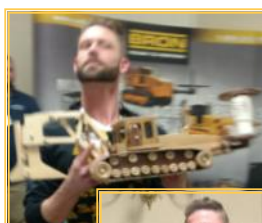


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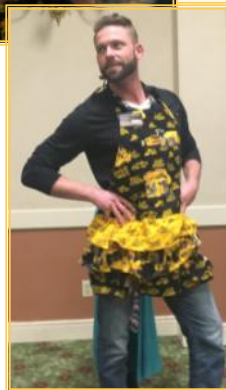
MLICA 2018 Convention Highlights



Above & Below: MLICA Members listening to Guest Speaker Bill Ballenger before the annual auction



Jason Bleach auctioning the Inter-Drain wooden plow handcrafted by retired member Bill Holdwick.



Jason Bleach sporting an apron donated by Russ & Joann Talaski at the annual auction.

Socializing in the hall before the auction starts.



Acres of Mint, Liquid With A Meal, & Milking Tour

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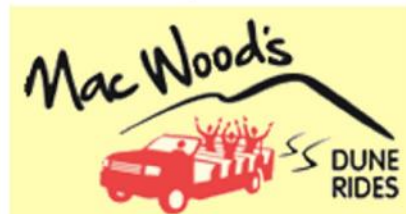
GROWERS & DISTILLERS OF QUALITY ESSENTIAL OILS

Take in a breath of minty fresh air as we visit the Midwest's largest producer of spearmint, located in St. Johns, MI. This family owned operation got its start in 1948 with roughly 10 acres. Three generations in, the farm has grown to more than 2,000 acres. Join us as we learn more about mint.



Founded in 1983, AgroLiquid remains a family business and boasts a cutting edge facility, including a space for children to come and learn. Along with the cutting edge facility, there is a 750 tillable acre research farm where every AgroLiquid product goes through extensive testing. Enjoy a mid-day meal and take a tour around the cutting edge facility and research farm.

Dunes, Dining & Wining, and A Blueberry Farm Tour



Start your day on a 7 mile ride on the shifting sand dunes, viewing Silver Lake and the lovely beach along Lake Michigan. Accessible to the mobility impaired, visitors of all ages enjoy the exciting, scenic rides. **Make sure to bring your camera and sunglasses for this part of the tour!**

Originally a pastime for Mac Wood's family in 1930, neighbors and passers by were so interested in the Dune Scooter, that they talked Mac Wood into creating a Dune Scooter business. The first Dune Scooter was designed from a Model A Ford and carried 4 passengers. The huge sum of twenty five cents was charged for this exciting ride. Today a 4 wheel drive modified vehicle with 4 aircraft tires is used to carry about 20 persons per ride. You will also find a museum setup with a 1934 Ford Scooter, a 1960 Studebaker Scooter and a 1968 International Scooter and old pictures and signs.

Did you know... Peppermint is heralded as one of the best tasting home remedies for indigestion and the U.S. produces more than 70% of the world's peppermint supply. A 400lb barrel of oil can produce 5.2 million sticks of gum and research shows that sniffing mint improves concentration.



Wrap up your tour day with a carousel...carousel milking parlor that is. After immigrating to the United States from Holland in 1994, Albert Steenblik started his dairy operation with 250 cows. Throughout the years, Albert has continued to add to his dairy operation. In 2014 he built a brand new rotary parlor, pictured below, and 12-row freestall barn. Over a 23 year span, Albert has grown his operation to 3450 milking cows.



Next, dine with us as we enjoy The Fox Barn. Here, you'll be able to taste wines, shop for wine themed items, along with fresh produce and a variety of special foods.

The Foxes are proud to be part of a rich farming community for 5 generations. Through the years they have seen many changes and are excited about the future. The basis of their business is the care of 2000 acres of land that is $\frac{3}{4}$ planted to fruit with a little asparagus. The remaining acres are wood lots that are managed by a forester. The Farm Market was introduced in 2005 & the Winery added in 2008.

Please Join The



July 10-11, 2018

For Some

PURE MICHIGAN®

Fascinating Tours!



What better way to wrap up this tour during prime blueberry season than to enjoy a stop at the Jawor Brothers Blueberry Farm & Country Store in Ravenna, MI.



With over 800 acres of blueberries that are cultivated and harvested every year, the 20-acre U-Pick operation draws customers from all over the state, with blueberries as big as quarters!

The Country Store showcases a variety of baked goods derived from Jawor family recipes which are made in the store's kitchen on a daily basis. Don't forget to stop by the country store and pick up a treat to take with you!



NATIONAL HAPPENINGS



2018 LICA PROGRAM



Mack Trucks is pleased to offer the "Let's Build!" Program to LICA Members to help you purchase your next vocational trucks.



Exclusive Program Benefits

• Trucks purchase with the Mack mDrive transmission will receive mDrive transmission and clutch **extended purchase coverage** for 3-years, 300K miles **at no additional charge**.

• **FREE Engine Plan 2 and EATS (engine after treatment system - emissions)** extended purchase coverage for a period of 3 years / 300K miles at no additional charge **when the unit is financed** with Mack Financial Services (MFS).

MFS Finance Features

- **TRAC Lease options** for A & B profile customers
- **Up to 72 month terms** for qualified buyers
- **Flexible payment options:** Qualified retail customers are eligible for monthly payments as low as \$999 for the first three months or deferred payments for up to 90 days from the contract date.

Association Loyalty Reward of \$1,000 for LICA Members with the purchase of any eligible Mack Granite. This offer is limited to 10 trucks per customer.

Eligible Vehicles: 2019 MY, sold and unsold trucks on-order - Mack Granite® GR series (DOES NOT include Legacy product built week 1-3, 2018). Does not include MHD.

Program Period

Eligible vehicles must be retailed and warranty registered by June 30, 2018. To qualify for the Engine Plan 2 and EATS, trucks must be funded by MFS by July 31, 2018.

For additional details see your local Mack dealer today!

Mack Truck Benefit

If you are in the market for a new truck, Mack Truck might be the brand for you. For 2018, LICA members that purchase a truck with the mDrive transmission and clutch will receive extended purchase coverage for 3 years, 300K miles **at no additional charge**. If you finance through Mack Financial Services (MFS), you will also receive the Engine Plan 2 and EATS (engine after treatment system -emissions) **FREE**. A **Loyalty Reward of \$1000** is also available to LICA members with the purchase of any eligible Mack Granite.

Eligible vehicles must be retailed and warranty registered by June 30, 2018. To qualify for the Engine Plan 2 and EATS, trucks must be funded by MFS by July 31, 2018. Take advantage of this LICA benefit before it expires!

For additional details see your local Mack dealer today!

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- StormTech® Stormwater Chambers
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- Geotextiles

We take this opportunity to thank our Michigan customers for years of supporting our company and employees by buying local.



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We speak your language when it comes to payroll. Our experienced staff of courteous Payroll Specialists will simplify your payroll processing experience, from check processing to comprehensive management reports that will help you manage your business efficiently and effectively. Spend more time concentrating on the success of your business when you transition your payroll to BenefitMall Construction Payroll.

REPORTING
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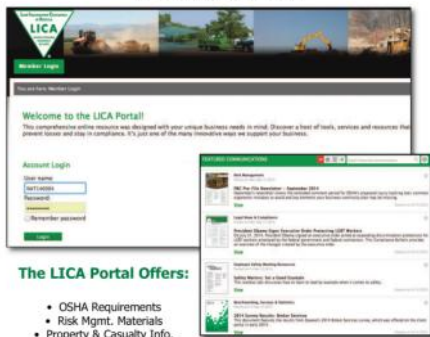
with direct debit of tax liabilities, quarter and year end filings, and ready to mail W-2s. The experienced staff of Payroll Specialists will simplify your payroll processing experience, from check processing to comprehensive management reports that will help you manage your business efficiently and effectively. For more information contact your Michigan Rep Jarrod Mobley at Jarrod.mobley@benefitmall.com (614) 987-3365 Ext 553365 or the Program Administrator Patrice Alvino at Patrice.Alvino@benefitmall.com (646) 346-8301 Ext 508301.



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Michigan LICA

NEW ON THE SCENE?

Start off on the right safety foot!

Starting a new job or changing roles within the company is exciting. You will face new and rewarding challenges, and probably need a quick refresher on the many rules of the road. Starting off on the right safety foot is vital to ensuring your success in a new position. Research indicates that new employees are at a greater risk of suffering from workplace injuries than their more experienced counterparts. They usually are at a greater risk of suffering from workplace injuries than their more experienced counterparts. They usually are at a greater risk of suffering from workplace injuries than their more experienced counterparts.

- Understand all the necessary safety measures before starting in your position. If you are unsure of your company's safety rules, ask for help.
- Follow all safety measures at all times and be aware of your own workplace surroundings.
- These are the most common personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Avoid being distracted.
- Follow proper safety measures when using chemicals.

As you transition into your new position, be on alert for hazards and potential accident triggers. Do not assume that your previous experience and training will keep you safe in your new working environment.

GETTING ACQUAINTED

The importance of orientation

Orientation is a great place to meet new people at the company as well as to get to know everyone in the field. Use this opportunity to learn more about your new position and the company.

- Safety training and potential hazards specific to your position.
- Your rights and responsibilities regarding health and safety, safety procedures and equipment requirements.
- Emergency procedures and preparation guidelines.
- Rules of the company regarding policies on items such as attendance, tardiness and safety.

We encourage you to use this opportunity to ask questions to ensure that you feel prepared to handle your new position safely.

Did You Know?

Orientation is a great place to meet new people at the company as well as to get to know everyone in the field. Use this opportunity to learn more about your new position and the company.

THE LICA PORTAL

The LICA Portal, available to all LICA members for free, puts safety material at your fingertips. With over 3,400 resources just a few clicks away, the LICA Portal is a valuable benefit to take advantage of. Search specific topics, or browse all content and find the safety material you need.

With seasonal load restrictions in effect, you might want to make sure your vehicles meet the DOT Level I Inspection Standards. Although the Inspection Items List is pictured to the right, a complete Guide to DOT Inspection Levels can be found on the LICA Portal.

Perhaps with the new season you have hired some new workers. Use the LICA Portal to find the safety materials you need to get your new workers started on the right foot.

Visit www.licanational.org and click on Zywave to access the LICA Portal today!

DOT Inspection Items List

Inspection Items	Level I
1. Driver's license	✓
2. Medical examiner's certificate and waiver (if applicable)	✓
3. Alcohol and drugs	✓
4. Driver's log (Hours of Service and duty status)	✓
5. Seat belt system	✓
6. Periodic inspection documentation	✓
7. Brake system	✓
8. Coupling devices	✓
9. Exhaust system	✓
10. Frame	✓
11. Fuel system	✓
12. Brake lights, headlights, taillights, turn signals and lamps on projecting loads	✓
13. Safe loading of cargo	✓
14. Steering mechanism	✓
15. Suspension	✓
16. Tires	✓
17. Wheels, rims and hubs	✓
18. Van and open-top trailer bodies	✓
19. Windshield wipers	✓
20. Emergency exits (for buses)	✓
21. Hazardous materials requirements (if applicable)	✓
22. One-time special inspection of a particular item	✓
23. CVSA decal issued for "PASS" inspection (no violations/defects found in items 7-20)	✓

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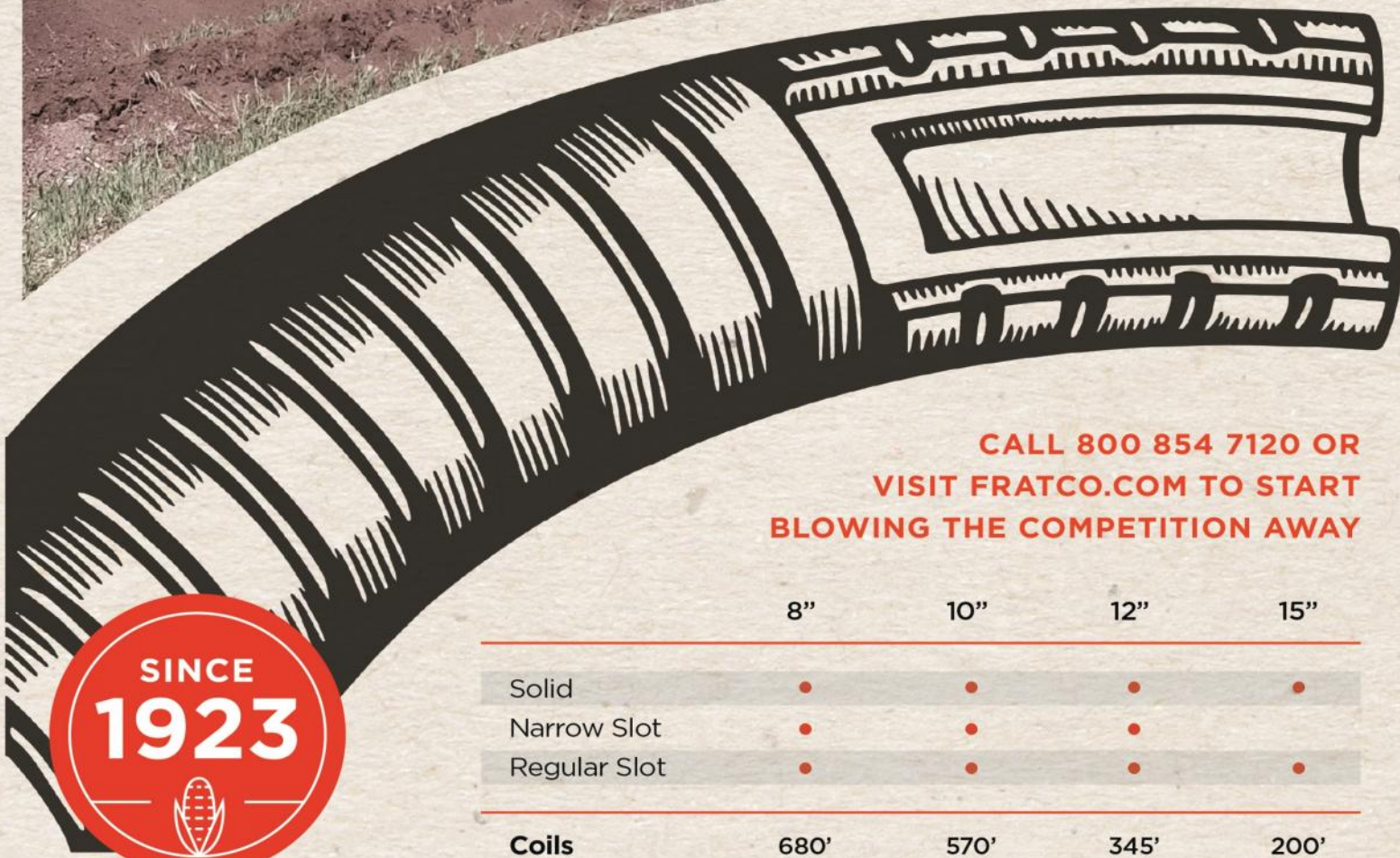
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Bonnie J Braje

(June 02, 1934 - March 06, 2018)

Bonnie J. Braje, age 83, of Galien, died unexpectedly on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Mishawaka, Indiana.

Bonnie was born June 2, 1934 in Galien, Michigan to Hiram and Mildred (Payne) Kleine. She married Charles Braje on August 8, 1953 in Three Oaks, Michigan. He survives. She was preceded in death by her parents; and her brother Devon "Shorty" Kleine.



Bonnie worked alongside her husband in their family owned business, Braje Tile Drainage, for the area farmers for over 50 years.

Her biggest joy was attending her grandchildren's school and sporting events, which sometimes included coming straight from the fields, muddy boots and all! Bonnie never missed a Grandparents Day with them! She also loved coaching them with their fair projects.

Bonnie always thought of others before herself. She was known for feeding everyone. For many years, she was found every Tuesday morning quilting with the ladies at the Galien American Legion.

Bonnie will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her husband of 64 years Charles Braje of Galien; "her 7 girls": Cindy (Doug) Pressey, Carol (John) O'Brien, Lori (Brian) Payne, Lisa (Dave) Mead, Lynne (Guy) Wilson, Cristy (Jim) Daniel, and Marla (Lance) Shortman; 14 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; 4 step-grandchildren; and 8 step-great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Family and friends gathered Sunday, March 11, 2018 from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Pobocik Chapel Wagner Family Funerals, 106 Ash Street East, Three Oaks, Michigan 49128. A funeral service took place on Monday, March 12, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home. The Pastor Dan Miller from Summit Church in Niles officiated.

Bonnie's remains were laid to rest in Galien Cemetery.

The family prefers contributions be made in Bonnie's memory to the Ronald McDonald House, 211 E Grand Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611.



Sarah Cook, Executive Director

scook@michiganlica.org

517-282-1083

4372 S. Wright Road

Westphalia, MI 48894

Mike Cook, Secretary/Treasurer

517-282-9801

MLICA Lansing Office

318 West Ottawa St.

Lansing, MI 48933

Government Relations

Fraser Consulting

Fraser-Trebilcock-Davis & Dunlap PC

124 West Allegan St. Ste 1000

Lansing, MI 48933

Scott Everett, Cell: 517-204-3328



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MLICA C/O Mike Cook

4372 S. Wright Rd.

Westphalia, MI 48894

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