



↑ You could always count on Caryl to lend a helping hand during a LICA field day. He's pictured here (kneeling) during the 2000 Field Day at Squaw Creek.

The Missouri Land Improvement Contractors Association is proud to name Caryl Lance an Honorary Member in recognition of his never-ending contributions to our membership, our future and to the protection our most precious asset - Missouri's soil.



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January 25, 2020

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It's hard to know where to begin when recognizing all the contributions Caryl Lance made to LICA. When Caryl joined Missouri LICA in 1972, he jumped in with both feet and by 1975 was already working on his first field day. Over the ensuing 47 years of his membership in LICA, Caryl offered his guidance, technical skills, and tremendous support to field days in Weston, Kirksville, St. Joseph, and Squaw Creek, MO.

He served in every officer position multiple times for his District and as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, President, and Chairman of the Board for the state association. His term as President (1993-94) lasted two years, which was the first time that had happened since 1972. Even after his term was up as Chairman of the Board, Caryl faithfully served as a Board Representative for his District for many years. When Jerry Koechner became Vice President, he says that Caryl's mentorship was invaluable as Jerry prepared for and served his term as President.

During his membership, Caryl served on every committee, from membership to legislation and not in name alone. He testified before both Missouri House and Senate committees on a number of issues, including the blanket over-dimension permit, establishment and changes to the Land Improvement tag, for example. He testified not as a lobbyist but as a concerned citizen, while he was also protecting both the state's natural resources and Missouri LICA members. And his efforts were effective.

For example, in 1984, when the state legislature failed to put a 1/10th cent Soil, Water, and State Parks sales tax on the ballot, while Missouri ranked second in the nation for soil erosion, LICA members, including Caryl, began collecting signatures for an initiative petition drive. Jeff Lance, Caryl's nephew, remembers standing out in football fields, parking lots ... basically, "wherever two or more were gathered," to collect signatures. The issue was placed on the August, 1984 ballot and passed with a 2/3rds majority. With LICA members' help, including Caryl's, the Sales Tax was placed on the ballot in 1988, 1996, and 2006 through initiative petition drives, and passed by the same majority. The language in the 2006 renewal included a provision to automatically place the issue on the ballot every ten years. In 2016,

the tax was approved by almost 80% of the vote, passing in every county. Since 1984, this sales tax has resulted in the installation of more than a quarter of a million structural and management practices to address Missouri's soil erosion, while providing work for LICA members, due in large part to LICA members like Caryl volunteering their time to inform the public and secure initiative petition signatures.

It would be nearly impossible to list the number of District, State, Regional, and National LICA meetings Caryl attended. You could always count on Caryl's soft words of advice, infectious smile, and helping hand. While he was growing up, Jeff fondly remembers accompanying Caryl to field days and LICA meetings, which Jeff said were their family vacations. Even then, Caryl was not only helping LICA achieve its goals, but mentoring a future generation.

After he retired, Caryl continued his membership in Missouri LICA by becoming a Supporting member until he passed away on July 3, 2019. After his passing, Caryl's friends and customers made generous contributions to Missouri LICA's Memorial Scholarship, affording two deserving students the opportunity to continue Caryl's legacy.

Caryl began working in soil conservation at the age of 13 when he would operate a dozer for Martin Construction during the summers. In 1962, he started Lance Construction, and a mere ten years later, LICA began reaping enormous benefits from his dedication to the industry, the Association, and our members.

For these reasons and more, the Missouri LICA Board of Directors named Caryl D. Lance as an Honorary member on January 25, 2020.



← Caryl (pictured right) and Roger Levings take a short break during the 2005 Missouri LICA Winter Convention.