



Illinois
Land Improvement
Contractors Association

NEWSLETTER

January/February 2002

No. 1



Come to Peoria

Join us at the ILICA **"Mardi Gras Celebration"**

ATTEND ILICA'S 45TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
JANUARY 17-18-19, 2002

DON'T MISS THIS YEAR'S NEW AND EXCITING PROGRAM

Holiday Inn Brandywine
Peoria, Illinois

INSIDE:

Educational Workshops • Display Booths • Awards Banquet
Door Prizes • Ladies Program • Caterpillar Tour • Auction



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by Dwight Dunbar,
Consultant to ILICA

Veto Session Doesn't Live-up to Early Billing

In spite of the hype, the 2001 Veto Session was pretty lack luster. The need to fill the estimated \$500 million hole in the budget prompted a lot of talk and lots of posturing, but Governor Ryan decided to do it his way anyway. Remember 2002 is an Election year and for the first time in at least two decades the Democrats drew the redistrict map. I've discussed that in earlier articles.

The campaigning really started this fall and hung over the Veto Session - the only reason many people felt compelled to show-up was to track the rumors. So lets take a look at what is shaping-up so far.

The last redrawn map election was in 1992. There was a 33% turnover in the General Assembly membership sworn-in in January 1993 from the membership that had been sworn-in in 1991. That was felt by many to are normal Elections always bring new faces. This redrawn map and other recent events would seem to have taken a toll on leadership ranks.

What's Shaping-up in the Senate

Senate Majority Leader Stanley Weaver (R, Champaign) and Assistant Majority Leader John Maitland (R, Bloomington) have both announced they'll not be candidates for election in 2002. While Democratic Caucus Chair, Evelyn Bowles (D, Edwardsville) has opted not to run for reelection. The quality of leadership represented by these three people will not be instantly replaced.

Other changes in the Illinois Senate will occur as a result to politicians seeking other offices. These include Senator Patrick O'Malley (R, Palos Park) who is running for Governor; Senator Lisa Madigan (D, Chicago) who wants to be Attorney General, and Senator Carl Hawkinson (R, Galesburg) seeking the Lt. Governor office as Jim Ryan's running mate.

What's Shaping-up in the House

The minority Republican leadership seems to be hard hit at this writing. Representative Tom Ryder (R, Jerseyville) was the first loss when he announced he accepted an appointment to the Community College Board. He resigned his seat prior to Veto Session. Representative Dan Rutherford (R, Chenoa) announced he plans to run for the Senate created another leadership hole.

The Ryder seat has created lots of interest the 97th House District election. At least 5 people have either filed nominating petitions or announced intention to file - to date (12/13/01). Included in mix is long time Legislative Aide to Senator Peter Fitzgerald, Terry Van Doren (R, Medora). Terry's family operates a grain & livestock farm at Medora.

Capitol Update... (con't to page 22)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone had a safe and successful year, remember the state convention in Peoria, Illinois in January and the national convention which will be held in February at Birmingham, Alabama.

To be a successful organization we will have to increase our membership. We will discuss this issue at our January board meeting.

Remember to bring any photos of accidents or incidents for the panel discussion on Friday January 18th at 1:30 pm in Peoria.

I will see all of you in Peoria.

Forrest Davis
President

GUESS WHO'S NOT A MEMBER?

Some of your closest business associates are not members.

WHY?

Maybe they don't know about ILICA. Don't let your friends miss out on what you already know...ILICA is the most dynamic trade association in the country. If you know someone who can profit from being a member, call them and give them an application.

EVERY MEMBER . . .



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WHY DOESN'T
SOMEBODY
ASK ME?

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The Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association Newsletter is the official publication of the Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association, Inc., 604 E. State Street, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650-2130, telephone 217/245-1616.

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READ THIS

BRANDYWINE HOLIDAY INN
4400 N. BRANDYWINE
PEORIA, IL 61614
JAN. 17-18-19, 2002

COMMITTEE MEETINGS
January 16, 2002

3:00 PM – Budget Committee

**6:00 PM – Convention
Committee Dinner**

**7:30 PM – Convention
Committee Meeting**

Upcoming Meetings



ILICA BOARD MEETINGS

2002 Annual Convention
Jan 17-19, 2002
Holiday Inn Brandywine, Peoria

2002 ILICA Workshop
Feb 5-6-7, 2002
Stoney Creek Inn, Peoria

LICA MEETINGS

February 17-23, 2002
Sheraton Hotel
Birmingham, AL

ILICA Contractor Workshop
February 5-7, 2002
Stoneycreek Inn, Peoria

**To: JoAnn Huff,
Executive Director,
IL Land Improvement Contractors Assoc.**

Over the course of the last four months, the people of the State of Illinois have withstood unprecedented changes in our economy with courage and resolve. A downturn in the country's fiscal health was exacerbated by the terrorist attacks on September 11th and as a result, a national recession deepened. Thousands have lost their jobs, consumer confidence has been shaken and tax revenues have declined. Illinois is one of 44 states that saw tax revenues for 2001 drop below estimates that were originally calculated earlier in the year.

I have just completed the painful process of cutting state spending to fill a \$500 million gap in the state budget brought on by this downturn in the economy. None of these budget-balancing actions were easy, but they were necessary to preserve the long-term strength of state programs that create jobs, aid the sick and the poor and improve the quality of life for everyone in Illinois.

The media needs to do a better job of putting these reductions in context for their readers.

First, spending by state government has not been "wild" or "uncontrolled," as some critics claim. According to the latest report from the National Association of State Budget Officers, state spending in Illinois from state taxes grew by 6.1 percent during the last fiscal year- an amount below the national average for spending growth of 8.3 percent. Twenty-six states recorded higher spending increases than Illinois, including Indiana, Ohio, Minnesota, Kentucky, New York, Florida, California and Virginia. And according to NASBO, our state spending from state taxes only increased this year by 1.5 percent.

Nonetheless, I was forced to cut \$334 million from health care and human service programs. But over the last three years, funding for social services increased by more than \$1.3 billion. This year, the state will still spend more than \$8 billion on health care for the needy; serve more than 7 million meals to seniors; subsidize day care for more than 200,000 low-income families; and fund substance abuse treatment for more than 130,000 men, women and children.

I was forced to cut \$50 million from the administrative overhead of elementary schools, high schools and higher education. But over the last three years, I've boosted funding for education by \$1.4 billion. More than 51 percent of new state revenues is still going to education. About 60,000 children will enroll in state-financed "summer bridge" reading assistance programs; and the state still helps one out of every five college students pay their tuition with scholarships.

I have been criticized in some quarters for not cutting funds from the Illinois FIRST program, but such a move is not possible and would be

counterproductive. Cutting Illinois FIRST would further injure the economy.

The media needs to better explain that the gap in the state budget exists in a "general revenue" account that does not fund Illinois FIRST. Therefore, slicing any projects would not fill the budget hole. Further, Illinois FIRST is funded primarily by the proceeds of bonds sold by the state. It is illegal for state government to use bond funds to pay for general operations.

More importantly, Illinois FIRST projects create jobs all over the state. During the five-year course of the program, \$7 billion will be returned to working men and women in every part of Illinois who are building schools, roads and public buildings. Since 1999, Illinois FIRST has created some 200,000 construction jobs.

I also have been criticized for requiring all 60,000 state employees under my control to take an unpaid furlough of at least one day. In my judgement, a furlough that will save the state \$8 million per day is preferable to permanently laying off state employees. And yes, to answer an oft-wondered question: I will participate in the furlough and will work without pay.

It is my hope that the media will do a better job over the next few months to explain why these spending cuts are necessary. I hope that other elected officials will resist the temptation to score cheap political points by condemning these budget balancing actions without suggesting realistic alternatives. I also hope that as the economy improves in 2002, I will be able to restore many of the reductions.

Even with the cutbacks I have been forced to make, Illinois remains a strong and vibrant state, and its people are well prepared to see us through this economic slump to a better tomorrow.

Sincerely,



GEORGE H. RYAN Governor of Illinois

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LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES

1. Farm Bill Gaining Momentum in Senate

The Farm Bill debate gained momentum in the Senate last week as that chamber voted 73-26 on a motion to limit debate and avoid delaying tactics on the legislation. Agriculture Committee Chair Tom Harkin (D-IA) reported the bill - S. 1731 - as ready for consideration by the full Senate.

At a press conference Thursday, Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) said, "We're not going to leave until the Farm Bill is finished." Daschle would like the bill on the President's desk by Christmas but thinks reconciling differences between the House and Senate versions can't be completed until late January or early February.

The Senate is debating the Farm Bill with the first major amendment on the Dairy Program submitted by Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID). Votes on this and other amendments are expected today. Harkin indicated in a floor speech yesterday that he thought the farm bill debate in the Senate could be finished by the end of Wednesday.

2. President Signs Agriculture Appropriations into Law

President Bush signed the conference report on the fiscal year 2002 Agriculture Appropriations Bill on November 28. The bill included a \$66 million increase for NRCS's Conservation Operations account making the total for that account \$779 million for this current fiscal

year, which includes funding the agency's Conservation Technical Assistance Program. The original House agriculture appropriations bill included a \$70 million increase and the Senate a \$90 million increase. The bill also included \$10 million for watershed rehabilitation, \$48 million for the Resource Conservation and Development Program, \$6.8 million for the Forestry Incentives Program and improved the technical assistance funding for the Conservation Reserve Program.

Additionally, the President signed the VA/HUD/Independent Agencies FY 2002 funding bill into law on November 26. The bill, which funds the Environmental Protection Agency, includes the Clean Water Act's Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program. Section 319 remained level with last year's - \$238 million.

Second Amendment Upheld by Appeals Court:

Judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth District, have held that ...'the right of the people to keep and bear Arms,' guaranteed by the Second Amendment, is not the exclusive domain of members of active military units, as claimed by gun control groups, but "that it protects the rights of individuals...to privately possess and bear their own firearms...that are suitable as personal, individual weapons." The court's endorsement of the Second Amendment was part of a 77 page ruling in which the justices decided that the Texas district court erred in dismissing the indictment of Timothy Joe Emerson, accused of violating a restraining order forbidding his

Legislative and Regulatory... (con't to page 10)

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It's Time to Party in Peoria

Come join us at the ILICA **"Mardi Gras Celebration"**

ATTEND ILICA'S 45TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

JANUARY 17-18-19, 2002

The convention and education committees have been hard at work planning educational and entertaining sessions for you. Take advantage of this great opportunity to learn, socialize and have some fun.

DON'T MISS THIS YEAR'S NEW AND EXCITING PROGRAM



Holiday Inn Brandywine

Peoria, Illinois

309-686-8000



Educational Workshops • Display Booths • Awards Banquet
Door Prizes • Ladies Program • Caterpillar Tour • Auction

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR ILICA CONVENTION JANUARY 17, 18, 19, 2002

Name _____ Wife's First Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____
 Member _____ Area _____ Company Name & Address _____

Pre-Registration fee: **(Must be received in our office by January 5, 2001)**

Full Participation, three days

() Individual \$90.00 () Couple \$155.00 () Child under 12 \$45.00

Participation for one day

Thursday: () Individual \$40.00 () Couple \$65.00 () Child \$20.00

Friday: () Individual \$40.00 () Couple \$65.00 () Child \$20.00

Saturday: () Individual \$40.00 () Couple \$65.00 () Child \$20.00

Total amount enclosed \$ _____. Make check payable to ILICA.

Mail completed form to:
ILICA
 604 E. State Street
 Jacksonville, IL 62650

IF YOU DO NOT PRE-REGISTER BEFORE JANUARY 5, THE PRICE WILL BE:
 Full participation, three days
 Individual \$110.00 Couple \$175.00
 Participation for one day
 Individual \$50.00 Couple \$80.00

REGISTRATION POLICY
 Only individuals registered & badged may attend convention events. The spouse/guest of a registrant need not register to share hotel accommodations, but must register if they wish to participate in the program.
No registration may be processed without payment.
 Cut off date for mail in registrations is **JANUARY 5, 2002**
 A \$20 processing fee will be charged for cancellations received by January 5, 2002. Cancellations after January 10, 2002 will be subject to a 50% reduction in refund. All requests must be in writing.
 Registration fee is not tax deductible as a charitable contribution, but may be deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense. Consult your tax advisor.
REGISTRATION FEE DEADLINES WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED-NO EXCEPTIONS

CATERPILLAR TOUR & LUNCH THURS. JAN. 17	LADIES LUNCH FRI. JAN. 18	ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET SAT. JAN. 19
<input type="checkbox"/> I will attend	<input type="checkbox"/> I will attend	<input type="checkbox"/> I will attend
_____ # in party	_____ # in party	_____ # in party
Pre-registration Necessary	Wine Savvy Program Jan. 18 <input type="checkbox"/> I will attend	<input type="checkbox"/> I will not be able to attend

2002 ILICA CONVENTION Tentative Program

WEDNESDAY January 16

5:00 - 6:00 P.M. Registration
3:00 Budget Committee Meeting

THURSDAY January 17

8:00 - 11:30 Registration
7:30 Busses load for Caterpillar Tour
8:00- Tour of Mossville Caterpillar Plant
(Must be at least 12 years old/no open toed shoes/no cameras/wheel chair accessible)
10:00 Full line formal demonstration
11:30 Lunch at *Cat*
12:30 Return to Hotel
10:00-3:00 Exhibits Open **Ballroom**
General Session Grandview
Moderator-Ron Masching, Education Chairman
1:00-1:45 **Insurance 101-** Nathan Oland - Federated Insurance "Business insurance premiums. . . are they in your control or out of your control? Let's get back to the basics and discuss how you can help affect your own bottom line!"
1:45 - 2:15 **Marketing Tools and Tips for Contractors** - Lenae Bulthuis, Prinsco, Inc. "In this nuts & bolts workshop you will discover how to increase your profits through practical tips that will maximize your current marketing program and valuable tools that will assist you in your advertising"
2:15- 3:00 **Laughter is the Best Medicine-** Vicki Lannie/Methodist Community Outreach Coordinator will discuss the biological changes that occur with the body when laughing that effect us, physically, psychologically & spiritually.
3:00-4:00 Board of Directors Meeting **Grandview**
4:00 - 7:00 Exhibits Open **Ballroom**
5:00 - 6:30 Attitude Adjustment Hour (Exhibit Area)
6:30 Early Bird Get Together "A Peoria Mardi Gras Celebration" **Atrium**
Sponsored by Roland Machinery & ILICA
7:05 Welcome- Stanley SeEVERS, Convention Chairman
7:15 Entertainment - John Phillips-River City Dixie Land Band
8:00 "Oldy Weds" Game
8:30 Associates Hospitality Room Open

Friday January 18

7:30 Devotional Service **Fon du lac**
8:00 Breakfast **Atrium**
8:00 - 6:00 Exhibits Open
8:00 - 11:00 Registration Open
9:00 **General Session Moderator - Forrest Davis, President Grandview**
9:00 ILICA Report - Forrest Davis
9:15 LICA Report - Barney Flueger, Region IV Vice President
9:30 ILICA Legislative Report, Dwight Dunbar
10:00 NRCS Report, Bill Gradle, State Conservationist
10:15 FSA Report, William J. Graff, Executive Vice President, FSA
10:30 Break.
10:45 IL Association of Drainage Districts Report
11:00 AISWCD Report - Mark Besse, President, AISWCD
11:15 Land Improvement & The General Assembly Representative Michael K. Smith
11:45 Adjourn
12:00 Luncheon **Atrium**
General Session cont **Grandview** Moderator/Forrest Davis
1:30 - Accidents & Incidents /Panel Discussion (ILICA Contractors)
ILICA contractors will relate stories of mishaps & mistakes that have occurred on the job
2:00 Critique of Contractors Mistakes - Matt Smith
Hubbard Insurance "taking safety precautions in order to prevent mishaps will be discussed"

2:30 Break
2:45-3:00 Associates Committee Meeting-
2:45 Interpretation of Prevailing Wage Law - John Freitag Illinois Dept. of Labor "Learn how & when the law applies"
3:45 Sales & Use Tax Issues, IL Dept. of Revenue
5:00 Associates Hospitality Rooms Open
6:00 Dinner **Atrium**
6:45 Entertainment-Auction **Atrium**
5:00 - 11:00 Associates Hospitality Rooms Open

Saturday January 19

7:30 Devotional Service **Fon du lac**
8:00 Breakfast (*door prize giveaway-*) **Atrium**
8:30 - 10:00 Registration
9:00 General Session Moderator-Ron Masching **Grandview**
9:00 Oil & Lubricants
9:45 New Products - Panel - ILICA Associates "learn what is new on the market in regard to products, techniques and ideas"
10:30 Break
10:45 - 11:45 Leasing vs Purchasing - John Deere Financing - Jim Fack
12:00 Membership Campaign Luncheon(Everyone Welcome) **Grand Ballroom**
New Members will be recognized
2:00 Annual Business Meeting & Election of Officers **Grandview**
5:30 Hospitality Hour (Cash Bar)
6:30 Awards Banquet Moderator- Gerald Hoogstraal Eastern IL Clay **Grand Ballroom**
8:00 Presidents Hospitality Room Open **Grandview**
All Members invited to attend

LADIES PROGRAM

Thursday - January 17

1:00 General Session

Friday - January 18

7:30 Devotional Service **Fon du lac**
9:00 Board Busses for the Specialty Shops of Washington Square (More than 20 unique shops filled with collectibles, gifts, home accessories, primitives, furniture & more)
11:30 Lunch - Messy Bessie's Tea Room, sponsored by Advanced Drainage Systems
12:30 Mary's Collectibles Gifts & Home Furnishings (featuring an Art Gallery, collector plates, gifts for the home, garden & office, home furnishings & more)
1:00 Return to hotel
1:30 Wine Savvy - Wine Tasting Demonstration - Sherry Adkisson (Pre-registration necessary) (taste wonderful wines, scrumptious cheeses, chocolate strawberries & learn how to pair wine with food)
1:30 Creative Memories - Scrapbook/Craft Demonstration - Missy Molln (transform your snapshots into a treasured heirloom)

Saturday - January 19

9:00 Floral Demonstration from D. A. Hoerr Nursery **Fon du lac**
9:45 "Taking Care of the Skin You're In", Carolyn Hanethl, Soderstrom Dermatology Center
11:00 Jewelry In the Making, Your Creativity at Work, Miriam SeEVERS

January 18th - Holiday Inn Brandywine

Get Ready...
We're Going
to have an

Auction!!!!



Do you have some unusual items in your basement, attic or garage that are just taking up space? Let ILICA put them to good use. Bring them to the ILICA auction.

We need everyone's participation to make this a success.

We've already got some great items donated by contractors and associates.

**Come join in the fun!
Friday, January 18th at the
ILICA Convention.**

Bring your auction items to the exhibit area at the Hotel for display

Holiday Inn Brandywine - Reservation Form

Name of Group or Organization

Illinois Land Improvement Contractors

Please Reserve the Following Reservations:

- Room with One Bed For _____ persons
- Room with Two Beds For _____ persons

Special Request: (Request honored only if available upon check-in):

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

- 6 pm ARRIVAL - 6:00 pm Reservations will be automatically released at 6:00 pm
- GTD ARRIVAL - Guest rooms must be guaranteed for late arrival by a major credit card number (AX, VS, MC, DC, CB, HI) or first night's deposit aid in advance.

Credit Card #: _____

CANCELLATION POLICY: One night payment due if not cancelled by 6:00 pm on date of arrival. To cancel call direct, ask for & record cancellation number.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

**THE DATES FOR THE BLOCK ARE LISTED BELOW
ANY VARIATION IS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY**

Arrival: 1/16/2002

Departure: 1/22/2002

Group Rate: \$67.00 one person
\$67.00 two persons

\$10.00 - rollaway Check in by 4 pm
\$10.00 - extra Check out - noon
Crib - free

**Reservation Must be made
21 days prior to convention, or 12-21-01.
Room block will be released at this time.**

Holiday Inn Brandywine
4400 North Brandywine Drive
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**309-686-8000
9-5 Monday - Friday**

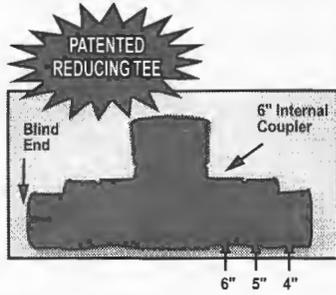
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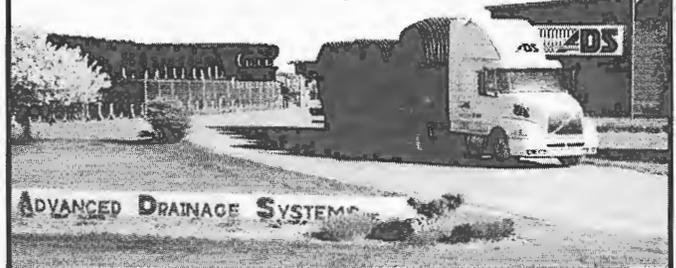
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ILICA 2001/2002 MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

November 1, 2001 to January 15, 2002

THE ILICA MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN KICKED-OFF November 1, 2001. NOW IS YOUR CHANCE TO HELP BUILD YOUR ASSOCIATION. I KNOW WE ARE ALL BUSY, BUT WE MUST GET OUT THERE AND DO OUR PART. WE CAN REACH OUR GOAL IF EVERYONE HELPS. MEMBERS SIGNING UP DURING THE CONTEST WILL RECEIVE FREE REGISTRATION TO THE CONVENTION -- A \$90 VALUE. ALSO --IF YOU SIGN UP A MEMBER IN NOVEMBER HE GETS THE REST OF THE YEAR FREE!!- **EVERY MEMBER GET A MEMBER!!!!**—**DO IT TODAY!!!!**

1ST, 2ND, & 3RD PLACE WINNERS WILL BE RECOGNIZED WITH A PLAQUE AT THE 2002 CONVENTION IN JANUARY

EARN POINTS TO BE ELIGIBLE

- NEW ACTIVE MEMBER - 4 POINTS
- NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER - 3 POINTS
- RENEWAL - ACTIVE OR ASSOCIATE - 2 POINTS
- AFFILIATE MEMBER - 1 POINT

67097790

JOIN IN THE FUN!!!
HELP OUR CAMPAIGN BE A SUCCESS



CALL THE ILICA OFFICE FOR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS OR CONTACT ANY OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE.

Legislative and Regulatory... (con't from page 5)

possession of a firearm. The Appeals Court ruled that Emerson had forfeited his own right to possess a firearm, but other Americans retain the right under the Second Amendment. (*Liberty Matters News Service*)

Funding Our Own Destruction

The U.S. taxpayer, through the generosity of federal agencies, is providing money to fund the conservation projects of 20 major environmental groups. In 2000, \$377,000 a day went to organizations whose mission is to wrest control of property from private owners. The biggest winner was The Nature Conservancy, which last year received \$37.5 million. The Forest Service granted \$30,000 to The Lands Council, a group that favors a ban on commercial timber sales on public forests. The Forest Service also bank rolled the activities of the National Forest Foundation to the tune of \$82,700 to pay consultation fees to a retired Forest Service employee and \$123,500 spent to recruit new members. Their efforts only garnered \$13,000 in new membership fees. A Website dedicated to erasing "urban sprawl," www.smartgrowth.org, is written and funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The same day the National Wildlife Federation sued the EPA over water quality, it applied for a \$70,000 EPA clean-water grant, which was granted. The federation won its lawsuit and even got the government to pay its legal fees of \$14,000. The flow of taxpayer dollars is not confined to U.S. borders, either. Last year, more than \$37 million flowed to environmental projects in foreign countries to pay for

sustainable farming projects and eco-tourism events. Maybe the Bush administration needs to be asked why we are funding organizations that seek to destroy our liberty. (*Liberty Matters News Service*)

House and Senate Leaders Trying to Break Logjam on Economic Stimulus Bill:

An economic stimulus bill that has been stuck in the Senate appears to have new life as Congressional and Administration leaders work to reach agreement on a compromise bill. Hopes for a new bill were revived when Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) agreed to cut in half the \$15 billion in homeland security funding sought by Appropriations Chairman Robert Byrd (D-WV). This leaves tax cuts for businesses and individuals along with help for displaced workers, as the remaining provisions to be agreed upon. Also, the Senate will need to resolve procedural problems in order to help the bill avoid a filibuster or other parliamentary roadblock. Key tax provisions supported by AGC for inclusion in the stimulus package include "bonus" depreciation for capital investments, acceleration of individual income tax cuts, AMT relief, and extension of carryback period for net operating losses.

House Vote Held on Terrorism Insurance Bill:

The House of Representatives passed the Terrorism Risk Protection Act. This legislation is of great importance to the vitality of the construction industry in terms of continuing to have access to insurance in order to solidify loans for new projects. This bill would provide a federal government "guarantee" to help cover potential costs of future terrorist attacks. This is but the first step in an effort to ensure that terrorism insurance will remain available.

Small Business Bills Stalled:

Legislation to assist small businesses adversely impacted by the terrorist attacks is stalled after the Administration announced opposition to the appropriations required in the bills. The "American Small Business Emergency Relief and Recovery Act," H.R. 3230 and S. 1499, both contain a provision that would ensure that small business federal contractors locked out of federal facilities due to security measures taken after September 11 would be entitled to equitable relief. That relief could include contract price adjustment or an extension of the time for performance of the contract. Either action would require a review from the head of the contracting agency and the Small Business Administration. The bills also authorize a \$100 million fund to pay for price adjustments.

EPA Posts Draft Arsenic Implementation Guidance:

November 28, EPA posted a copy of a draft State Implementation Guidance Manual for the arsenic regulation for review and comment. While the text on the EPA web site indicates that the draft guidance is based on the proposed arsenic regulation (June 2000), the executive summary of the guidance document contains a description

Legislative and Regulatory... (con't to page 11)

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Legislative and Regulatory... (con't from page 10)
of the events up to and including EPA Administrator Whitman's statement in October 2001 that the final arsenic MCL would remain at 10 micrograms per liter.

A copy of the draft implementation Guidance Manual and appendices can be found at the following web address:
<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ars/implement.html>

DOI Seeks Law Enforcement Authority

Circulating inside Interior is a draft bill, which would give specific DOI employees full law enforcement authority. The draft title of the bill is "Department of Interior Law Enforcement Clarification Act of 2001." It specifically authorizes DOI officers to carry firearms, make arrests without a warrant, execute orders, warrants or subpoenas and other powers usually reserved to Federal Law Enforcement agencies and local sheriffs and police. At every opportunity, DOI has tried to acquire this authority, most recently by rewriting regulations during the Babbitt administration. But all attempts to do so have wisely been struck down by Congress and public opposition. But unfortunately DOI is using the recent terrorist attacks as justification for expanding its agencies law enforcement authority. As pointed out by Congressman George Nethercutt (R-WA) who has requested a meeting with Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton, DOI officers already have the necessary authority they need which allows them to work with local law enforcement. Nethercutt questions the wisdom of giving such broad police powers to a department with a history of misusing the limited power it currently assumes. Contact your Congressman immediately to alert them to this draft bill and ask them to support Nethercutt's opposition of the bill.

Legislative and Regulatory... (con't to page 14)

Remember

You don't buy a newspaper; you buy news.

You don't buy life insurance; you buy security.

You don't buy glasses; you buy vision.

You don't buy awnings; you buy shade.

You don't buy membership in an association; you buy the cooperation of people in your profession with whom you can join hands to do the things you cannot do alone.

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Davenport, IA
563/324-1935

Hannibal, MO
573/221-8600

Moberly, MO
660/263-8200

2002 ILICA Contractors Workshop

February 5, 6, & 7, 2002
Stoney Creek Inn Peoria, Illinois

Dear Land Improvement Contractor:

The Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association, in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the University of Illinois Extension Service is sponsoring this workshop for land improvement contractors. The workshop is designed to broaden your knowledge of conservation projects. It is our hope that you will leave the workshop a more knowledgeable, more profitable contractor.

We urge you to register early; we must limit attendance. The workshop has two concurrent sessions the first day and three sessions the second day and 1/2. The workshop will end with an

opportunity for you to quiz the experts-a panel of experienced, successful contractors.

Attendees may participate in any combination of concurrent sessions. However, it is recommended that you not change sessions during a given topic presentation. It is important that you complete advance registration so that we may know how to allocate teaching resources to the three sessions. Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

Kent Mitchell
Agricultural Engineer
University of Illinois

Jim Evans
State Engineer
NRCS-USDA

Jo Ann Huff
Executive Director
ILICA

PLEASE CALL STONEY CREEK INN DIRECTLY FOR YOUR LODGING.

Tell them you are attending the ILICA Workshop and get a \$65/single or double room rate.

Their address is: 101 Mariners Way • Peoria, IL 61611 • (800) 659-2220

ADVANCED REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION FEES:

Registration Date	ILICA Member	Non-Member
By January 25, 2002	1 day \$50	1 day \$75
	2 days \$80	2 days \$120
	3 days \$110	3 days \$150
After January 25, 2002	1 day \$70	1 day \$90
	2 days \$100	2 days \$125
	3 days \$130	3 days \$155

A notebook will be provided that includes considerable reference materials (\$100 value) including the Illinois Drainage Guide.

Lunches and breaks are included in the registration fee.

Send names of participants and registration fee by January 25, 2002 to: ILICA Workshop

604 East State Street
Jacksonville, IL 61650
(217) 245-1616

Name: _____

Firm: _____

Address: _____

I will attend: () Session 1 () Session 2 () Session 3

Amount Paid: \$ _____

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2002 ILICA CONTRACTOR WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Time	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
February 5, 2002			
9:00 AM	Registration	Registration	Registration
10:00 AM	IDOT Contractor Qualification Bidding Jobs	Surveying <input type="checkbox"/> Fundamentals <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Instruments	
12:00 Noon	Lunch	Lunch	
2:00 PM	Computing Quantities <input type="checkbox"/> Earth Fills <input type="checkbox"/> Excavations <input type="checkbox"/> Graded Sites	Surveying <input type="checkbox"/> Differential Leveling <input type="checkbox"/> Profile & Cross Section Leveling <input type="checkbox"/> Exercises	
6:00 PM	Adjourn	Adjourn	
February 6, 2002			
8:00 AM	Drainage Systems Designs	Basics of Mapping	Regulations <input type="checkbox"/> Used Oil <input type="checkbox"/> Disposal of Tires
12:00 Noon	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00 PM	Drainage System Design	Basic Drainage Principles Installation	Conservation Practices Design & <input type="checkbox"/> Streambank Protection <input type="checkbox"/> Detention Basins
6:00 PM	Adjourn	Adjourn	Adjourn
February 7, 2002			
8:00 AM	Computer Assisted Drainage	Basic Drainage Principles	Checkout of Conservation Practices <input type="checkbox"/> Waterways <input type="checkbox"/> Basins
12:00 Noon	Lunch COMBINED SESSION	Lunch	Lunch
1:00 PM	Safety		
2:00 PM	Panel Discussion		
3:00 PM	Adjourn		




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*McHenry (815)385-0420 *Schererville (219)865-6545 *Springfield (217)744-2233 Wauconda (847)526-9444 *Wheeling (847)520-4022

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LICA LADIES RAFFLE

The LICA Ladies Committee is raffling an Ivory Queen size Amish made quilt with shams. The Pattern on the quilt is a swan and cattails. The quilt is to be given to a lucky winner at the February 2002 LICA Convention being held in Birmingham, Alabama. The tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. The winner does not have to be present. Tickets are available from the State Office.

TOOL BOX TALKS FROM CNA

FROM HEAD TO FOOT



Business reviews would seem to indicate that today Americans are spending more for clothing than anytime in history. This is in accordance with American standards, and to deny the advantages of being meticulous in dress would be an insult.

And yet, we take so much pride in the social aspect of our dress—what about the really important angle? What about the manner in which we dress for work with safety in mind?

1. Are we meticulous in the protection of our skull, the important guardian of our brain center, through the wearing of a hard hat?
2. What about our sight, our most important sense? Do we have our eyes examined periodically...if necessary, do we use our glasses when reading...and above all, do we cover them with safety goggles when the occasion demands?
3. The shirt, an important piece of apparel. If we operate, or are engaged around moving machinery and equipment, do we wear short sleeve shirts, or have straight cuffs? The same goes for jackets. Never wear a loose fitting jacket, keep it buttoned or zippered shut at least chest high.
4. Our hands are a very vulnerable part of our body. If our work calls for it, do we wear gloves? Also remember, worn or tattered gloves are more dangerous than no gloves at all.
5. Wearing overalls or pants with cuffed or rolled-up legs is a poor practice. If the legs are too long have them cut off and hemmed. Straight legs reduce the self-tripping hazard.
6. How about shoes? They don't have to shine with a brilliant lustre, but they must be practical. A safe working shoe has a thick sole; thin sole shoes can result in serious foot punctures. To protect against toe injuries, steel capped shoes are most practical. Shoelaces should not be too long.
7. Watch out for jewelry. It can catch on things, too. Don't wear loose watch chains, straps, keys on belt, etc., or any item that might hook on something and place you in a hazardous position. Rings, wristlets and other jewelry belong at home and not on the job.

Remember to dress properly for the job you're doing.

Legislative and Regulatory... (con't from page 11)

Also, contact the Secretary of Interior's office directly and voice your concern. Our best opportunity to stop this ill-conceived idea is before it is ever filed. DOI Draft Law Enforcement Bill Secretary of Interior's Letter Congressman Nethercutt's Letter to Norton (*Liberty Matters News Service*)

Clinton Monument Legacy to Stand

U.S. District Judge Paul Friedman has upheld Bill Clinton's monument designation of vast areas of the American west. The Judge ruled that Clinton acted within his authority through the Antiquities Act of 1906 and that there was no need to seek Congressional approval. The four monuments, in Arizona, Colorado, Oregon and Washington, effectively closed millions of acres to legitimate uses by loggers, ranchers, and mining interests, among others. The lawsuit was brought by the Mountain States Legal Defense Fund to challenge the constitutionality of the law and Clinton's authority to create the monuments, in his desperate search for a legitimate legacy. William Perry Pendley said the Judge gave too much weight to the president's judgement and that the ruling will be appealed. (*Liberty Matters News Service*)

(December 11, 2001)

MEMBERS:

You have several things to do in the next couple of weeks:

1. **Recruit a new member.**
2. Pay your Illinois LICA dues ASAP.
3. **Recruit a new member.**
4. Register for Illinois LICA Annual Meeting and Convention.
5. **Recruit a new member.**
6. Associate members must sign up for booth spaces and sponsorship.
7. **Recruit a new member.**
8. Get an item to donate for the auction.
9. **Recruit a new member.**
10. Get all your work done so we can have some fun at the convention.

LICA'S 2002 RAFFLE

- GRAND PRIZE:** John Deere 35ZTS Compact Excavator
2nd Prize: John Deere Gas Gator 6x4
3rd Prize: Spectra Precision 1242 Laser
4th Prize: Lap Top Computer Sponsored by Agri-Drain

The top three states selling the highest % will receive \$300, \$200, or \$100 bonus at the grand drawing. Tickets are \$100 each and are available through your State Executive Director or you can buy them at any board meeting.

GABBING WITH THE GALS...



As this is written, we are on the verge of forsaking an old year (2001) and saying hello to a new year (2002). We probably will take an opportunity soon to analyze our old year and figure out if it was good, bad or indifferent as the saying goes. We are completely in the dark as far as our new year is concerned; we hope all of you had a good old year and will be happy with what turns up in the new year. Some would say that life is what you make it; however, there are times when something jumps up and grabs ahold and you have to accept it, whether or not. We just hope those times are in the minority. Ye writer is being inundated with calendars once again; might have to build another room just for calendars. At least there will be no excuse for not knowing the date, right? We have now installed a three-month per page calendar in our kitchen, therefore it means getting on a ladder to change it is reduced to three times a year instead of 11. Once in awhile the old gal does something right.

This essay was in a VFW newsletter and it is so true that it should be shared with everyone. Hope you enjoy it and feel free to pass it on as the author is unknown, but intended that people read it. It contains a lot of truth that children and grandchildren should read it. One more thing about the Old Geezers is that they do not mind being called an Old Geezer. When all of our Old Geezers are gone, it will be the end of an era. If the tradition can be carried on, that would be terrific! We have some Old Geezers in LICA; they would be happy to acknowledge the fact.

"Harry, we need a fourth for poker," the doctor heard as he answered the phone! "I'm in - I'll be right there," he whispered in to the phone. As he grabbed his coat and headed for the door, his wife asked, "Is it serious?" "I'm afraid so," he answered gravely. "There are three doctors there already."

Quotation from Miss Alabama in 1994: "I would not live forever, because we should not live forever, because if we were supposed to live forever then we would live forever. But we cannot live forever, which is why I would not live forever." Just think, is she had won the contest, maybe we could all live forever. (??)

The Lord does help us out in ways we fail to realize. Who could complain about the wonderful fall weather we have had and still having in the middle of December? It makes up for the day-to-day ruffraff we put up with and we should give thanks. Farmers were able to get their crop out in good time and contractors were able to keep on a workin' up to the end of the year. Another benefit was to put up Christmas lights and/or decorations without freezing fingers. Many lights in our town have been up for a month before Christmas because of the good weather.

You have heard of the artist Vincent Van Gogh. It seems he had many relatives: A dizzy aunt - Verti Gogh/ The brother who ate prunes - Gotta Gogh/ The brother who worked at a convenience store - Stop n Gogh/ the brother who bleached his clothes white - Hue Gogh/ The cousin from Illinois - Chica *Gabbing With the Gals... (con't from page 22)*

OLD GEEZERS

We all know what an old geezer is. It's slang for old man. During a sporting even, during the playinf of the National Anthem, they hold their caps over their hearts and sing without embarrassment.

They know the works and believe them.

They remember World War I, the Depression, World War II, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy and Hitler.

They remember the Atomic Age, the Korean War, the Cold War, the Jet Age, the Moon Landing...and Vietnam.

If you bump into a Geezer on the sidewalk, he will apologize.

Pass a Geezer on the street and he will nod, or tip his cap to a lady.

Geezers trust strangers, and are courtly to women.

They open car doors for ladies and hold doors open for the next person, and always, when walking, make sure a lady is on the inside for protection.

Geezers get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women or children and they don't like violence and filth on TV and movies.

Geezers have moral courage. They seldom brag unless it is about their grandchildren in Little League or music recitals.

This country needs Geezers with their decent values and common sense. We need them now more than ever.

It's the Geezers who know our great country is protected, not by the so-called politicians or police, but by the young men and women in our military that are serving their country in foreign lands, just as they did, without a thought except to do the best job they can, and to return home safely to loved ones.

Each and every one of us should thank God for Old Geezers.



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THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Length of Stay

These reduced hotel rates are available for LICA members from February 15 through February 25, 2001.

Cancellation Policy

Your room deposit is refundable if notice is received at least 72 hours prior to arrival and a cancellation number is obtained.

Check-In & Check-Out

Check-in time is 3:00pm and check-out time is 12:00pm (noon).

Parking

There is a \$7 per day fee for parking. The hotel, however, does allow you to "come and go" as many times as you'd like during the day.

RV Parking

To make arrangements to park your RV's, please contact Melinda at the Birmingham Sheraton. Her phone number is: 800-THE- BJCC (800-843-2522)

From The Airport

You will arrive at one of three concourses within the Birmingham International Airport. After deplaning, follow the signs to the baggage claim area, located at the lower level. When leaving the baggage area, you will exit through door #3. Proceed to the center island which is for the LIMO/BUSS holding area. This is the waiting area for the Shuttle. The cost is \$15.00 per person (one-way)

The Hotel

Our home during this convention will be the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel. The Sheraton's phone number is: 205/324-5000.

Cut-Off Date for Hotel Reservations at group rate is January 16, 2002.

Room rates are as follows (plus applicable taxes - currently 8%)

Single & Double Occupancy	\$ 119.00
Triple Occupancy	\$ 129.00
Quad Occupancy	\$ 139.00
Club Floor Rooms	\$ 139.00

Children 17 and under stay free in rooms with parents using existing bedding. Roll-aways are \$15 per night.

Directions

From Huntsville (North):

Take 1-65 South to 1-20/59 East toward Atlanta and Gadsden. Take either the 17th Street exit and turn left at the first light and then left again on 19th Street, or take the 22nd Street exit and turn right. Take another right on 8th Avenue North, and then right again on 19th Street. The Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex will be on the right.

From Montgomery (South):

Take 1-65 North to 1-20/59 East toward Atlanta and Gadsden. Take either the 17th Street exit and turn left at the first light and left again on 19th Street. Go two blocks and turn right on 11 th Avenue North. Or take the 22nd Street exit and turn right. Take another right on 8th Avenue North, and then right again on 19th Street. The Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex will be on the right.

From Tuscaloosa (West):

Take 1-20/59 East toward Birmingham. Take the 17th Street exit and turn left at the first light and then left again on 19th Street. Or take the 22nd Street exit go straight to the second light, turn right. The Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex will be straight ahead.

From Atlanta (East):

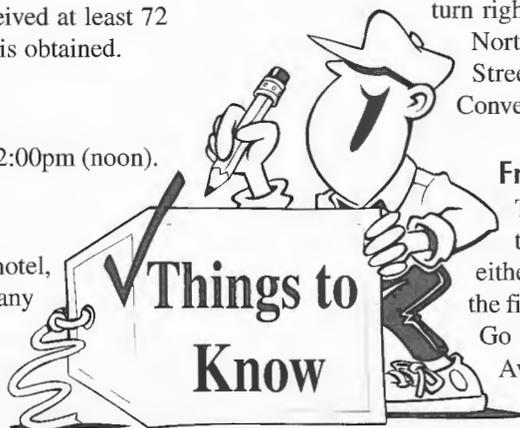
Take 1 -20 West to Birmingham and exit on 22nd Street. Keep straight to 21 St. Street, and turn right. The Civic Center will be on the left. From GADSDEN: Take 1-59 South to Birmingham and exit on 22nd Street North. Go straight to the second light, and take a right. The Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex is on the right.

Dress Code

There is no specific dress code for LICA's conventions, however, most people dress casually for the seminars and more formally for the Caterpillar Banquet and Awards Dinner. To us "casual" means jeans and "more formal" means sports jackets/ties or suits for the men and pant suits or dresses for the ladies.

Weather

The historical average high in Birmingham during the week of our stay is 57° to 59° with the average lows being 35° to 36°. Although there is an enclosed walkway from the hotel to the convention center, you may want to bring some warm clothing, just in case. Remember, not everyone in a classroom likes the same temperatures!



Open The Doors To Success

LICA 2002 Convention

Sheraton Birmingham, AL

February 18-23, 2002

CONVENTION AGENDA

[Note: This is a tentative agenda]

Sunday, February 17, 2002

5:00pm Registration

Monday, February 18, 2002

7:30am Historic Places and Famous Faces Tour

8:00am The Works Tour

7:00pm Registration

Tuesday, February 19, 2002

8:00am Time Travel Tour

6:00pm Registration

6:00pm Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 20, 2002

6:30am Devotions

7:00am Registration and Opening Breakfast

8:30am Committee Chairs Meeting

9:00am **Ladies' Seminar: The Eat Right Program**

Children's Get Acquainted Session

Seminar: Job Site Safety

Seminar: Preventive Maintenance & Its Effect on the Bottom Line

Seminar: Selling the Erosion Control Concept

Committee Meetings (Awards, Devotions, Past Presidents', Public Relations, Technology)

10:00am Kids' Awesome Alabama Tour

10:30am **Seminar: Trenchless Excavation**

Seminar: Constructing Animal Waste Systems

Seminar: Considering Diversification? Is Your

Insurance Coverage Adequate?

Seminar: Noise & Safety: Hearing Conservation Program

Committee Meetings (By-Laws, On-Site Waste, Policy)

12:00pm First-Timers' Luncheon and Program

1:30pm Ladies' Optional Birmingham Treasures Tour

Seminar: Emerging Technologies in On-Site Waste

Seminar: Brush to Mulch

Seminar: Equipment Decisions: Repair or Replace

Committee Meetings (Consv., Earth. & Excav., Long Term

Planning, Membership, Insurance)

3:00pm **Seminar: Grow Your Business With Waste System Maintenance**

Seminar: Athletic Sports Field Drainage & Design

Seminar: Equipment Decisions: Lease or Purchase

Committee Meetings (Convention, Legislative,

Safety, Water Table Mgmt.)

7:00pm Region Meetings

Thursday, February 21, 2002

7:00am Devotions

7:30am Ladies' Breakfast, Business Mtg. & A Humorous Taste of Alabama's History

Children's Breakfast

Equipment Mfg. Contractors Breakfast and Associates'

Presentations

Executive Directors Breakfast & Meeting

10:30am **Seminar: Hitting the Road: Securing Equipment for Transport**

Seminar: Emerging Markets in Watershed Rehabilitation

Seminar: Expand & Enhance with Laser & GPS Technology

Seminar: Recycle & Waste Reduction

Committee Meetings (Nominating, Education, Budget)

Alabama LICA Reorganization Luncheon

12:00pm

1:00pm

Strategic Planning Session

Just 4 Kids Tour

1:30pm

Ladies' Seminar: Fashion & Style for Today

Seminar: Emerging Markets in Watershed Rehabilitation

3:00pm

Seminar: Constructing Animal Waste Systems

Seminar: Expand & Enhance with Laser & GPS Technology

6:00pm

Caterpillar President's Dinner

Friday, February 22, 2002

7:30am Devotions East D (100 theater)

9:00am Children's Show

Ladies' Seminar: The History of the World through Flowers

Delegates Meeting

11:00am

Associate's Advisory Committee

12:00pm

Exhibit Hall Grand Opening Luncheon

5:15pm

Exhibitors' Reception

Saturday, February 23, 2002

7:30am Devotions

8:00am Exhibit Hall Breakfast

9:00am Executive Committee Meeting

12:00pm John Deere Luncheon

2:00pm Children's Pool Party

Board Meeting

5:30pm

Reception

6:30pm

Awards Banquet

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

51st Annual LICA Winter Convention

Birmingham Sheraton · Birmingham, AL · February 18 - 23, 2002

Contact Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____ **City, State & Zip:** _____

Phone/Day: _____ **Phone/Evening:** _____

General Registration - Postmarked after December 1, 2001

Discount Registration - Postmarked by Dec. 1, 2001

MEMB: Contractors, Associates, Government Employee, Consultants	\$210.00 ea.	\$240.00 ea.
Member Spouse:	\$ 195.00 ea	\$225.00 ea.
YOUTH: 13-15 years of age	\$150.00 ea.	\$180.00 ea.
CHILD: 12 years and under (Children 3 years and under are free.)	\$100.00 ea.	\$130.00 ea.
NON-MEMBER (Note: \$40 may be applied toward membership)	\$250.00 ea.	\$280.00 ea.

Special Education Package

For those interested in attending only the educational seminars and meals on Wednesday, February 20 and Thursday, February 21, we are offering a reduced registration of \$125 per adult; \$100 per youth; and \$ 75 per child. (Note: This fee does not include admission to the Caterpillar Banquet.)

PRINT NAMES FOR NAME BADGES	COMPLETE FOR CHILDREN	TOTAL
	YOUTH: age _____ CHILD: age _____	
	YOUTH: age _____ CHILD: age _____	
	YOUTH: age _____ CHILD: age _____	
	YOUTH: age _____ CHILD: age _____	
Total Tour Registration (Please complete the Tour Registration Form and send it with this form)		\$
TOTAL TOUR AND CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEES:		\$

PAYMENT METHODS

<input type="checkbox"/> Check made payable to LICA	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card	Expiration Date:
<input type="checkbox"/> Money Order payable to LICA	Mastercard#	
	Visa#	

TOUR REGISTRATION51st Annual LICA Winter Convention

Birmingham Sheraton · Birmingham, AL · February 18 - 23, 2002

Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Note: Departure times are tentative. Check your program upon arrival.

DATE	NAME(S) (Please Print)	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Monday, February 18, 2002			
<i>Historic Places & Famous Faces</i>		\$ 50 each	\$
(8:00am - 5:00pm)			
<i>The Works</i>		\$ 50 each	\$
(8:30am - 5:00pm)			
Tuesday, February 19, 2002			
<i>Time Travel</i>		\$ 45 each	\$
(8:00am - 4:00pm)			
Wednesday, February 20, 2002			
<i>Ladies Optional Birmingham Treasures</i>		\$ 32 each	\$
(1:30pm - 5:00pm)			
TOTAL TOUR REGISTRATION			\$

REGISTRATION POLICY: Only individuals registered & badged may attend convention events. The spouse/guest of a registered member need not register to share hotel accommodations, but must register if they wish to participate in the program or meal functions. **No registration may be processed without payment.** A \$30 processing fee will be incurred on cancellations postmarked before February 1, 2002. Cancellations postmarked after February 1, 2002 will be subject to a 50% reduction in refund. No registration refunds will be available after February 13, 2001. All requests must be in writing. Meals will be on an "availability basis" for on-site registrations. **REGISTRATION FEE DEADLINES WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED - NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Please return this registration form to: LICA; 1101 West High Street; Jefferson City, MO 65109.
 Questions: Call Debbie Dickens (573/635-8694; Fax: 573/761-0375; E-mail: MLICA@aol.com)

To register additional attendees, please copy this form.

CONVENTION PRE-TOURS

Monday, February 18, 2002

Historic Places & Famous Faces

At 7:30am, the motor coach will begin boarding at the Sheraton Birmingham. Departure will be at 8:00am for a narrated "windshield" tour of downtown Birmingham and the surrounding hills. Founded in 1871, Birmingham is nicknamed "**The Magic City**" and this morning you will experience some of its "magic."

Featured will be **Historic Morris Avenue** filled with many of Birmingham's historic buildings and churches, followed by The Municipal District, Mountain Brook Village, English Village, the UAB District, and a "birds-eye" view of the city.

Then, we'll travel to a little bitty city with a great big surprise! Located in Columbiana is the **Smith-Harrison Museum** which has the largest collection of George and Martha Washington memorabilia outside Mount Vernon!

By this time, your appetite will have kicked in! We've got that covered.! Lunch will be provided at a local restaurant known for its "down home" cooking. Just down the road is **The American Village** where costumed historical interpreters will lead you on a journey into our Colonial past. Hear Patrick Henry's poignant words, learn to do the minuet ... these are just a sample of what you will see and do as you "step-back-in-time" and celebrate 225 years of liberty.

Though the past had its good points, we're sure you'll be ready to head "back to the future" when return to the hotel at 5:00pm.

"The Works" Tour

At 8:00am, the motor coach will begin boarding at the Sheraton Birmingham. When we depart, at 8:30am, we will be bound for the **ACIPCO (American Cast Iron Pipe Company)**. The tour will focus on **American Ductile Iron**, a division of ACIPCO. You will see ductile iron pipe being made and hear the story of this amazing Birmingham company which was voted one of the best 100 companies to work for in America!

Following a lunch that will satisfy the heartiest appetite, the motor coach will depart for Vance, Alabama. This delightful "Southern" city now has "worldwide" appeal with the opening of the **Mercedes-Benz Auto Production Operation**. Here you will experience the history of Daimler-Benz, the world's premier automobile manufacturer. The Factory Tour, where the new Mercedes-Benz M-Class vehicle is produced, allows you to see for yourself why this vehicle is the #1 of its kind.

Then it's on to **The Peanut Depot**. Here's your chance to experience some of Birmingham's early history and to purchase some delicious roasted peanuts to carry back home (if they make it that far!).

Some restrictions from Mercedes-Benz: No one under 12 years of age is allowed on the Plant Tour. The Plant tour is 1 1/2 hours of walking. Comfortable walking shoes (no open toes) and pants are required. Cameras are not permitted on the tour. No smoking on premises. Canes, crutches, and walkers are not allowed on the tour. A list of participants must be received three weeks prior to the tour.

Time Travel Tour

Tuesday, February 19, 2002

At 8:00am, the motor coach will depart the Sheraton Birmingham for the **Confederate Memorial Park**, the site of Alabama's only Confederate Veteran's Home. The facility was in operation from 1902 to 1939 for the care of elderly veterans, wives of veterans, and even widows of veterans.

The 102-acre park includes the two original cemeteries where 313 soldier's remains are buried, buildings from the period, nature trails and a museum which houses artifacts from the "old Soldiers Home." The highlight of the visit will be a glimpse into life of a Confederate Soldier. Dressed in Confederate attire, a guide will recall the bravery and devotion to duty in the face of adversity that each soldier experience during this eventful period of time.

Lunch will be provided before venturing into the water ... **The Water Course**, that is! The Water Course is a fun approach to teaching visitors about Alabama's waterways and reservoirs, the state's geography, the importance of water, and how water effects the lifestyle we lead. Did we say fun? You'll ride in a helicopter

without even leaving the ground, be a contestant on a game show, hear fascinating tales from people who have lived and worked on Alabama's waterways, and see an aquarium full of fish and other aquatic life that call Alabama's waterways home. It's an adventure into the wonderful world of water and its many uses.

Then, it's off to **Mitchell Dam** for a tour of an eight-story hydroelectric facility. Elevators make the tour easy for those who have difficulty walking. Then, it's "back to the future," with our return to the hotel in the late afternoon.

We Recommend!

The size of some tours are restricted and some facilities need advance notice of who will be coming. So, we recommend that you sign up NOW! You definitely don't want to miss out on these great tours!

SENATE AG COMMITTEE PASSES FARM BILL

On November 15 the Senate Agriculture Committee completed the remaining two - and most controversial - titles of the Farm Bill. After only a half-hour of discussion on the conservation title, the panel passed it by voice vote then used the remainder of the markup to complete the commodity title. Chairman Tom Harkin plans to take the legislation to the Senate floor in mid-December.

The bill, an amended S. 1628, would direct Farm Bill activities for the next five years, whereas the House-passed bill, H. R. 2646, is a 10-year measure.

The Senate legislation would increase the CRP total acreage to 40 million acres; double acreage for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) by increasing the total acreage cap by 1.25 million acres; ramp up funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) over the five year authorization reaching \$1.25 billion annually in FY06; increase funding for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) from \$50 million to \$360 million over five years; increase funding for the Farmland Protection Program (FPP) from \$35 million to \$850 million over five years; and establish a new grassland reserve program to enroll up to one million acres in long-term contracts and easements. The title also contains Harkin's Conservation Security Program, which would provide incentives payments to farmers for implementing various conservation practices.

Church Bulletin Announcements

Ladies, remember the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of things not worth keeping. Bring your husbands.

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water."
The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus".

Missionary Bertha Belch will be speaking tonight at Calvary Memorial Church. Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24th. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

For those who have children and don't know it, the nursery is downstairs.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person(s) you want remembered.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

Our eighth graders will be presenting Hamlet at 7 pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

The cost for attending the Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

CONGRESS COMPLETES AG APPROPRIATIONS

The House and Senate each have adopted the conference report for fiscal year 2002 agriculture appropriations, paving the way for it to be signed into law by President Bush. The bill contains a \$66 million increase in funding for the Conservation Operations account within NRCS's annual budget, which includes the Conservation Technical Assistance Program. The bill also provided \$200 million for EQIP.

The conference report included a provision that allows the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer up to \$13 million from EQIP and encourages her/him to use additional dollars from the Commodity Credit Corporation to pay for shortfalls in CRP technical assistance for FY 2002.

TRUCK INSURANCE TIPS

When was the last time you checked your truck insurance policy to verify your coverages? Even then, you probably were satisfied to find that each-truck you were operating was on the list. But, what if that list of vehicles were reexamined today? If you and your insurance agent have kept in touch, the list will show that coverage for bodily injury and property damage liability is included for each vehicle.

But, lets look carefully at the Comprehensive (fire, theft, deer damage, glass breakage, etc.) and Collision coverages. Although these coverages are normally required by banks when the vehicle purchase is financed, they may be carried at your option once the unit is paid off. It is our experience that at least one insurance carrier automatically (with no notice to the insured) deletes the Comprehensive and Collision coverages once a vehicle is 10 years of age and has no lien against it. Worse yet, we even heard that a LICA member from another state had the misfortune to find out about this company's process when his truck was totaled in an accident.

So lets make sure that your truck insurance still fits your needs. Please take the time to look over the policy or call your- agent for a coverage review. Make sure that the coverages you need are listed on your current insurance policy.

MEMBER BENEFIT

The National LICA has negotiated another contractor membership benefit! MLICA members are now entitled to a 10% discount on rooms booked at any La Quinta Inns. Simply make your reservations by calling 800-531-5900 and tell them you're with the Land Improvement Contractors of America to receive the discount!

Gabbing With the Gals... (con't from page 15)

Gogh/ His Mexican cousin – Ah-mee Gogh/ His magician uncle – Wherediddy Gogh/ The Mexican cousin's American half-brother Grin Gogh/ The nephew who drove a stage coach – Welsfar Gogh/ The constipated uncle – Can't Gogh/ The ballroom dancing aunt – Tan Gogh/ The bird-loving uncle – Flamin Gogh/ His nephew psychoanalyst – E Gogh/ The fruit loving cousin – Man Gogh/ An aunt who taught positive thinking – Wayto Gogh/ The bouncy little nephew – Poe Gogh/ A sister who loved disco – Go Gogh and his niece who travels the country in a van – Winnie Bay Gogh. How about a reunion with that group? Let me Gogh.

Hope to see all of you at the convention in Peoria this year. Be sure to take advantage of the seminars, business sessions, women's programs, devotions on Friday and Saturday morning – start the day with a smile, and the banquet on Saturday evening. If you can stay over and visit the president's quarters after the banquet it is a good time to visit with people that maybe there hasn't been time for during the day. Old-timers should be prepared to welcome and visit with the new member; they might have a question or two. It is well worth the time spent and sometimes a much-needed break from work.

This gal wishes to thank those who sent 50th anniversary cards to hubby and me. We had a very nice dinner with all 28 of our family present so it was very meaningful. We received very many cards and personal congratulations and we thought being with all of our family was more important than a big shindig (kinda dating ourselves there).

Speaking of family, the writer's immediate family consisted of three boys and three girls. It dwindled down to the eldest, Vernie, and the youngest, me. I'm sorry to report that my sister Vernie was chosen by the Lord Nov. 30 and has company all the time now. She was in a wheelchair living by herself; people didn't come around very often so I believe she was lonely. She and I had lunch that I brought in once a week and good visits. Now she has sunshine and no pain but we miss her very much.

The word for this issue is "family". For the younger ones out there, stay close to your family through the years, by person, by phone, by letters, etc. And at the risk of repeating, be sure to ask your elders about the background of your family if you are interested in that segment of your life. We tend to put those things off and then there is no-one left that you can ask. If anyone in your family needs help, just offer – they will be very happy to accept.

Stay warm through the winter and look forward to Spring.

..... Rambling Rose

Capitol Update... (con't from page 2)

Other Republicans that have announced they will not seek reelection to the House include Representative Marl Lou Cowlshaw, Naperville, Jim Durkin, Westchester, who is running for U.S. Senate, Tom Johnson, West Chicago, Andrea Moore, Libertyville, Vince Persico, Glen Ellyn, who wants to become a lobbyist, and Ron Lawfer, Stockton. In addition to Dan Rutherford Representatives Rick Winkel, Champaign, Dale Righter, Mattoon, and John Jones, Mt. Vernon intend to seek Senate seats. The Jones announcement said he plans to challenge incumbent Democrat and long time Ag legislator Bill O'Daniel. It will be interesting to watch this situation unfold.

Representative Bill O'Connor, Riverside is seeking the office of Lt. Governor as Corinne Wood's running mate. 12 of 56 Republican incumbents will not be returning to the House.

Several Democrats have also announced they'll not seek reelection to the House, including Representatives Judy Erwin, Chicago, Maggie Crotty, Oak Forest, and Jim Fowler, Harrisburg.

Democratic Representative Tom Dart, Chicago, is also seeking the Treasurer's Office and will not return to the House.

Other Races of Interest

The 100th House District has become attractive to several people. Incumbent Gwen Klingler, Springfield filed nominating petitions December 10th, the first day for filing. Recently Rich Brauer (R, Petersburg) announced his intention to seek the Republican nomination to become the Representative for the 100th District. Rich is a farmer/pork producer as part of a family business and is the past President of the Illinois Pork Producers Association.

I've prattled on too long so will close. I hope everyone has a great holidays and I'll see you in Peoria.

**National Winter Convention:**

Reminder to anyone planning to attend
the national Winter Convention:

February 18-23, 2002 • Birmingham, Alabama

National is accepting donations for the National Auction. If any of our Illinois contractor members or associate members would like to donate an item for the auction, please bring it with you to our Illinois convention January 17-18-19 in Peoria.



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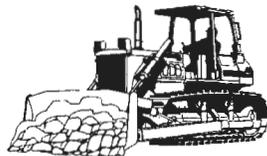


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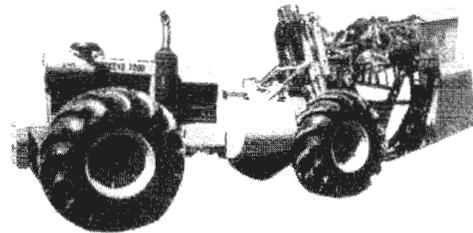
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