

MLICA General Membership Meeting

Hilton Garden Inn - Columbia, MO

January 28, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Mont Gilbert at 9:35 am.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

President Mont Gilbert welcomed National LICA Region IV Vice President Nordis Estrem and National LICA CEO Jerry Biuso. He thanked National LICA Vice President Brad McArdle and Nebraska Executive Director Patti McArdle for attending yesterday. Mont also thanked all the members for attending this Membership Meeting.

ROLL CALL

District #1	7	District #4	2
District #2	3	District #5	3
District #3	2	District #6	0

Chairman of the Board: Chris Brauer - present
President: Mont Gilbert - present
Vice President: Tom Lawlor - present
Secretary/Treasurer: Rob Lilesr - present
Ladies Auxiliary President: Mona Bledsoe - absent
Associates Chairman: Vacant
Executive Director: Deb Dickens - present

MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion was made by Dennis Brinton and seconded by Jeff Lance to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2016 Membership Meeting. The motion carried.

NATIONAL REPORT - Jerry Biuso, National LICA CEO and Nordis Estrem, Region IV Vice President

Jerry reported that LICA is growing across the country, averaging 400 new members each year. This is driven, in large part, by the benefits. He described the new Residential Septic Warranty program and all the benefits it will bring to the members and state chapters. He thanked the members for supporting him and inviting him to attend the Convention.

Nordis thanked the members for letting her represent them in Region IV. She stated that Region IV is the largest in the country with 1,256 members. She reported on membership counts in the five states comprising Region IV and congratulated Missouri LICA on its growth, in particular. She also reported that the 2017 National LICA Summer Meeting will be held in Colorado Springs where there will be things to do for the entire family. She closed by encouraging those present to sign up a new member.

PRESIDENT REPORT

Mont Gilbert reported the following: "First, I want to thank Brad McArdle, National LICA Vice-President; Nordis Estrem, Region IV Vice-President; and Jerry Biuso, National LICA CEO for coming to the Convention. We're proud to be a part of this great national association and appreciate all the hard work these people have put into their positions.

Since the last Winter Convention, we have signed up 36 new Contractor members, five new Associate members, and one new Supporting member. That's great work! Now, we just need to make sure our Districts are meeting and we get these new members to become active ones.

In July, we had lots of Missouri LICA members on hand to welcome LICA contractors from across the country to the 75th Annual National LICA Summer Meeting. We want to especially thank the Ladies Auxiliary, our Associates and all the members who attended. It was a great show, in spite of the blistering heat! A very special "thank you" goes to Mona Bledsoe and Foley Equipment for their "above and beyond" help!

Another big accomplishment this year was the renewal of the 1/10th cent Soil, Water, and State Parks Sales Tax. It passed with an 80% approval rate and passed in every county in the state - both of which are a first in Missouri's history. We've continued our work with the Soil and Water Commission to protect those funds. We want to offer our thanks to Jeff Lance who is serving as a Commissioner for that program.

As you've heard, 2017 looks like it's going to be another busy one for us. We're looking forward to the Field Day at the Greenley Research Center in Novelty, MO. We'll need lots of help from our members to make this happen and it will be a chance for you to see some new practices which are heading to Missouri.

Thanks again to all of you for coming here to support your organization."

TREASURER/SECRETARY REPORT

Rob Liles reviewed the financial statements for FY 2016-17nd the membership report. A motion was made by Tom Lawlor and seconded by Jim Bledsoe to accept the Secretary/Treasurer's report. The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget/By-Laws Committee: Chair Rob Liles reported that the committee did not meet

Convention/Education: Co-Chair Ken Balkenbusch reported that the Summer Meeting would be held the evening of August 7th, right before the Field Day at the Greenley Research Center in Novelty, MO. Members were asked to list three cities where they would like to hold the 2018 Winter Convention. The Executive Director will get bids from hotels in these cities for the committee to review at the March Board Meeting.

Field Day: Co-Chairs Jim Bledsoe and Charles Krumpleman reported on plans for the 2017 Field Day. Dr. Kelly Nelson had presented detailed plans yesterday. This farm will be setting the standard for on-the-ground agriculture research in the US and it's important for LICA to have a strong presence. The Ladies Auxiliary will host a tent for families during the field day. The committee plans to have a work schedule finalized by the March Board meeting.

Government Relations: Co-Chair Jeff Lance reported that 2016 was a very good year for both the NRCS and DNR programs. They had more money than they've ever had before and spent the second highest amount on conservation projects. Jeff also reported that Marty Comstock has been named Missouri NRCS's State Engineer, replacing Dick Purcell after his retirement. We don't know how the new administrations at both the state and federal levels will impact the conservation programs, but we're hoping that Colleen Meredith will remain as Director of Missouri's Soil and Water Program.

Jeff asked the Executive Director to give an update on the blanket over-weight permit. The basics of how the permit is expected to work were provided, as well as MoDOT's hope to be testing the permit this coming summer. A list of members who were willing to test the permit was collected and will be passed along to MoDOT for this summer's pilot program.

Legislation: Co-Chair Gerald Bauer reported that the Soil, Water, and State Parks Sales Tax renewal had passed by 80% in November. Missouri LICA played a large role in getting this issue passed and he thanked all our members for their generous contribution of both time and money.

Gerald also reported that this year's Missouri Legislature is proposing and passing more bills that we've seen in many years. He reviewed a list of topics which contractors might be interested in paying attention to, including "Right-to-Work," Real ID, minimum wage, and fuel tax proposals. He encouraged members to pay close attention to SJR3 which proposes an increase in both diesel and regular fuel taxes, with the proceeds to be given to local county transportation departments.

Membership: Co-Chair Chris Brauer reported that the committee had reviewed the list of non-renewed members for 2016. The vast majority of non-renewed contractors had only joined in 2015 or 2016. The committee has asked the District Presidents to contact each of the non-renewed members to determine if there is a common reason for the non-renewal and to encourage them to renew. The committee will track their progress and report at the March Board Meeting.

A motion was made by Jake Gingerich and seconded by Ken Balkenbusch to accept the committee reports. The motion passed.

The meeting was suspended at 10:15am and re-convened at 10:45 am.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Blanket Overweight Permit** - See the Governmental Relations Committee Report.
- B. **Soil, Water, and State Parks Tax Election Update** - See the Legislative Committee's report.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **2017 District Meetings** - Districts were encouraged to set meeting dates as early in the year as possible. Districts #1 and #5 will research having a Competent Person training session in early spring. District #3 is hosting a members meeting on Friday, February 17 at Dempsey's in Concordia. District #4 will host its membership meeting on Monday, February 6 in Clinton.
- B. **2017 Delegates for National LICA Winter Convention; Las Vegas, NV** - Mont Gilbert will not be able to attend the National LICA Convention, so Tom Lawlor will represent Missouri LICA at the meeting. Jeff Lance, Chris Brauer, Jake Gingerich, Jim Bledsoe, and Greg Muenks will serve as delegates for Missouri LICA. In case they are unable to attend, they signed proxy statements, giving their votes to Tom Lawlor.
- C. **Important 2017 Dates** -

The Spring & Fall Board & Committee Meetings will be held March 25 & October 28 at the Bobcat of St. Louis - Columbia facility.

2017 Summer Meeting and Field Day - See Convention and Field Day Committee Reports.

2017 Golf Tournament - The membership was updated on the new ownership of the Hail Ridge Golf Course in Boonville, MO. Since Mizzou is playing at home almost every weekend in September which increases hotel rates, it was decided to look elsewhere for the 2017 Golf Tournament. Travis Gentry knows of a course in Cameron which has several open dates in September. It was decided by consensus that the 2017 Golf Tournament will be held in Cameron. Travis will contact the course and get the information to the Executive Director.

2017 Damage Prevention Summit - The success of the 2016 Damage Prevention Summit was discussed, as well as National LICA's funding for a Platinum level sponsorship for Missouri. It is presumed that the 2017 Damage Prevention Summit will be held in Springfield, MO in early December. Larry LaFollette has agreed to serve as MLICA's point person. Missouri LICA's level of participation will be discussed at the March Board Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Dickens
Executive Director