

MLICA General Membership Meeting

Oasis Hotel & Convention Center - Springfield, MO

January 27, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Mont Gilbert at 2:37 pm.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

ROLL CALL

District #1	6	District #4	2
District #2	2	District #5	1
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 Liles - 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 Jake Gingerich to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2017 Membership Meeting. The motion carried.

NATIONAL REPORT - Brad McArdle, National LICA President and Nordis Estrem, Region IV Vice President

Brad McArdle reported that the *LICA Contractor* magazine has been a great success and can be used as a valuable membership development tool. In 2018, we are increasing the issues to six per year. In addition, LICA is working on a book to identify the history of farm drainage in the United States and LICA's role in that history. He encouraged members with any information to pass it along to the Missouri LICA Executive Director or National LICA. Brad also reported that the LICA membership is continuing to grow. We signed up 300 new members in the last year alone, with the average age of 35-45. The upcoming National LICA Winter Convention which will be held next month in Charleston, SC. Members were encouraged to use their benefits which can help the contractor's bottom line. The National LICA Executive Committee is working on a renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). LICA has had a long-standing MOU with NRCS, but it's been years since it was reviewed.

Nordis Estrem reported that LICA has two new benefits - the MASA Medical Transport and Mack Truck benefits. She encouraged all the members to try out the benefits which come with their membership. As of September 30, National LICA had 2,654 contractor members and Region IV had 1,257 members. In January, National LICA reported 2,709 contractor members. We are growing every day.

Nordis complimented our chapter on our 2017 field day. She said she learned a lot and was impressed with all the participation from our membership. During her term of office, Nordis had attended the National LICA Board Meetings, every State Convention, field days, golf tournaments, summer meetings, and trap shoots. She will not be running for another term as Region IV Vice President, but will be nominating Chris Brauer to fill that position, while she runs for National LICA Vice President. She has appreciated the support and warm welcomes she has received from Missouri LICA over the years. She's enjoyed every visit and all the entertainment.

She announced that the 2018 National LICA Summer Meeting will be held in Grand Rapids, MI. They are planning a lot of events for kids and encouraged our members to attend.

PRESIDENT REPORT

Mont Gilbert reported the following: Since our last membership meeting in January, 2017, Missouri LICA has had a very busy and successful year.

With the help of our United Fire Insurance Program, Competent Person Training Sessions, Field Day, Web Site, and Member-to-Member contact, we signed up 50 new contractor members and have renewed 46 of them for 2018!

In 2017, we ...

- Held Spring and Fall Board and Committee meetings;
- Represented Missouri LICA at the Winter National LICA Convention held in conjunction with ConExpo in Las Vegas, NV in March and at the National LICA Summer Meeting in Colorado Springs, CO in July;
- Hosted Competent Person Training Sessions around the state which offered CEUs for our septic installers. With the help of our United Fire Group funds, we provided this training at no cost to our members and their employees ... and we signed up three new members!
- Continued our work with the Missouri Department of Transportation to establish a blanket over-weight permit for our Land Improvement Contractor license tag. While the installation of the new computer system has slowed this process greatly, MoDOT is still planning on making it a reality for us.
- Continued to monitor the Missouri DNR Soil & Water program through Jeff Lance's service as the only contractor representative on the Commission;
- Served as a Platinum Sponsor for the Damage Prevention and Contractor Safety Summit which was held in Springfield, MO on December 6 & 7. For the seventh year in a row, Missouri LICA members hosted the equipment rodeo and helped the Summit staff with excavating requirements for the live demonstrations. The Summit drew 1,700 attendees from 21 states and provided over 9,200 hours of free safety training. We hosted a membership booth at this event and got some great membership prospects. We want to offer a great big "Thank You" to Larry LaFollette and his crew who served as our contact with the Summit and carried the bulk of the load. They did a great job!
- And, hosted our Golf Outing and Fun-Raiser at the Cameron Veterans' Memorial Golf Club in September and raised over \$1,800 for our Scholarship Program.

Our biggest event of the year was the 2017 Field Day which was held at the University of Missouri's Grace Greenley Farm in Novelty, MO. We had over 40 contractor members and employees and 18 Associate member companies participate. We even signed up two new Associate members, one new contractor member, and had two inactive contractor members become active!

During this week-long event, we installed a 40-acre drainage water recycling system to evaluate drainage tile depth and spacings, the first-ever buffer strip in Missouri, and the second-ever installed bio-reactor installed in Missouri. The Greenley Research Center is planning to make this farm Missouri's first "Holistic Conservation Based Farm Management" project.

Over 400 people attended the field day from 35 Missouri counties, 80 midwest cities, nine different states, and even four visitors from the Ukraine. 55% of the attendees were farmers, 25% owned or worked for agribusiness, and 20% of the attendees were teachers, students, or government personnel.

In addition to our members having the opportunity to learn about new conservation projects, operate new equipment, and install a variety of tile, water gates and stop logs, the 2017 Field Day was also a financial success, raising over \$9,200 for Missouri LICA. We want to thank all the contractors and Associates who made this happen, and especially Jim Bledsoe and Charles Krumpelman who served as the Field Day Committee Co-Chairs.

We want to thank all of our members who helped to plan and/or participated these events. It looks like 2018 will also be a great year for Missouri LICA. Since our membership has grown by 50% in the last five years, we have scheduled a Strategic Planning Session in early March. We also have a 1st Aid, CPR, and AED course scheduled in northwest Missouri and plan to supplement these with several more similar sessions next fall and early spring. Details are also being worked out for a return trip to the Grace Greenley Farm to help Dr. Kelly Nelson complete his management project by building a 13-acre pond.

Remember, the more you put in to Missouri LICA, the more your dues will work for you and your business! Don't forget to take advantage of our full benefit package ... including the two new ones, Medical Transport and Mack Trucks!

TREASURER/SECRETARY REPORT

Rob Liles reviewed the financial statements for FY 2017-18 and the membership report. A motion was made by Ken Balkenbusch and seconded by Jake Gingerich to accept the Secretary/Treasurer's report. The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget/By-Laws Committee: Chair Rob Liles presented the proposed by-laws change which had been approved at the 2017 Fall Board meeting. The change would update the by-laws to reflect that MLICA no longer offers an Accidental Death & Dismemberment policy. The following by-laws change was proposed:

PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGE (Text in **bold** is to be added, text in [brackets and ~~crossed-out~~] is to be deleted):

ARTICLE VIII

DUES

Section 1. Dues structure and distribution for active, associate, and supporting membership will be established and structured by the voting membership of the Missouri Land Improvement Contractors Association.

(A) Active member dues will include one National LICA membership, one Region IV membership, **and** one Missouri LICA membership [~~and one Missouri LICA AD&D insurance premium for the fiscal year, as long as the active member meets insurance policy requirements~~].

A motion was made by Jeff Lance and seconded by Charles Krumpelman to accept the proposed by-laws change. The motion carried.

Convention/Education: Co-Chair Ken Balkenbusch reported that the committee had no report.

Field Day: Co-Chairs Jim Bledsoe and Charles Krumpelman reported on the results of the 2017 field day, as well as discussed potential plans for a 2018 field day to finish Dr. Kelly Nelson's project. The committee will hold a conference call on February 12 to discuss a number of issues, including the Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Missouri, the proposed date for the 2018 field day, equipment needs, and whether or not a formal field day will be held.

Government Relations: Co-Chair Jeff Lance reported that we may be seeing more streambank stabilization projects in the future. It may take a while to put the program in place, but it is believed that some funds may be available and, in addition, the Missouri Department of Conservation may no longer be installing the projects which may open up more opportunities for our members to bid on the work.

He also reported on the progress being made by MoDOT on the blanket over-weight permit. At this point, the hold up seems to be in programming MoDOT's new system, but they are still strongly in support of the permit being tied to the Land Improvement Contractors tag.

Legislation: Neither Co-Chairs were present, so no report was given.

Membership: Co-Chair Mont Gilbert reported that Missouri LICA's membership has been growing, by 50% in the last five years alone. The attendees reviewed the list of non-renewed members and agreed to make calls to find out if there is any predominant reason for the non-renewals. This information will be discussed at the 2018 Strategic Planning Session which is scheduled for March 8 & 9 at the Stoney Creek Hotel in Columbia, MO.

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

OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Blanket Overweight Permit Update** - See the Government Relations Committee Report.
- B. **2017 Field Day Summary** - See the Field Day Committee Report.
- C. **2017 Golf Tournament** - A motion was made by Tom Lawlor and seconded by Jake Gingerich to move the remaining 2017 golf funds (\$1,851.66) to the LICA Memorial Scholarship Fund. The motion carried.
- D. **2017 Damage Prevention Summit** - A summary of the attendance numbers, overall success of the Summit, and possible location for the 2018 Summit was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Proposed By-Laws Change** - See the Budget/By-Laws Committee Report
- B. **2018 Delegates for National LICA Winter Convention; Charleston, SC** - Jeff Lance, Jake Gingerich, Ken Balkenbusch, Chris Brauer, and Tom Lawlor agreed to serve as Missouri LICA delegates. Proxy forms were signed.
- C. **Proposed District Achievement Award** - The proposed District Achievement Award was presented. A motion was made by Jeff Lance and seconded by Jim Bledsoe to adopt the new award. The motion carried.
- D. **2018 Strategic Planning Session - 2018 Spring Board Meeting** - The proposed Strategic Planning Session was reviewed and it was decided, by consensus to hold the Spring Board meeting at the same time. A motion was made by Jake Gingerich and seconded by Jeff Lance to cover the hotel and meal expenses for 20 members and the Executive Committee in relation to the Strategic Planning Session planned for March 8 & 9 in Columbia, MO. The motion carried.
- E. **New Contractor Benefits** - See the National LICA update
- F. **2018 Field Day** - MU/MLICA Field Day MOU - See the Field Day Committee Report.
- G. **2018 Damage Prevention Summit Support** - After reviewing the 2017 Summit results, a motion was made by Tom Lawlor and seconded by Ken Balkenbusch for MLICA to be a Platinum Sponsor and host the equipment rodeo for the 2018 Damage Prevention Summit, as long as it is held in Springfield, MO. The motion carried. Larry LaFollette has agreed to serve as Missouri LICA's point for the 2018 Damage Prevention Summit, if it is held in Springfield, MO.
- H. **2018 Golf Outing** - a motion was made by Tom Lawlor and seconded by Jeff Lance to host the 2018 Golf Outing and Fun-Raiser at the Cameron Memorial Veterans' Golf Club on September 14. The motion carried.
- I. **Election of Officers** - A motion was made by Jeff Lance and seconded by Dennis Brinton to nominate Jake Gingerich as Secretary/Treasurer. A motion was made by Jim Bledsoe and seconded by Ken Balkenbusch to close nominations and elect Jake Gingerich as Secretary/Treasurer by acclamation.
- J. **Drainage Workshop** - Discussion was held concerning hosting another Drainage Workshop. Jeff Lance will get in touch with Dr. Kelly Nelson and Marty Comstock to explore the possibilities.

The meeting adjourned at 4:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Dickens
Executive Director