

ILICA



NEWS

Land Improvement Contractors Of America • Illinois Chapter

March—April 20

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Norm Kocher Steve Kocher Outstanding Convention and Annual Meeting



2007 Illinois Directors and President, Bill Dean

Featured Inside:

2007 ILICA Convention and Workshop National Convention in Orlando



Administration's Proposed FY 2008 Budget Provides Zero Funding for Watershed Program

Chandler, Oklahoma, February 6, 2007

The Administration's proposed budget for fiscal year 2008 has zero funding for the USDA watershed program (Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program). "This lack of proposed funding for the program, if approved by Congress, would have a devastating effect on watershed projects across the nation," said Mike Sykes, National Watershed Coalition (NWC) Chairman, who lives in Romney, West Virginia. The Administration's 2008 budget proposal comes on the heels of the House passage of continuing resolution language this past week which eliminates funding for the Watershed Operations account for the current year. "We understand the need to fund the war on terrorism and other national priorities, but we also have communities across the nation that are working on projects that protect the health and safety of citizens that also need help," said Sykes. "This proposed reduction in funding would delay construction, increase future costs and could put lives in danger and property at risk." said Sykes.

Only \$6 million is proposed in the FY 2008 budget for rehabilitation of aging flood control dams. "More that 900 watershed dams across the nation will need rehabilitation in just the next five years at a cost of over \$570 million," said Sykes. "These numbers will increase as dams get older and thousands of people and millions of dollars of property could be at risk if these dams should fail. That is why Congress authorized \$600 million for rehabilitation for 2003- 2007 in the last Farm Bill. Local watershed project sponsors provide 35 percent of the cost of the rehabilitation projects and many have local cost-share funds ready for projects that could be lost if the federal money isn't made available."

The National Watershed Coalition recommends \$35 million for watershed planning, \$190 million for watershed operations and \$75 million for rehabilitation of aging watershed dams for fiscal year 2008.

The USDA watershed program provides an important infrastructure to thousands of communities in all 50 states. Investment in the USDA watershed program over the past 50 years has developed a \$15 billion national infrastructure that is providing \$1.5 billion in annual benefits to 47 million people in 2,000 watershed projects.

"Project sponsors (local units of government) work hard to obtain local funding and clear projects for construction and implementation," said Sykes. "Time is often critical in getting construction started on projects and many have been waiting for years for the federal funding portion of a project. These projects return over \$2 in benefits for every \$1 spent.

Now would be a good time to contact your Members of Congress as well as members of the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees to express your concern and alarm over the lack of funding for the Watershed Program that was proposed in the Administration's FY 2008 Budget. It is critical to emphasize the importance of the program within your Congressman's home district by sharing the stories of your successes as well as your current needs.

Details of the Administration's FY08 Budget Proposal may be found on pages 112 thru 115 in the <u>Natural Resources Conservation Service section</u> of the Department of Agriculture Budget.





The ILICA News



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#

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

They feast on the abundance of your house,

And you give them drink from the river of your delights.

For with you is the fountain of

~ Psalm 36:7-9

life; in your light we see light.

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The LICA Creed

Land, the foundation of the Nation
The basis of all wealth
The heritage of the wise
The thrifty and prudent
The poor man's joy and comfort
The producer of food, fiber and fuel
The basis of factories
The foundation of banks

All that man builds is from the land. We often take it for granted or even abuse it; And yet many, unthinkingly and unknowingly pass the land by. What man does with the land will be the deciding factor of his survival.

Meeting Notice

Ryan's
Springfield Illinois
Saturday, May 5, 2007
2:00 PM

ILICA Committee Meetings 10:00 AM—2:00 PM



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Mattoon,

I want to say a big thanks to those of you who thought I was capable of being president. Just to let everyone know we are going to have a fun year whether you like it or not. It will be tough trying to fill Joes' shoes, however I will give it a whirl. I think we all owe Joe a standing ovation for the tasks he has performed in his 2 year reign. He has served and chaired several committees as well as helped out anywhere he might be needed during this

time. He Co-Chaired the show committee during several busy years as well as kept this organization focused. Please make a point to say THANK YOU to him in one of our upcoming meetings.

I will do my best to serve this organization as best as possible. I will however miss a couple of meetings during my busy times I'm sure. I will make every attempt to offset this with the times I am there.

Now down to business. I read a nice winter poem the other day that is worth repeating and it goes like this "Damn, it's cold." We have had several days in a row with below 0 wind chills. I did some digging here the second week in February and found 12" of frost on top. I hope by the time you read this the cold has subsided somewhat. However I think we all are aware the deep freeze will be good for the upcoming year. We have had a busy year so far and hopefully with the higher grain prices it will help all over.

Please do a couple of favors to this association if at all possible. First, lets all help Wayne Litwiller out. He, as membership chairman, is pushing for everyone to get new members. Lets do what asks and maybe he will shut up (I mean get off our backs). On a serious note, let's do try and please him. All we are asking is for each of us to sign up one (1) new Active member and at least 3 new Associate members. Secondly I want to ask every Director on the Board, Committee Member, and Chairmen to make every attempt to attend meetings when possible. The committees & board members are the backbone of ILICA. Being able to attend every meeting will probably not be possible. That is not a problem, however be sure to contact your Alternate or other committee members to make sure someone from your respective position will attend. Trust me, we will emphasize this all year long. Also, please invite any general member to attend and get him or her involved on a committee and it will be inevitable they will enjoy the same fun we have.

With this kind of commitment and hard work during this year, we will reach our goal, get our work done, pull off another Expo, and make my job easier. (That is my goal).

Thanks for all your attention and if anyone has any ideas please share them with myself or anyone else in our Association.

Take care and see ya around!!

Bill



Active Members

Erik Sloneker
MJE Construction Co.—Bloomington
James Feuchtner
Customer Underground Inc.—Edwards

Affiliate Members

Colt Roderick—Dean Drainage—Mattoon
Gary Reynolds—Dean Drainage—Mattoon

Associate Members

Joe LaHood, LaHood Construction Inc.—East Peoria

Jeff Grimm, Lighthouse Buick-Morton

John Papenhause, Ag-Land FS, Inc.—Pekin

Associate Members (cont.)

Mike Lanman, Lanman Oil Company—Charleston

Al Kaiser, Kaiser Electrical Contractors—Morton

Mark Cox, First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust-Mattoon

Mike Baynard, Mathis-Kelley Construction Supply—Morton

Dan Schopp, First Security Bank—Mackinaw

Allen Schrock, Allen Schrock & Sons Crane Service Inc.—Congerville

Skip Raisor, Raisor Motor Co.—Morton

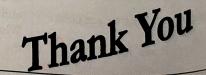
Matt Coulter, Peoria Disposal Co. / Area Disposal Service Inc.—Peoria

Bill Rasmussen, Bill Rasmussen Chevrolet—Mattoon

Aaron Starwalt, Starwalt's Tire & Auto-Mattoon

Matt Coulter, Peoria Disposal Co. / Area Disposal Service Inc.—

Roland Rich, Roland Rich Ford Mercury—Delavan



2007 Convention & Annual Meeting—Stoney Creek Inn—Moline, Illinois

The Illinois Land Improvement Contractors of America (ILICA) held their 50th Anniversary Convention in Moline Illinois and the Stoney Creek Inn was the perfect setting for a landmark event. Not only is the Ho-

tel new and beautifully furnished, but every level of staff was pleasant, responsive and truly service oriented. I would like to commend them for adding to the enjoywithout hesitation.

Wednesday, January 17th started early with a 2 stop John Deere tour, first, stopping at the Works Plant then moving to the Harvester Plant before returning to the hotel around lunch time. The Founding & Past Member Social was a great success,

thanks in large part to the efforts of Hank and Addie Weast. There were several scrapbooks, old newsletters,

photos and stories circulating around Back Water Jack's Saloon that afternoon with the spirit fellowship and

Later on, we boarded the buses to John Deere Corporate Headquarters (The Rusty Palace) in Moline for a steak dinner and birthday presentation for outgoing President, Joe Streitmatter. We were greeted by Xenya Mucha, Product Marketing Manager of the Construction and Forestry Division of John Deere and toured their inventive display of construction, farm and lawn equipment while enjoying hors devours.



Thursday, the conference began in earnest with Registration and an IDOT Regulations Update from the Illinois State Police Motor Carrier Division, an OSHA Violation and Inspection Update by General Causality, and exhibitor set up and opening. The auction followed the evening meal and, thanks to the generous

donations from our associates and everyone who bought items from equipment rental to pig totes(?) to Paul the Good Luck Bear, brought in an all time high \$10,000 by the end of the evening. The night was pure entertainment and ILICA membership at it's best.



Friday was dedicated to meetings and speakers and the business of moving ILICA forward in 2007. We're all indebted to everyone who traveled to Moline to facilitate a workshop or spend a few

minutes informing our group of the latest changes in agency programs and challenges that face everyone in our industry. The Ladies program began with a tour of the Isabel Bloom factory then on to Lavender Crest Winery for another tour and lunch. Everyone seemed to thoroughly

enjoy the day.



The Awards Banquet and Ceremony began with the traditional entrance of ILICA Leadership to "This Land is Your Land" and the lighting of the memory candle for those that have gone ahead of us but were present in spirit. Tim McMahon of Macon Co. NRCS and Cindy Laegeler of Progress City USA

were awarded the 2006 Merit Awards for outstanding service to ILICA. Jon Seevers was awarded the 2006 Director of

the year and Marsh Haag received the 2006 Mrs. Contractor Award. Dale Collinson was named 2006 Mr. Contractor for his many years of service and continued active participation in ILICA. The Associate hospitality rooms opened following the ceremony and the good time continued until late into the night (morning maybes)













2007 Annual Convention & Meeting (cont.)



Saturday provided more educational workshops on Lease vs. Purchase, Addressing Compensation and Benefits to Employees and a General First Aide program which were all very well done. After a more leisurely lunch, we boarded the bus for a tour of

the Rock Island Arsenal and Museum, which was fascinating and very informative. Our tour guide, William Johnson, is the curator of the museum and very knowledgeable regarding the history and current functions of the Island.



In conclusion, it appears everyone had a wonderful time, loved the hotel, the food and the company, which created a positive energy that drove each event to be the best ever.

Dan Hance and his staff at Stoney Creek Inn were phenomenal in their genuine friendliness and service disposition. We were treated like favored guests and we want to thank everyone there for their kindness toward our group. Becky Lodge made this convention easy to plan and always made sure we were taken care of once we arrived.





Pictures from Thursday's Ladies' program, Recipe Exchange, Prairie Lady Presentation & Make & Take Workshop, Jewelry Workshop

& White Elephant Bingo.



Friday's Ladies' Tour started at Isabel Bloom factory and ended at their gift shop, just around the corner from Stoney Creek Inn. In between, they ate lunch at the Lavender Crest Winery, sampled their delicious wines, toured the wine making facility and gift shop before returning to the hotel, packages in hand.

Heiser Insurance & Financial Services

At Continental Western Group, business insurance is what we do; period. Our single focus is to provide our customers with the business insurance coverage they need today and in the future. Continental Western Group is the Illinois LICA endorsed carrier for property and casualty insurance. Contact Tim Neuhauser at Heiser Insurance 1-800-727-9775 or Continental Western Group directly at 1-800-235-2942 for more information.



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Illinois LICA meets with State NRCS Officials

Norm Kocher, Long Term Planning Committee Chairperson, called for a meeting with Bill Gradle, Ivan Dozier and Manny Wei from Illinois NRCS, Bill Graff from FSA and members of his committee and other interested ILICA members. Although Mr. Graff is unable to attend, Jim Ross will represent FSA and everyone else is available for the February 23rd meeting in Champaign. Several ILICA members from Long Term Planning and the Show Committee plan to attend and discuss the 2007 NRCS programs and how our Expo can best demonstrate those programs along with Stream Bank and State CCP funding programs.

The February 13th NRCS Technical meeting was rescheduled to February 27th, due to bad weather. The initial date conflicted with the National LICA conference in Florida, but this rescheduling allows our organization to send representatives to this meeting as well.

Information on the outcome of both meetings will be available at the March 3rd Board of Directors Meeting.

Illinois LICA attends Bureau County NRCS / SWCD Contractors Meeting

Illinois LICA was invited to speak at the Bureau Co. Contractors meeting on February 21st at the Extension Office in Princeton. Dave Hurst, Area 7 Director and Janet Doubet, ILICA ED attended the meeting which featured speakers from NRCS, ILICA, Prinsco and the Bureau County Sheriffs Department. Dave addressed the group of 15 contractors regarding our partnerships with state and federal agencies, our educational opportunities and certification program. A small brochure regarding the benefits of ILICA membership was distributed along with newsletters and directories for anyone interested.

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Gabbin' with the Gals...

Remember that sing-song poem that went something like this: "Here we go gathering nuts in May, all on a beautiful morning, etc."? Well, as this is being written we could change it to our current weather this way; "Here we go gathering snow and win, and cold temps to burn more gas or electric, etc." You will have to admit that Mother Nature does not play favorites. She has been all over our country at one time or another the past two years, leaving her signature wherever. And She makes no bones about it, some more severe than others and causing, in some instances, very crucial hardships and irreparable destruction. Those who have (so far) evaded her terrible wrath should

always include a little prayer of thanks each night. Weather is an enigma—none can do anything about it, no matter how much money or influence you may have; SHE WHO IS TO BE ENDURED is the boss!

It was a very difficult decision to make about attending the convention in January. However, after weighting the pros and cons, the cons won out, in order to be fair to all. Yes, I can propel the wheelchair when the distance is too far for the walker, but there are other conditions that refuse to be discussed that had to be the ultimate yes or no. Sure miss those meetings where you can visit with many friends and make new ones, especially the devotions are sorely missed. Was reminiscing recently about the time we went to the national convention with Rose and Ben in their motor home; Rose and I had a great contest going on, making rhymes; she is very sharp in this endeavor, so it was difficult but sill a lot of fun. Then Clyde and I rode with Doc and Nellie Kleiss of Pesotum (a lot of you probably remember them); Nellie succumbed to cancer quite a few years ago and Doc is still doing fairly well, living in a good home in Urbana. His daughter and her family live at the country place where Doc and Nellie lived. I believe some of Doc's family farms his land. His daughter just recently told me how he likes to talk about the ILICA and all the trips they took while a member.

It is good that our granddaughter, Kristin and her family enjoy going to the convention also. She is great at Scrapbooking and just have a session a few days ago on it. She makes all of her greeting cards and made our Thanksgiving cards we send to customers each November. She is also a pretty good artist and we believe her daughter, who just turned eleven, has inherited her talent. Perhaps our son Larry has passed on his talents to them. Larry's eldest son Andrew, is a senior in Chicago Art College and is already doing free-lance artwork and is making a name for himself. They must have inherited that from their father: Art can go many places and I truly believe that if Clyde had lived in the 1800's, he would have been an inventor. Whenever they needed a change on a machine to do a different task, you could almost see the cogs spinning in his head figuring it out. Many can attest to the fact that he used restaurant napkins to put sketches on so they weren't lost. Now this person is lucky to follow the directions on how to put things together, etc. so you can see how much help I wasn't! Our two sons, Dan and Scott, also have been know to do some drawings; even our eldest, Ed, can draw designs on occasion, providing you can read it! (Shut my mouth!)

We are drowning in politics nowadays, what with prospective presidents popping up here and there. Haven't made up my mind who to vote for if nominated, but have made up my mind who I won't vote for if nominated. Not too long ago there was a bill to be voted on and many days went by just discussing it—reminded me of something Senator Robert Byrd said at one time, "We have debated this bill now for nine days—I heard that the world was created in seven."

Here are a few quotes: "Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses." ... "The irony of life is that by the time you are old enough to know your way around, you are not going anywhere." ... "The more you complain, the longer God lets you getting into mischief, finally asked him, "Tommy, how do you expect to get into heaven someday?" The boy thought it over and explained, "Well, I'll just run in and out and in and out, slamming the gate until St. Peter says, "For heavens sake Tommy, come in or stay out."

The word for this issue is "Listen." You will be hearing politicians talk their heads off the next few months and it will pay you to listen carefully to analyze what they are really saying then determine whether or not you believe it. Better still, many books have been published the past few years about politicians and it would behoove all of us to read some of them about folks we vaguely know something about. If they are written by people who really know them well, then that should tell us something. Of course, people can talk about some of the problems all of us evidently cause that have to be solved. When it comes to separating the chaff from the grain, we may find we better "listen-up" and pay attention.

To get you up to speed, my granddaughter who was living with me decided to move in with a good friend of hers who teaches school here in town. They have been friends for many years and you can't blame a young lady to wish to have her own domain and they are making a go of it. Now my daughter comes up several evenings a week so there is some activity here—plus I go to work most when Grandma gets to eat ice cream and cake! Our new great-grand-baby is a little over a month old and still pretty small—weighed 5lb 1 oz at birth. Guess who was the most popular person at the party, huh??

We wish only warmer weather to all and keep a song in your heart!!

···· Rambling Rose



OSHA Quick Reference Tips

Top Four Construction Hazards

The top four causes of construction fatalities are: Falls, Struck-By, Caught-In/Between and Electrocutions.

Prevent Falls:

- Wear and use personal fall arrest equipment
- Install and maintain perimeter protection
- Cover and secure floor openings and label floor opening covers
- Use ladders and scaffolds safely.



Prevent Struck-By:

- Never position yourself between moving and fixed objects.
- Wear high-visibility clothes near equipment/vehicles.



Prevent Caught-In/Between:

- Never enter an unprotected trench or excavation 5 feet or deeper without adequate protective system in place; some trenches under 5 feet deep may also need such a system.
- Make sure the trench or excavation is protected either by sloping, shoring, benching or trench shield systems.



Prevent Electrocutions

- Locate and identify utilities before starting work
- Look for overhead power lines when operating any equipment
- Maintain a safe distance away from power lines; learn the safe distance requirements
 - Do not operate portable electric tools unless they are grounded or double insulated
 - Use ground-fault circuit interrupters for protection

Be alert to electrical hazards when working with ladders, scaffolds or other platforms

Protect Yourself Construction Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Eye and Face Protection

- Safety glasses or face shields are worn any time work operations can cause foreign objects to get in the eye. For example, during welding, cutting, grinding, nailing (or when working with concrete and/or harmful chemicals or when exposed to flying particles). Wear when exposed to any electrical hazards, including working on energized electrical systems.
- Eye and face protectors—select based on anticipated hazards

Foot Protection

- Construction workers should wear work shoes or boots with slip-resistant and puncture-resistant soles
- Safety-toed footwear is worn to prevent crushed toes when working around heavy equipment or falling objects.

Hand Protection

- Gloves should fit snuggly
- Workers should wear the right gloves for the job (examples: heavy-duty rubber gloves for concrete work; welding gloves for welding; insulated gloves and sleeves when exposed to electrical hazards)

Head Protection

- Wear hard hats where there is a potential for objects falling from above, bumps to the head from fixed objects, or of accidental head contact with electrical hazards
- Hard hats-routinely inspect them for dents, cracks or deterioration; replace after a heavy blow or electrical shock; maintain in good condition

Hearing Protection

Use ear plugs/ear muffs in high noise work areas where chainsaws or heavy equipment are used; clean or replace ear plugs regularly

For more complete information:

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

U.S. Department of Labor www.osha.gov (800) 321-OSHA

Clocks' Early Spring Forward May Bring About a Few Falls



By Charles Babington—Washington Post Staff Writer—Thursday, February 1, 2007; Page A01

It seemed so simple and familiar: Spring forward, fall back. For 20 years, that's what Americans -- and their technology -- have done with their clocks on the first Sunday in

April and the last Sunday in October.

No longer. When few people were paying attention in August 2005, Congress lengthened daylight saving time by four weeks in the name of energy efficiency.

The change takes effect this year -- on March 11 -- and it has angered airlines, delighted candy makers and sent thousands of technicians scrambling to make sure countless automated systems switch their clocks at the right moment. Unless changed by one method or another, many systems will remain programmed to read the calendar and start daylight saving time on its old date in April, not its new one in March.

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It's one thing to arrive an hour late for church on the first day of daylight saving. It's another for a security system to log the wrong time of crucial events, for pilots to misunderstand their takeoff times or international communications components to stop synchronizing. But such scenarios are possible without the fix to vast numbers of the nation's technical systems.

As IBM notes on its Web site: "Any time-sensitive functions could be impacted by this change. . . . It is important for users to assess their environments and develop appropriate plans for applying the necessary changes."

The challenge carries faint echoes of the Y2K scare, when governments and corporations feared computer systems would go berserk the instant that 1999 flipped to 2000. But it has received nothing near the same level of attention. In fact, large swaths of private and corporate America seem oblivious to the approaching change, according to analysts and technicians who track Web sites and swap information with colleagues nationwide.

"After building bunkers in the desert for Y2K, we're not even talking about this, and it's happening in less than two months," said Matthew Kozak, an information technology specialist at Rutgers University who monitors numerous sites and discussion groups.

Even in the banking industry, where ATMs time-stamp every customer transaction, awareness of the March 11 change is limited.

"I haven't heard about it," said Barry Koling, spokesman for Atlanta-based <u>SunTrust Banks</u>. "It seems to me, we managed to get through Y2K. If we can accomplish the change of the millennium, we can handle a change in daylight saving time."

For many widely used devices, automatic updates should be easy. Cellphones should flash the correct date and time because they get such information from their service providers' networks. Similarly, the Internet will automatically update clocks on many personal computers that use relatively up-to-date software.

But Microsoft cautions that some of its older products -- including Windows XP SP1 and Windows NT4 -- will require manual updates. The company's Web site provides detailed instructions on how to update various products, although it is pushing against the deadline in some cases. Updates and tools "are being developed and tested," the Web site says, and some will "be released through early March 2007.



Dan and Sylvia Day proudly announce the arrival of a new grand-daughter born to Chuck and Sarah Ulrich of Paxton, Illinois.

Charley Kaye was born December 30, 2006 at 10:29 am. She weighed 5 lbs—1 oz and was 17 1/2" long. Big brother, Kaleb, welcomes Charley home.

Charley is the 10th grandchild to bless Dan and Sylvia's family and is Rose Day's (*Gabbin'* with the Gals) newest great-grandchild.

Ground Water: Out of Sight, But Not Out of Mind By Kevin McCray, CAE, Executive Director National Ground Water Association

Some 47 percent of the U.S. population depends on ground water, the water that fills cracks and other openings in beds of rock and sand, for its drinking water supply-be it from either a public source or private well. In rural areas, the number is about 96 percent. In many other ways, as well. Consider:

Week, to be observed March 11-17, 2007. But ground water is

- Ground water provides much of the flow of many streams; often lakes and streams are "windows" to the water table. Ground flowed from the ground into the stream channel.
- Scientists estimate U.S. ground water reserves to be at least 33,000 trillion gallons-equal to the amount discharged into the Gulf of
 Mexico by the Mississippi River in the past 200 years.
- The United States uses 83.3 billion gallons per day of fresh ground water for public supply, private supply, irrigation, livestock, manufacturing, mining, thermoelectric power, and other purposes.
- Ground water is tapped through wells placed in water-bearing soils and rocks beneath the surface of the earth. There are nearly tracting firms employing nearly 55,000 people dedicated to providing and protecting our nation's ground water supplies.
- Irrigation accounts for the largest use of ground water in the U.S., about 65 percent of all the ground water pumped each day. reason for the abundance of fresh produce and grains that we all enjoy.
- One ton of ground water used by industry generates an estimated \$14,000 worth of output.

These facts help us connect with the important role we each play as stewards, or protectors, of ground water. Man can adversely affect the resource. Fortunately, there are simple steps that will help protect ground water and the wells systems that distribute it. Always use licensed or certified water well drillers and pump installers when a well is constructed or serviced, or when the pump is installed or serviced.

Keep hazardous materials away from any well. Never dump such materials, motor oil, or anything else that could impact water quality onto the land surface, into a hole or pit, or into a surface water supply.

These tips and more are available from sources such as a state ground water or water well association, NGWA, or from your county agricultural extension agent or state government agency with responsibility for ground water.

A convenient source for a broader understanding of our ground water protector role can be found at www.wellowner.org, a Web service of the National Ground Water Association.

National Ground Water Awareness Week is not a celebration, like the Fourth of July has become. Instead, we should use the week to reflect more deeply on ground water's value and its contributions to our lives.

Article found on National Ground Water Association website; www.ngwa.org



A Spring Growl

by Christopher Pearce Cranch

If there comes a little thaw,

Still the air is chill and raw,

Here and there a patch of snow,

Dirtier than the ground below,

Dribbles down a marshy flood;

Ankle-deep you stick in mud,

In the meadows while you sing,

"This is Spring!"

Ground Water Awareness Weeks March 11-17, 2007

Just as you check your furnace or smoke detector batteries seasonally, spring is a good season to have an annual water well checkup before the peak water use season begins, according to the National Ground Water Association (NGWA). NGWA's Groundwater Awareness Week is a good opportunity for districts, state organizations, ground water businesses, and individual ground water professionals to inform their communities about the importance of ground water as a resource.

Steps you can take to inform your communities about ground water include sending a letter to the editor, placing a radio spot on local stations, posting Awareness Week fliers and distributing consumer-oriented articles to the general public. Details are available at: http://www.ngwa.org/awareness/awareinvolved.cfm.



Illinois LICA—2007 Workshop & Certification Testing



The 2007 Workshop and Certification Review and Test were scheduled for January 30—31, 2007 at the Route 66 Hotel in Springfield Illinois. Several contractors attended the sessions: Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan—Erosion Control on Projects; Competent Person Awareness: Reading and Understanding Site Plans—Including IDOT Road and Bridge Standards; and the JULIE Update. Continuing Education Credits (CEC's) were awarded for all sessions and 2 new contractors became ILICA Certified through the U of I Certifica-

tion program. A list of current ILICA Certified Contractors can be found below.

Dave Hurst and Executive Director / Secretary Janet Doubet, are developing a data base to accurately track CEC's, certification numbers and contractors. This application will enable Janet to notify members of current CEC standings and any other

requirements for continuing certification. (You must have 8 CEC's biannually to maintain your certification status.) Certificates, Certification cards and magnetic signs should be sent out soon.

Special thanks to our facilitators who helped make this workshop a success; Tim McMahon & Rick Macho from SWCD, Pam Hughes from General Casualty, Kevin Burke from Illinois DOT, Ray Muhs from J.U.L.I.E and Professor Kent Mitchell, for overseeing the certification review and testing.



Illinois LICA—Certified Contractors List

Certified Contractor	Company Name	Erosion Control	Drainage	Earthmoving	City	State
John Barttelbort	BFCO Subsurface Drain		√	\checkmark	Belleville	IL
Lee Bunting	Bunting Brothers	\checkmark		√	Dwight	IL
Donald Bunting	Bunting Brothers				Dwight	IL
Kenneth Carpenter	Carpenter Tiling Service		√		Franklin	IL
Jerry Lewis	CHAT, Ltd	√			Good Hope	IL
Dan Day	Day Drainage Company Inc	√	$\sqrt{}$	1	Gibson City	IL
Scott Day	Day Drainage Company Inc		1		Mahomet	IL
Bill Dean	Dean Drainage	1	1	1	Mattoon	IL
Gary Elliott	Elliott Subsurface Drain	a property and the second	1		Palmyra	IL
Forrest Davis	Forrest Davis Construction Co			1	Manito	IL
Dennis Behrends	Haley Brothers Excavating	√	1		Clifton	IL
Dave Hurst	Hurst & Sons Land Improvement	1	1	1	Yates City	IL
Frank Hutson	Huston Land Improvement	1	1	1	Roseville	IL
David Kennedy	Kennedy Farm Drain	1	1	1	Colfax	IL
Jeff Litwiller	Litwiller Excavating	Attack to be the same		V	Hopedale	IL
Wes Litwiller	Litwiller Excavating	1			Hopedale	IL
Wayne Litwiller	Litwiller Excavating		nt Strict o	KSIAGO S IOS	Hopedale	IL
Greg Magsamen	Magsamen Backhoe	√	1	p the original of	White Heath	IL
David Maltby	Maltby Excavating Inc.	V		V	Pawnee	IL
Bill Masching	Masching's Excavating	1	1	1	Odell	IL
Ron Masching	Masching's Excavating	1	1	1	Odell	IL
Stuart Anderson	Miller Twp Construction	1	1	3/	Marseilles	IL
Jon Seevers	Seevers Farm Drain Inc	√ ·	1	V		
Mark Baker	Springfield Plastics Inc		1		Argenta	IL
Joe Streitmatter	Streitmatter Land Improvement Inc	V	1	a sa con a la con a con	Auburn	IL
Joe Krupps		1	1	√	Wyoming	IL
		The second secon	1		Galeshura	II

Members listed above are those in good standing for 2007 that have maintained the 2 year recertification criteria.

two-

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

PORT INDUSTRIES

PALMYRA, MO

FIELD DAY

July 17th & 18th

On display will be WHEEL TRENCHER CHAIN TRENCHER PLOW SCRAPER

More information coming at a later date



ILICA to Join Partners in Conservation at 2007 Illinois Farm Progress Show

Illinois LICA has been invited to participate in the Partners in Conservation tent at the August 28—30, 2007 Farm Progress Show in Decatur Illinois. We'll have exhibit space inside the tent, lots of information about last years' Conservation Expo on the adjacent property along with several other displays explaining the newest water and soil conservation practices being used today.

Plan to stop by our exhibit while visiting this year's Illinois Farm Progress Show.

Illinois LICA Takes Part in Washington DC

Although the appointments are being initiated as this newsletter goes to print, Steve and Stuart Anderson will participate in the series of meetings and personal appointments as LICA converges on Washington DC March 19—21 of this year.

Several issues were discussed at the national LICA conference in Orlando that will be brought to the attention of those willing to be available for questions.

Janet at the Illinois LICA office is going through a list of potential committee members and Senators to secure several appointments for the Andersons to address while in DC. The issues they will comment on are tax issues in small business/land improvement industry, health care reform related to small business owners, watershed repair funding, energy issues, immigration reform and regulation of small business.

Deputy Under Secretary for Conservation and Environment, Gary Mast has already agreed to meet with the entire group at 8:00 AM Tuesday, March 20th.

Anyone interested in supporting the Washington DC Legislative visit is encouraged to contact Steve or Stuart Anderson or the office at (309) 639-2015 for more information.

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2007 Illinois LICA Committees

Associate

Mark Baker, Chair/Springfield Plastics Chad Nickelson/Eastern IL Clay

Corey Getz/ADS

Kane Causemaker/ADS

Eugene Glueck/ Martin Equipment

Auditing

Forrest Davis, Chair Ron Masching Steve Anderson

Awards

Scott & Kate Day, Chair

Rose Day

Bill & Bev Dean

Budget

Steve Anderson, Chair

Wayne Litwiller Forrest Davis Bill Dean Dan Day

By-Laws

Don Hurst, Chair Stan Seevers

Stuart Anderson

Bill Doubet

Certification

Dave Hurst, Chair

Stan Seevers Ron Masching Forrest Davis

Wayne Litwiller

Prof. Kent Mitchell, U of I

Certification Board

Dave Hurst, Chair Ron Masching Forrest Davis Wayne Litwiller Dave Kennedy

Convention

David & Marsha Haag, Chair Greg & Jennifer Furkin Brian & Angie Brooks Kristin Kutemeier Ron & Cathy Masching

Devotions

Rose Day, Chair Steve Anderson Norm Rozendaal Education

Jon Seevers, Chair Ron Masching Carol Kiley Steve Anderson Scott Day Bob Grothaus Mark Baker

Prof. Richard Cooke—U of I

Jim Evans, NRCS

Executive

Bill Dean, Chair Wayne Litwiller Stuart Anderson Steve Anderson Janet Burtle-Doubet

Headquarters

Dan Day, Chair Dale Collinson Steve Anderson Forrest Davis Bill Doubet Mark Baker

Industrial & Business Relations

Wayne Litwiller, Chair

Bill Doubet Dan Day Charlie Adams Dale Collinson

Insurance

Dave Hurst, Chair Stan Seevers Charlie Adams Dan Day

Ladies

Janice Litwiller, Chair

Jean Davis Janet Doubet Cathy Masching Bev Dean

Jackie Streitmatter

Legislative

Dave Hurst, Chair Norm Kocher Dale Collinson Lee Bunting Norm Kocher Steve Anderson Long Term Planning

Norm Kocher, Chair Stuart Anderson

Dan Day Bill Doubet Neal Barnes

Membership

Wayne Litwiller, Co-Chair Norm Kocher, Co-Chair

Mark Baker Scott Day Carol Kiley Neal Barnes

Nomination

Don Hurst, Chair Stan Seevers Forrest Davis

On-Site Waste

Wayne Litwiller, Chair Larry Rhodenbaugh Jason Winings Jon Seevers John McCoy

Picnic

Dave & Marsha Haag Kristin Kutemeier

Publicity

Bill Masching, Chair

Mark Baker Wayne Litwiller Bev Dean Neal Barnes

Safety

Stan Seevers, Chair Jason Winings Dave Kennedy John McCoy Dave Hurst

Show

Bill Doubet, Co-Chair Dave Kennedy, Co-Chair

Brian Brooks Joe Streitmatter Wayne Litwiller Joe Krupps Forrest Davis John McCoy

Neal Barnes

Committee Agendas

Illinois ILICA is and should be a committee run organization. It is up to the committees to generate ideas and present them to the President and/or the Board of Directors and to act on those ideas upon further direction. It usually takes some time for newly formed committees to get organized and with our business and personal affairs taking precedent this can take months. The exception is having to make decisions without the benefit of the input of the entire committee. Getting organized should be the first order of business for every committee.

Following are a few ideas to pursue at the first organizational committee meeting of each year.

Exchanging contact info and preferred type of correspondence (email, fax, cell phone)

Formulate a list of duties and responsibilities

Formulate a list of goals

Discuss and document relationship with related committees (coordinate any joint meetings/decision making required during the year)

Organizing and documenting these issues will not only benefit each committee, it will also benefit the officers, members and other committees in delegating issues to the appropriate committee. It can be used as a guideline for future committees or newly appointed members, and modified by each committee as needed for their specific responsibilities.

Please give these issues some thought prior to the next committee meeting and bring your ideas for 2007. There will be a organizational template available at all remaining Board Meetings and anyone who would like to customize it for their specific needs should contact Janet at the office and an electronic copy will be provided via email.

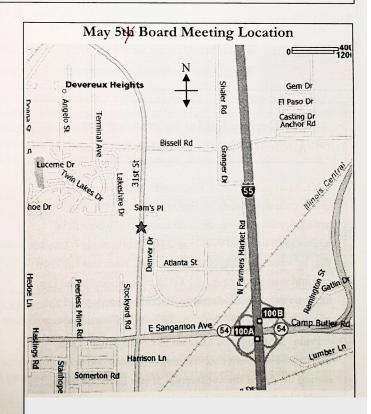
Once each committee's annual agenda is completed, a copy should be filed with the ILICA office and distributed to any other committee chairs with shared responsibilities. These agendas will become a permanent part of the committee records for the year and help committee chairs with their year end reporting for the Illinois Annual Meeting in 2008.

Submitted by Dave Hurst

Committee Function, Responsibility and Authority

The committee system is the best system yet devised in a democracy to capture and develop ideas into a workable program. The FUNCTION of each committee is to gather ideas from every source that relates to its area of concern. Those ideas should be advanced in the form of a proposal. Each member of the committee has a personal RESPONSIBILITY to become knowledgeable in that area of the committee's concern. Each committee has the AUTHORITY to investigate, research, meet submit reports and develop proposals, to the extent of its budget. Committees are authorized by the By-Laws as an instrument of the Board as a means to secure ideas and suggestion form the membership. Committees which do not gather and refine ideas for presentation to the Board are missing the opportunity to serve the Association. Committees can be no stronger than the individual members who serve the Association.

The committee structure of Illinois LICA is an integral part of every function, goal and service we provide. Committees are the driving force behind every convention, workshop, expo or membership drive and one of the reasons we are celebrating 50 years of success at the January 2007 Convention. If you are interested in becoming involved in one of the committees listed on page 14, please let your Area Director or any member of the Executive Committee know.



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Deputy Under Secretary Mast Addresses National LICA in Orlando

Mr. Mast joined LICA in Orlando and addressed the group following lunch on Friday, February 16. The Deputy Under Secretary reaffirmed the mutually beneficial relationship between NRCS and LICA and made it known that he values our input as contractors, farm and landowners, and businesspeople. As LICA plans their annual Legislative visit to Washington in March, he encouraged the group by stating his "door would be open" to them.

Friday morning, Mr. Mast sat in on the Water Table Management Committee meeting and remained accessible during his day at the conference. If you have concerns you'd like to share with him, please contact the ILICA office at 309-639-2015 for his contact information.

USDA Announces Appointment of Mast as Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment



Deputy Under Secretary Gary Mast

Secretary Mike Johanns announced the selection of Gary W. Mast as Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment (NRE). The NRE mission area at USDA includes two agencies—the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Forest Service. As Deputy Under Secretary, Mast will oversee NRCS and work closely with NRCS Chief Arlen Lancaster and Under Secretary Mark Rey on conservation policy and operations issues. As USDA Deputy Under Secretary, Mast

oversees NRCS and works closely with NRCS and NRE on conservation policy and operations issues.

Prior to his appointment, Mast served as Senior Advisor to the Chief of NRCS and before that as NRCS Special Assistant and Chief of Staff. Mast served as President of the National Association of Conservation Districts and is a sixth-generation family farmer.

NRE ensures the health of the land through sustainable management.





Look who came to ILICA's 50th Annual Convention!

We were blessed to have JoAnne Huff, Executive Director for ILICA for 24 years, attend two days of

our convention in Moline this January. It was wonderful to see her again and I must say retirement looks good on her! She was able to enjoy the Ladies' Day outing, which was always impossible to do while she was Director and attended the auction and Awards' Banquet.

She was on her way to Florida, so some of us will get to see her again at National's convention in Orlando. She's still living in Mercer Wisconsin but has continued to be available as a resource as I learn my various responsibilities.

Thanks for joining us JoAnne, and for your continued support of Illinois LICA.



Ag Drainage Management Coalition Press Release (from ADMC web site) ADMC Receives Nation's Largest Conservation Innovation Grant

DES MOINES, Iowa -- The Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition (ADMC) showcased some of the innovative practices that precipitated its receipt of a conservation innovation grant during a demon-

stration to Merlyn Carlson, USDA Deputy Undersecretary for Natural Resources and the Environment. The grant will examine the impacts of drainage water management on Midwestern row-crop agriculture, a practice that controls subsurface drains to better conserve water and reduce nutrient loss. The project will involve farmers and researchers from Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio.

"We're pleased that Deputy Undersecretary Carlson could come to Minnesota to look at this practice first-hand, and talk with us about our plans for this grant," said Tade Sullivan, Executive Director of the ADMC

Carlson was in Minnesota following the announcement that the coalition will receive the nation's largest Conservation Innovation Grant awarded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The project, totaling \$1.9 million of public and private money over three years, will examine yield effects, pollution reduction, and develop management recommendations for Midwestern farmers. The grant will be lead by ADMC, and will include the University of Minnesota, Iowa State University, the University of Illinois, Purdue University, and The Ohio State University, as well as the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the National Corn Growers Association. The demonstration projects will utilize the latest technologies, including satellite-controlled water level control structures that farmers will be able to control over the internet.

"This grant will help our organization develop management recommendations for farmers, as well as quantify the yield impacts of this practice. We are fortunate to have a distinguished group of research partners, and to be able to engage producers directly in developing the recommendations," said Sullivan.

ADMC is a membership organization that pursues the goals of promoting drainage water management to producers and landowners as a way to reduce the nutrient enrichment of water bodies, both near and far; protect against dry spells and droughts that can reduce crop yields; and provide an additional management tool for producers to enhance wildlife habitat during the off-season.

Update—National LICA Conference in Orlando

The National LICA conference kicked off the pre-tours on February 12th with a morning tour of a local orange grove, followed by a ranch style cook out that evening at Geri



Mulford and her partner's Florida ranch. Everything was top notch! The conference theme was "Just One," challenging each LICA member to recruit "just one" member in 2007. It seems like a small step, but it's one that could make a big difference when you carry that through every state chapter. Tuesday tours included Kennedy Space Center and ADS Accord Industries tours while Wednesday, membership got down to the business of OSHA training, controlled drainage, GPS and several other educational sessions. Devotions were offered each morning starting on Wednesday as God remains at the

center of our organization. Thursday offered the Ladies their day out while education continued but the evening was hosted by the associates in the exhibit hall. Once again, the sponsor-

ship of many meals and services were provided by the generous associate membership. The evening was a lot of fun, food and fellowship. Meetings for committees, boards, regions and directors began Friday morning and continued through Saturday afternoon. Meet-

ings had good attendance and several issued voted on and decided.

The national Term Life benefit that had been in danger of being dropped due to increasing costs has been secured with another company. It remains a real benefit and has the additional value of a buy up option to \$100,000 at a very competitive rate. LICA also adopted a two year trial Dues Reduction program for state chapters. Each chapter will receive a rebate for every 10% growth shown as well as for every 100 members. National Board members were voted in without debate and as Darell Birge of Indiana moved to Chairman of the Board, Doug Hey of New Jersey became President, Dean Neiswinger of Indiana became VP and Harry Hauschild of Nebraska stepped down as COB.



Nebraska membership won 3 of the 5 prizes from the National LICA/John Deere raffle, including the gator. New York won the Trimble Laser and Indiana won the Topcon Laser. As odd as it may seem that one state won so many of the prizes, however, Nebraska membership sold the largest number of tickets of any state chapter, followed closely by Illinois.

Iowa won the top state award once again but Illinois turn is coming very soon. Illinois received a Silver award certificate, which was a pretty good accomplishment considering the changes ILICA has experienced in 2006.

The summer convention is scheduled in Omaha Nebraska for July 18—21, 2007. Tours include CLAAS Caterpillar combine plant, Eugene Mahoney State Park, Father Flanagan's Boy's Town, Lauritzen Gardens Botanical Center, Strategic Air & Space Museum, and Memorial Stadium. The conference will be at Embassy Suites Hotel in the heart of the Historic Old Market district, walking distance of Downtown Omaha and the Heartland of America Park Fountain. The airport and Henry Doorly Zoo are just 5 minutes away. Please ontact Nebraska LICA for more information at (402)289-2489.

llinois Chapter Well Represented at Vational LICA Conference in Orlando

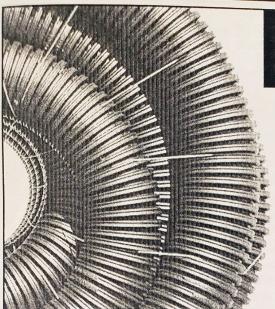
This year's LICA Convention was divided into tour, lucational and business days, which saw membership arriving d departing at different times throughout the conference. Alough we missed the opportunity to get a group shot of all those ending, there are pictures of everyone at different times during e conference in this article and some of Illinois membership ended every day of the event.

Stan and Miriam Seevers, Forrest and Jean Davis, tyne and Janice Litwiller, Norm and Mary Jo Kocher, Steve and art Anderson, Joe and Jackie Streitmatter, Bill and Janet



ubet, Norm and Coretha Rozendaal, and Ron Schlatter attended the winter convention and enjoyed meeting new membership from all over the counand becoming reacquainted with those from past conventions. Some arrived early in the week to enjoy the tours and social time while others arrived r in the week (some later than others due to snow in Illinois) to take part in the business and educational portion of the conference. Some of those nding pictured above in a later group shot after many Illinois members had already left, however, those that weren't too camera shy can be found in

Our Region 4 Meeting was well attended and Bruce Barnhart continues to be a straight talking advocate for the Region 4 chapters in LICA. ois membership sat in on most of the committee meetings and participated in many of the educational sessions throughout the conference.



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Illinois Chapter Well Represented at National LICA Conference in Orlando (cont.)



An Evening with the Associates



Saturday's Board Meeting and Issues Session





Wayne, Janice and Bill showing off the 'Just One' campaign buttons



Region 4 Meeting

Illinois Chapter Well Represented at National LICA Conference in Orlando (cont.)

Ron Schlatter's GPS Educational Session





Wayne, Janice, Forrest and Bill at lunch





Norm and Mary Jane, Forrest and Jean with Peter Darbishire of Drainage Contractors Magazine

Featured ILICA Contractor Article

Now that Illinois LICA is under new office management, it has been suggested that the "Featured Contractor" newsletter article be re-

vived for 2007. This idea isn't a new one, but to make it happen will take some work and planning.

If you're planning or starting a project that you'd like featured in the ILICA News'this year, please contact Janet at the ILICA office to schedule a time for photo's and a short interview. Your article will appear as the cover story for one of the remaining newsletters for 2007. Articles will be printed in the order in which they are scheduled although our Conservation Expo and Convention will probably occupy a cover or two throughout the year as well. As you can imagine, these slots could fill up fast!

This is an excellent way to show off some new practices, showcase a special project or just demonstrate some of the many talents of our Contractor membership.

Results of National Raffle in Orlando

The National LICA Raffle drawing was held during the John Deere luncheon on Saturday, February 17th with the following outcome. Just over 1100 tickets were sold.

Darrell Stromer—Nebraska—John Deere Gator

Mark Henderson—New York—Trimble Laser

Dean Neiswinger—Indiana—Topcorn Laser

Virgil Wrich—Nebraska—\$500 Agri-Drain Gift Certificate

Merle Adams—Nebraska—\$500 Agri-Drain Gift Certificate

Feliz Ganz—New Jersey—\$300 Cash—LICA

Award Winners

Brad Barringer—Carolinas—Contractor of the Year Evelyn Cottrell—Pennsylvania—Contractor Wife of the Year David Rule—New York—Hancor Award Iowa—Top State Award

ILICA Meets with State NRCS Officials



Friday, February 23rd, several ILICA members met in Champaign at the State NRCS office just off I72 in Champaign. Norm and Sever Kocher, Bill Lee, Forrest Davis, Jon Seevers, Bill Dean, Dan and Scott Day, and Bill and Janet Doubet met at 10 AM with Bill Gradle, Ivan Dozier and Manny Wei from NRCS as well as Elliot Lagacy from Bureau of Land and Water Resources. Although this is an annual meeting for NRCS and ILICA, it was the first of those

though this is an annual meeting for NRCS and ILICA, it was the first of these meetings for new Executive Director Janet Doubet, so it was beneficial to have the participation of so many ILICA members.

There was some general discussion regarding the 2007 NRCS programs and challenges NRCS is facing with staffing issues which makes getting their personnel out to potential worksites more difficult. More specific discussion followed regarding the 2007 ILICA Conservation Expo site at Rich Lasser's farm in McLean County. It was encouraging to hear that a well laid out conservation plan can cut through the constraints that this tight budget year has created for some contractors, however the final cut off for applying for this year's funding is March 9th.

Elliott Lagacy shared some figures from the state CPP and SSRP funding from last year and 2007, noting CPP had a 42% increase from 2006. These funds are distributed by the county SWCD offices, so contractors and landowners should check with their local offices to determine the availability of funds in their area.

The difficulty of keeping up with current programs and the regulations governing them was mentioned and unfortunately, the variety of programs to choose from creates both opportunity and confusion. Regulations differ from state to federal programs and sometimes even within agency programs. NRCS holds public forums regularly to inform landowners of current programs and local SWCD offices are another good resource for program information. The NRCS web site has a lot of information available for those with access to the web.

It was agreed that the need to continue our strong partnership was as important as ever and that keeping the lines of communication open between our offices was the key. Any issues or questions should be directed to the local offices first, but having done that, if a satisfactory resolution is not found, please contact the state conservationist for your area. Manny Wei will take care of Jim Evans' engineering duties until a permanent replacement is found, and Janet will keep in contact with Manny regarding the 2007 Conservation Expo which is tentatively scheduled for the 3rd or 4th week in August.



Illinois LICA Area Organization

The map to the left is an approximate image of the ILICA Areas and below are the directors for these areas. If you have questions regarding the organization or would like more information from someone close to your area, please contact one of the Directors listed or the ILICA office at (309) 639-2015.

Area Contact	First Name	Last Name	City	Phone
Chairman of the			La company of the same	
Board	Joe	Streitmatter	Wyoming	309-695-6631
President	Bill	Dean	Mattoon	217-234-3326
Area 1 Dir	Brian	Brooks	Erie	309-659-7199
Area 2 Dir	Steve	Anderson	Marseilles	815-795-4236
Area 2 Dir	Stuart	Anderson	Marseilles	815-795-6137
	Bill	Doubet	Williamsfield	309-639-2015
Area 3 Dir	Carol	Kiley	Galva	309-932-2876
Area 3 Dir	Ron	Masching	Odell	815-998-2386
Area 4 Dir		McCoy	Streator	815-249-5008
Area 4 Dir	John	Carpenter	Franklin	217-675-2689
Area 5 Dir	Ken	Meisner	Raymond	217-229-3502
Area 5 Dir	Larry	Day	Mahomet	217-586-3549
Area 6 Dir	Scott	Seevers	Cisco	217-669-2290
Area 6 Dir	Jon	Barttelbort	Belleville	618-277-7037
Area 7 Dir	John		Yates City	309-358-1232
Area 7 Dir	Dave	Hurst	Lawrenceville	618-928-2527
Area 8 Dir	Norm	Kocher	Lawrenceville	618-928-2527
Area 8 Dir	Steve	Kocher	Lawrencevine	

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- Dams and Structures

- Drainage Systems
- Grading
- · Land Clearing

Farm Ponds

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