MLICA Scoop

LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ~ MICHIGAN CHAPTER

2019 ISSUE 1

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From the Lead Plow, Ben Cook, President MLICA

"Your workforce is your most valuable asset. The knowledge and skills they have represent the fuel that drives the engine of business - and you can leverage that knowledge." ~ Harvey Mackay

I'm sure all of you have seen the email flyer that Sarah sent out recently about the upcoming Regional Meetings. These meetings will be at AIS Bridgeport location on March 13 and AIS Lansing location on March 14. The primary goals of these meetings are membership recruitment and education for our organization. We encourage current LICA members to attend these meetings. If you know of anyone that might be interested in joining MLICA please feel free to contact them yourself or let Sarah or a board member know so we can reach out to them. As many of you know the relationships and partnerships we gain from this organization can be priceless if we utilize them. As you can see on the flier from Sarah we have a couple short speeches and a meal provided by AIS. National LICA CEO Jerry Biuso will be present and will be educating

prospective, and current, members about the benefits you receive as members.

As members, everyone is encouraged to speak up if there is something you would like to see at an upcoming event or convention in the future.

Also if there is something that you feel MLICA should be made aware of, such as legislative or legal issues, please let a board member know so we can look into it and see if there is anything that we can do as an organization. This organization is here to help and benefit our members.

Hope everyone has a good spring,
Ben Cook



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Diary of an Executive Director

Working with a new hotel for our convention was a bit nerve wracking; making sure the rooms were set up to meet our needs, picking out meals that fit our budget but that most would enjoy, and making sure we had a fairly accurate meal count a week before so the hotel would have enough food. I made several calls the week before, concerned that attendance was going to be way down. I'm not sure if my phone call was a deciding factor for some, but it did help give the hotel a more accurate count for our meals. We had a great turn out for our convention in January, with many positive comments about our new location. Thank you to all members and associates that attended! Make sure to check out the highlights on page 5.

During the board and annual member meetings, it was decided to have regional meetings again, as well as a membership drive.

Allen Bonthuis of AIS offered to hold the regional meetings at AIS locations, so the

planning began. It has been years since we've held regional meetings, so we decided to start with 2 regions: Saginaw & Lansing. Trying to beat the good weather/spring work rush, the meetings are scheduled for March 13th and 14th. Details are listed in the Upcoming Events box to the right, as well as in an email sent out to members. We have Jerry Biuso, National LICA CEO scheduled to attend our regional meetings, so please make every effort to attend, and bring someone that might be interested in joining MLICA!

I am also excited to announce a new MLICA Member Exclusive Offer from AIS. In 2019, when you purchase a piece of New Deere Construction Equipment, you will receive FREE Preventative Maintenance Services for the first 1,000 hours. Check out offer details on the next page and contact Allen Bonthuis to take advantage of this MLICA Exclusive Offer today!

UPCOMING EVENTS

2019 REGIONAL MEETINGS
AIS BRIDGEPORT (SAGINAW AREA)

4600 AIS DR

BRIDGEPORT, MI 48722

MARCH 13, 2019

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

AIS LANSING

3600 N GRAND RIVER AVE

LANSING, MI 48906

MARCH 14, 2019

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

4:00 - 4:30 PM Greetings

4:30 - 5:30 PM Welcome

State chapter brief

LICA Benefits

MI Gov't Update

5:30 - 6:00 PM Socializing

6:00 - 7:00 PM Meal provided by AIS

*Please RSVP for meal to Sarah at scook@michiganlica.org or 517-282-1083



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MLICA 2019 Convention Highlights





Above: Championship round of our annual cornhole tournament Below Left: 1st place winners Ben Cook & John Freeman Below Right: 2nd place winners Bill Rawn & Russ Talaski





great amount members and associates gathered our noon meal, sharing wonderful camaraderie.





LICA Ladies showing off their creations. Special thanks to The Mayan Agency for sponsoring the ladies crafts.

Back row left to right: Debra Burgess, Alex Burgess, Sue Rector, Linda Rogers, Joann Talaski

Front row left to right: Kim Cook, Betty Auernhamer, Sarah Cook

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As I sat talking with a friend about our upcoming membership drive, he asked me "Why should somebody join LICA?" I gave the usual response "Member benefits," and I rattled off a few of the national benefits I could think of, trying to explain them. Then he asked, "But do you use them?"

I hesitated. "No, not really." For all of the promotion Mike Cook and Jerry Biuso have done on national benefits, I still have not taken the time to sign up and use them. I'm sure I could save money, but it's been set aside over the past few years for a rainy day.

So I went on to explain the benefits I profit from the most...... friendship, camaraderie and knowledge.

Even though most of the members are competitors or have the possibility of being one, we all get together and share ideas and try to help each other succeed. In fact, we even have an educational session dedicated to tricks of the trade. I'm sure in other industries, the last thing you would share with a competitor is a short cut or a better way to get something done.

Through LICA I have established a close working relationship with equipment dealers, pipe suppliers, GPS dealers and other industry specific associates that I might not have access to or even know about if it hadn't been for LICA.

I also have the reassurance that if I have a problem or question, I have a group of colleagues that I can call anytime, and they will gladly help me out.

We also have some outstanding state tax benefits, thanks to Scott Everett, our Government relations guru. The sales tax exemption and personal property tax exemption that he has acquired for ag drainage saves us thousands of dollars each year. Most non-members don't have any idea that these tax exemptions exist!

So, while I don't want to downplay the importance of National member benefits, I do want to highlight the importance of being a part of the "LICA Family".



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The Dangers of Job Site Cellphone Use

According to a recent study, the average person checks their cellphone 100 times a day. While there is a time and a place for cellphones, using it at the job site can be extremely dangerous.

If you're distracted for just a second while operating a power tool, working on a roof or driving a forklift, you can injure yourself or a co-worker. You can also face civil or criminal liability for damages you cause by operating a motorized vehicle while using a cellphone.

It isn't only operators of machinery who need to be mindful of the dangers of cellphone use on the job site. Simply looking down at your cellphone and not paying attention to your surroundings could put your life in danger.

Cellphone Safety Tips When On-site

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) prohibits cellphone use by operators of cranes and similar equipment. Most organizations prohibit any kind of cellphone use on the job site—not just for crane operators. It is your responsibility to know how your company's rules apply to you and follow them accordingly.

If you struggle with the temptation to check your phone while working on a job site, consider the following safety tips:

- Get in the habit of sending and receiving text messages before or after your shift, or during one of your breaks.
- Remind family and friends that you may not be able to respond to their

messages right away. Provide them with your workplace contact information in case of emergencies.

- Turn off push notifications so you're not distracted by any apps.
- Don't carry your cellphone on you if the temptation to check it is too much.
 Instead, leave it in a safe place where it won't distract you from your job.
- Follow your workplace policy for cellphone use at work and on the job site. Be aware of any cellphone-free zones.

Besides creating enormous safety risks, employees who are texting at work are not doing what they are getting paid to do. For this reason, these workers may be subject to disciplinary action.

If you have questions about Michigan LICA's workplace cellphone policy, or if you notice inappropriate cellphone use on the job site, don't hesitate to discuss it with your supervisor or HR.

Interruptions as short as 2.8 seconds double the likelihood of job site errors— errors that can cause injury or even death.



This Safety Matters flyer is for general informational purposes only, and is not intended as medical or legal advice. © 2018 Zywave, Inc. All rights reserved.

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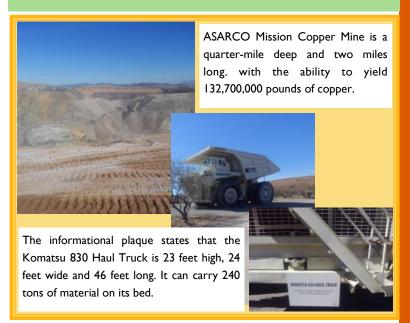
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NATIONAL HAPPENINGS

2019 National Winter Convention, Tucson AZ



To Tude Bord ere Bell Xax

Top Left: Mural photo seen on the Tucson city tour

Bottom Left: LICA members gathered for lunch at El Charro Cafe.

Below: LICA members visiting San Xavier Mission on the city tour.



Participating in the LICA Construction Challenge during Associate's Night, the Cook Family had 2 teams compete using the remote control construction equipment. After a tiebreaking round, Adam Cook, Dan Cook, Sean Moes, and Nate Cook won the competition. Their prize money was donated to the LICA Scholarship Fund.



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UPTIME MATTERS

Governor's Executive Order Rejected For First Time In 42 Years

The Legislature officially rejected its first Governor-issued executive order since 1977 in February after the Sen- • ate passed HCR I on a straight partyline 22-16 vote. The action means Gov. Gretchen WHITMER's Executive Order 2019-2, which would have reorganized the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and abolished three oversight panels created by the Legislature last year, will not go into effect. As of this writing, the Governor has proposed a 2nd Executive Order reorganizing the DEQ, however this time she has left 2 of the 3 oversight panels in-tact.

House Bill 4644, PA 17 of 2018

Signed into law by the Governor it Rates 'Holding Back Our State' amended the Michigan Vehicle Code Newly elected House Speaker Lee to do the following: CHATFIELD (R-Levering) on day I of

- Requires the Michigan Department of Transportation, beginning within two years after the bill's effective date, to allow an applicant to obtain an annual permit for the movement of construction equipment to exceed the size, load, or size and load maximums specified in the Code for a power unit, without requiring a separate permit for each individual piece of equipment carried by that unit.
- Prescribes a \$264 fee for an annual permit, including a permit for an intrastate or Out-of-State vehicle or combination of vehicles that exceeded the maximum size but not the maximum weight or load or otherwise not in conformity with the Code.
- Specifies that an annual permit could not restrict daily operating

hours, and could not require travel of more than 10 miles per hour below the posted speed limit.

 Allows an annual permit holder to store and present it using a mobile device

HB 5705 Re-introduction

HB 5705 (Rep Triston Cole) proposed to create a 74-cent per 100 pounds of elected gross weight for tractor, truck or truck tractor not used for hire traveling less than 5,000 miles per year. This would utilized IRS 2290 as the mechanism to qualify. Re-introduction of this legislation is pending.

Speaker Says Auto Insurance Rates 'Holding Back Our State'

Newly elected House Speaker Lee CHATFIELD (R-Levering) on day I of his new job, called no-fault auto insurance "the single largest issue holding back our state" as he made remarks on the opening day of the I00th Legislature. Michigan has had the nation's highest auto insurance rates for the fifth straight year in 2018.

Shirkey: 'Priority No. I Is No-Fault Reform'

Senate Majority Leader Mike SHIRKEY (R-Clarklake) The day after saying "we have the obligation to reform auto insurance," the new leader said lowering car insurance rates topped his caucus' initial to-do list.

Federal Judge Calls Auto Insurance Prices 'Shameful'

(DETROIT) -- A federal judge made no decision in February on the state's

request to drop a case calling Michigan's no-fault insurance law unconstitutional, but he referred to the costs of auto insurance as a "shameful situation." Judge George STEEH took arguments today from David FINK, who argued on behalf of plaintiff Detroit Mayor Mike DUGGAN, and from the Attorney General's office, which is defending the director of the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS). Near the end of the hearing at the U.S. District Court in Detroit, Steeh said he'd take the state's motion to dismiss "under advisement." No other dates or actions were immediately announced by the court.

DEQ Settles With Michigan Sugar Company

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in January announced the resolution of an August 2017 lawsuit related to the violation of air and water quality regulations at a Bay City sugar beet processing facility. Michigan Sugar Company, Bay County's second-largest employer, agreed to pay a \$300,000 civil fine and support or create two environmental projects totaling \$262,500, according to a press release from the DEQ.

New Legislature Is Short On Elective Office Experience

Experience on elected boards is in short supply in the 100th Legislature. Twenty-nine incoming House members have never held an elected position previously, roughly two-thirds of the freshman class. Seven of those taking over a seat in the state Senate have never held an elected position before.

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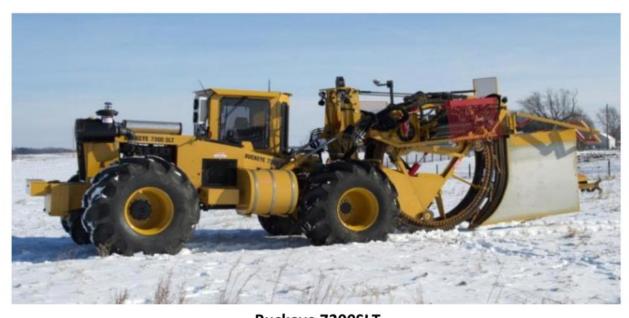
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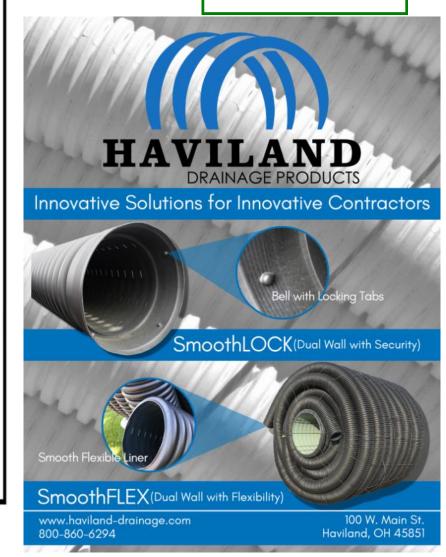
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Michigan Land Improvement Contractors Association

Sarah Cook, Executive Director scook@michiganlica.org 517-282-1083

4372 S. Wright Road
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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
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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 c a n b e e m a i l e d t o scook@michiganlica.org. Please include your name and phone number for verification purposes.