

# MLICA General Membership Meeting

Hilton Garden Inn - Columbia, MO  
January 25, 2014

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Larry LaFollette at 1:05pm.

## WELCOME/INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

President Larry LaFollette welcomed LICA Region IV Vice President Steve Anderson, LICA President Steve Miller and all the Missouri members to the January 25, 2014 General Membership Meeting.

## ROLL CALL

District #1	5	District #4	5
District #2	3	District #5	3
District #3	3	District #6	0

Chairman of the Board: Jim Bledsoe - present  
President: Larry LaFollette - present  
Vice President: Chris Brauer - present  
Secretary/Treasurer: Mont Gilbert - present  
Ladies Auxiliary President: Mona Bledsoe - absent  
Associates Chairman: vacant  
Executive Director: Deb Dickens - present

## MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion was made by Dave Dittmer and seconded by Jack Gingerich to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2013 Membership Meeting as printed. The motion carried.

## NATIONAL REPORT - STEVE ANDERSON, NATIONAL LICA REGION IV VICE PRESIDENT

Steve reported that he had attended several of Missouri LICA's events over the past six months, including the golf tournament, fish fry, and Damage Prevention Summit, all of which were great successes. LICA is not only growing in Missouri, but nationally, as well. He encouraged the membership to use its benefits and described a new one, the OSHA portal, which will be coming to the National LICA website soon. Steve reminded members that LICA has the best benefit package of any trade association and that our members should use them.

Steve also reported that his term as Region IV Vice President will end at the National LICA Winter Convention in March. He said he has plans to run as National President, but encouraged Missouri LICA members to consider running for his replacement as Region IV Vice President.

At the National LICA Convention in Las Vegas this March, members will vote on a proposed by-laws change relating to the amount of reserve funds LICA now has and the formula for determining that figure. The new by-laws change would cap the reserve funds at \$200,000 which will allow for the continuation of the CEO's membership development efforts, as well as protect the Association with one year's operating capital in reserve. A motion was made by Charlie Boyer and seconded by Ken Balkenbusch to approve the by-laws change. The motion carried.

## **PRESIDENT REPORT**

President Larry LaFollette reported that, since the Missouri LICA Summer Meeting, he has attended the National LICA Summer Meeting, Missouri LICA Fall Board Meetings, and several Districts' membership meetings and Christmas parties.

## **TREASURER/SECRETARY REPORT**

Mont Gilbert reviewed the financial statements for FY 2013-14 and the membership report. A motion was made by Tom Lawlor and seconded by Elwin Yoder to accept the Secretary/Treasurer's report. The motion carried.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

The Executive Director thanked the committee chairs and members for their efforts and asked members to be sure to sign the card for Nelson and Judy Wilson's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Budget/By-Laws** - Chairman Mont Gilbert presented the proposed 2013-14 budget. A motion was made by Jeff Lance and seconded by Tom Lawlor to approve the 2013-14 budget. The motion carried.

**Convention/Education** - Co-Chairs Ken Balkenbusch and Jake Gingerich reported that the 2014 Winter Convention seemed to be a success and reminded members to complete their evaluation reports in order to make planning the 2015 Convention just as successful.

Jake Gingerich reported that the 2014 Summer Meeting will be held on July 26 in conjunction with a Trap Shoot. He said that, during the Trap Shoot, the committee might also schedule a tour of the winery at Rocheport and/or a trip to the casino.

**Field Day** - Jim Bledsoe, Chair, reported that he would like a Co-Chair for the committee. Bruce Freerksen agreed to serve in that capacity. At this point, there are no field days planned, but the committee will look into possibilities for the future.

**Golf** - Charlie Boyer reported that the 2013 Golf Tournament was a great success and that the committee has already heard from several Associate and Contractor members who are interested in attending in 2014. The 2014 Golf Tournament has been set for Friday, September 19 at the Hail Ridge Golf Course in Boonville, MO.

**Government Relations** - Co-Chairs Jeff Lance and Tom Lawlor reported that they have attended every meeting of the Soil and Water Program's Commission this year. Vice President Chris Brauer asked the membership to give a round of applause to Jeff and Tom for representing LICA at these meetings. Jeff also reported that Richard Fordyce, a Missouri LICA member and previous Chairman of the DNR Soil and Water Commission was appointed by the Governor of Missouri to be the Director of Agriculture. His presence on the Soil and Water Commission will be missed, but Jeff expects a new Commissioner to be named soon.

Jeff is currently serving on two sub-committees for the Soil and Water Program as the Commission makes plans for the Program's future. One sub-committee is tasked to review county staffing levels and funding for those staff members and the second sub-committee is reviewing all the practices currently approved by the Commission. At this time, the Commission and Program are doing well. The renewal for the sales tax will automatically be placed on the ballot in 2016, so members are encouraged to start talking about the importance of this renewal, as well as to begin raising funds to pay for the campaign to approve the measure.

The Committee has also been working with the Missouri Department of Transportation to establish a blanket overweight permit. Following a work session with MoDOT during this Convention, MoDOT has agreed to establish a pilot program for a blanket overweight permit. It is possible that the blanket permit will cover a 100-mile radius. MoDOT will also be determining a pricing structure for this permit.

**Ladies** - Mona Bledsoe was absent. No report was given.

**Legislative** - Co-Chairs Gerald Bauer and Elwin Yoder reported that the Committee has been working on the possibility of proposed changes to Missouri's Underground Damage Prevention Act (One Call). After attending an early-December House Sub-Committee meeting and voicing our members' concerns relating to three aspects of the proposed legislation, the Chairs reported that the newly released draft of the legislation no longer includes any of the issues of concern to our membership. The Committee will continue to monitor this issue as the Session continues.

The Committee also discussed the condition of Missouri's roads and a possible gas tax increase. The Committee asked the membership to consider endorsing a sales tax increase of 1%, if the funds are used for road maintenance. This proposal is also favored by the Missouri Farm Bureau. Because no legislation has currently been proposed, the issue was tabled.

**Membership** - Co-Chairs Larry LaFollette and Chris Brauer reported that they have established a goal of 200 contractor members by September 30, 2014. Jerry Biuso, National LICA CEO, will be in Missouri from February 3-8 to meet with 11 United Fire agencies across Missouri in order to help build a sales force for Missouri LICA membership and the insurance program. Chris encouraged members who had prospects in mind to go see them and ask them to join. Members were reminded that they can find applications and a benefit list on our web site or they can call the Missouri LICA office to have some mailed. Contractors were also encouraged to promote LICA membership at their local county NRCS meetings.

A motion was made by Jake Gingerich and seconded by Roger Levings to accept the committee reports. The motion carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. **2013 Damage Prevention Summit** - The 2013 Damage Prevention Summit was the biggest yet, with over 1,100 contractors in attendance. Missouri LICA has received good name recognition from this and plans to continue its participation.
- B. **2013 Golf Tournament** - See the Golf Committee report above.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **2014 Membership Drive Goals and Dates** - See the Membership Committee report above.
- B. **2014 Spring Board Meeting** - March 15, 2014 was set as the date for the Spring Board Meeting. The Vice President will contact Bobcat in Columbia to see if their meeting facility is available.
- C. **2014 Summer Meeting** - See Convention/Education Committee report above.
- D. **2014 Golf Tournament** - See Golf Committee report above.
- E. **2014 Fall Board Meeting** - October 25, 2014 was set as the date for the Fall Board Meeting. The Vice President will contact Bobcat in Columbia to see if their meeting facility is available.

- F. 2014 District Meeting Dates** - District #1 will host a meeting at Jim & Mona Bledsoe's home in Savannah, MO on April 26; District #5 will host a membership meeting on April 8, location to be determined; no report was provided from Districts #2 or #3. The Executive Director reported that District #3 did not elect any new officers for 2014. The Executive and Membership Committees will address this issue.
- G. 2014 National LICA Delegates** - Chris Brauer will be the only Missouri LICA contractor attending the National LICA meeting in Las Vegas, NV, so three Delegate proxies were signed for him to carry to the meeting.
- H. ADMC Membership** - After discussion concerning Missouri LICA's membership in the Agriculture Drainage Management Coalition, a motion was made by Jeff Lance and seconded by Tom Lawlor to table the discussion until the March Board Meeting when the budget could be reviewed. The motion carried.
- I. Election of 2014 State Officers** - A motion was made by Gerald Bauer and seconded by Jeff Lance to elect Tom Lawlor as Secretary/Treasurer and have the remaining officers advance their positions. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Debbie Dickens  
Executive Director