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March - April 2018

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Upcoming Events:

Comp. Pers./Flagger Workshop

CIT Trucks: Peru
March 1-2, 2018

Board of Directors Meeting

Jubilee Cafe: Kickapoo
March 10, 2018 - 2 PM

COMPETENT PERSON/ FLAGGER WORKSHOP MARCH 1-2, 2018

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STATE CONVENTION & MEMBERS' MTG.

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- ▶ **Tech Talk: Tips to Longer Undercarriage Life** (page 14-15)
- ▶ **Featured Illinois LICA Benefit: FREE Attorney Phone Consultation** (page 18)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Well, we are running right through February, and we have had some winter here in Dwight. It was really cold the first of the year, then a warmup. This last week a lot of snow, but not as bad as up north. We kept warm in East Peoria at our Illinois LICA Convention and Members' Meeting the 11 – 13 of January. I want to take this opportunity to thank Eric & Angela Layden and the rest of the Convention Committee, our Speakers, Educational Facilitators, and Marie for the Ladies Activities. Job Well Done!! The theme was "Think Safety, Act Safely." One of the Educational Activities was an Adult/Child CPR & AED Course. I had never had that training, but I'm proud to say, with coaching from Grey & Associates, the Annie lives!!

The week of the 22nd of January, Bill Doubet and the Show Committee were busy looking at projects for the summer. We were up in Bureau County looking at sites for another Edge of Field Partnership Bioreactor with Farm Bureau and in Livingston County looking at a couple sites to build a constructed

wetland for another one of our partners, The Wetlands Initiative. We were lucky that week; the weather was nice for January, and we could even dig some holes to check out the subsoil in Livingston Co. Looking at doing these projects mid to late summer.

I know I'm repeating myself, "Think Safety, Act Safely." Your LICA Chapter is providing, free of charge, OSHA Trenching/Excavating Competent Person & Flagger Training at two locations this winter. One was the first of February in Mount Vernon, and the other is the first of March in Peru. I hope you take advantage of these opportunities.

The 19th of February, Marie and I will be heading to Charleston, South Carolina for the LICA National Convention. A lot of history in Charleston; Fort Sumter, Plantations, then Educational Seminars, committee meetings and National Board Meeting where our very own Region 4 VP, Nordis Estrem, is going to run for National Vice President.

Keep Warm and Be Safe,
Lee

NEW MEMBERS

Active Contractors

Troy Kitley

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Dan Banks
Banks Excavating
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Randy House
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BOARD & MEMBERS' MEETING SCHEDULE

Unless changed by the Board during the year, the ILICA business meetings are scheduled as follows:

March 10, 2018 - Regular Meeting of the Board:
 Jubilee Cafe, Kickapoo

May 5, 2018 - Regular Meeting of the Board:
 Richland Com. College, Decatur

Exact location, committee meeting times & other details will be published in the ILICA News and sent to members via mail and/or email.

2018 BOARD MEMBER MTG. ATTENDANCE

A = absent	P = present	C = cancelled meeting				
Area / Director	Jan	Mar	May	July	Sep	Nov
Pres: Lee Bunting	P					
VP: Grant Curtis	P					
1st VP: Steve Anderson	P					
Area 1 - Brian Brooks	P					
Area 2 - Stuart Anderson	P					
Area 3 - Wes Litwiller	P					
Area 3 - Joe Streitmatter	P					
Area 4 - David Kennedy	P					
Area 4 - John McCoy	P					
Area 5 - Earl Mast	P					
Area 6 - Jon Seevers	P					
Area 6 - Scott Day	P					
Area 7 - Vacant						
Area 8 - Norm Kocher	A					
Area 8 - Tom Beyers	P					
Associate Dir: Brad Baker	P					



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NACD AND AFT RELEASE WATER QUALITY TRADING HANDBOOK

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and American Farmland Trust (AFT) released a handbook to highlight the role conservation districts play in water quality trading and other environmental markets programs.

AFT and NACD collaborated to produce the “Handbook for Conservation Districts on Environmental Markets,” which is a detailed look at how conservation districts and their partners are engaged in water quality trading and payments for ecosystem services. The handbook provides guidance and lessons learned from the real-world experiences of conservation districts across the country. This three-year project was funded by a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Innovation Grant.

The handbook is meant to help conservation districts determine potential roles in water quality trading and other environmental markets programs. It includes key findings and recommendations, nine case studies from conservation districts across the country, and a checklist for conservation districts interested in water quality trading and other environmental markets.

The report and its key components can be reviewed on NACD’s website and AFT’s website.

“This is a first-of-a-kind effort that provides relevant information and guidance on water quality trading and other environmental markets directly from conservation districts engaged in the work,” said Jeremy Peters, NACD CEO. “We hope conservation districts across the country will use the information, recommendations and guidance to consider best practices for suited for their conservation district’s needs.”



National Association of
Conservation Districts



“The report underscores that conservation districts have a major role to play in developing and implementing innovative new programs that help farmers protect water quality and achieve conservation goals on their land,” said Brian Brandt, AFT Director of Agriculture Conservation Innovations. “Farmers and ranchers want to be good stewards of the land, but they need programs like these to support their efforts.”

Conservation districts handle a variety of roles in programs across the country. While the report focuses primarily on water quality trading and payment for ecosystem services programs, it notes that the lessons learned from these programs will help districts evaluate partnership opportunities offered by state certainty, stewardship and supply chain sustainability programs, all of which could have a market component.

Source: <http://www.nacdnet.org/newsroom/nacd-aft-release-water-quality-trading-handbook/>

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ILICA Ladies Page

Top 5 Easter Craft Ideas for 2018

Source: <https://www.bestpersonalizedeasterbaskets.com/author/ryangreactiveinc/>

Easter crafts are very easy to make and showcase how much you enjoy this sweet and joyful occasion. Celebrate it with your family and friends by decorating your home with these simple Easter craft ideas.

Innovative and creative crafting ideas are a great way you can engage your kids, such as creating Easter baskets. Other activities even teach them the true meaning of Easter.



DIY Spring Yarn Bowls

Simple, quick and easy to make, woolen yarn bowls are used to decorate your home any time of year. They are often used to put small candies or chocolates inside for your guests!

You can dye white yarn with different liquid colors of your choice, let them dry and create colorful yarn woolen bowls. These bowls look very elegant and inventive, making your home festive and attractive. Involve your kids, as they will also enjoy these activities as well.

Easter Lambs Egg Cups

There are a number of easy Easter craft ideas that you can make at home. Using only white tissue paper rolls and brightly colored eggs, Easter Lamb Egg Cups are very simple to make.



These small, handmade Easter crafts attract everyone and show your creativeness. Your original idea will attract satisfaction and happiness. These Easter egg cups are a cute and fun, do-it-yourself project that you can make at home with your children.

Baby Sock Egg Cozy

This adorable Sock Egg Cozy will melt your heart. Make these little crafts at home along with your children. Their participa-



tion in these activities will increase their confidence and your admiration will encourage their creativity, making this a very healthy pastime. Take a baby sock add some pieces of soft foam, paint a face on the front and enjoy these very charming egg cozies.

Easter Finger Puppets

Easter Finger Puppets are a very fun way to entertain your family. Put on a show and have fun with these adorable and simple to make crafts. Very few things are required in their preparation.

These puppets are cut into an egg shape, placed on your fingers and ready for fun! Make cute little animals like a chick, small baby lamb, a very adorable bunny, and many others. It is a fun way to make a small puppet zoo.



DIY Bunny Brooches



Handmade brooches are very elegant and beautiful Easter craft ideas. If you enjoy sewing, try these beautiful, colorful brooches. Have fun making these sweet bunny brooches with your children.

These handmade items make awesome gifts to give to their friends or family members. It is a great way to get kids interested in sewing early, with simple and easy sewing projects. This activity will bring out their creativity as they enjoy learning a new skill.

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**OSHA Trenching/Excavation
Competent Person Training**

Thursday, March 1st

- 8:30 - 9:45 am Hazards of Excavating
- 9:45 - 10:00 am Break
- 10:00 - 10:30 am Soil Testing & Classifications
- 10:30 am - 12 pm Safe Digging Procedures
- 12:00 - 12:30 pm Lunch
- 12:30 - 2:00 pm OSHA Regulations for Excavating & Trenching
- 2:00 - 2:15 pm Break
- 2:15 - 3:30 pm Competent Person Requirements
- 3:30 - 4:45 pm Excavator Safety

**OSHA Trenching/Excavation
Competent Person Training**

Friday, March 2nd

- 8:30 - 10:00 am Fall Protection
- 10:00 - 10:15 am Break
- 10:15 - 11:30 am Slips, Trips, & Falls
- 11:30 am - 12:00 pm Lunch
- 12:00 - 1:00 pm Distracted Driving

Certified Flagger Training

Friday, March 2nd

- 1 - 5 pm Certified Flagger Training including:
 - Classroom, Hands-on, Testing

Yes, I will attend the OSHA Competent Person & Flagger Training Workshop

- OSHA Competent Person Training** (*day 1-2*) **Certified Flagger Training** (*afternoon, day 2*)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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Company Name: _____ Email: _____

Additional Attendees _____, _____, _____,

_____, _____, _____

Space is limited. Pre-registration strongly encouraged by February 22, 2018.

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2017 ILICA AWARD RECIPIENTS

On the final evening of the 2018 ILICA Convention, the Awards Committee recognized the most outstanding individuals and partners in 2017 for their contributions to ILICA. Based on membership nominations, the award winners were:

Merit Award

For her vision of, what came to be called, the “Edge of Field Partnership,” Lauren Lurkins, Illinois Farm Bureau, was recognized as a Merit Award recipient. She has been a strong voice of the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRs) and is now driving its implementation through the Edge of Field Partnership. Finding time in her non-stop schedule, she pulled together partners, drafted a 5-year agreement, met with producers, secured feasible demonstration sites, and obtained funding for this great partnership in 2017. Her dedication, determination, and eloquence created the Edge of Field Partnership and drove it to its first success with the installation of the first woodchip bioreactor in Henry County, IL.



Merit Award: Lauren Lurkins, pictured with (L-R) Larry Miller, IFB; Jeff Kirwan, IFB; Ryan Arch, ILICA; Richard Guebert, Jr., IFB; Brian Duncan, IFB

For his outstanding execution of our first Edge of Field Partnership project on behalf of the Association and for his dedication to the Association through his acceptance of this project, Dave Ballegeer, Ballegeer Excavating, was named a Merit Award recipient. Dave was flexible to work with through the new process established by the Board for “smaller” demonstrations like the Edge of Field Partnership, where in the end he was responsible for the project’s on-site coordination and construction, which went off exactly as envisioned.

For playing a critical role in many of ILICA’s endeavors and partnerships in 2017 and for her continued outstanding contributions to our Association, Ruth Book, Natural Resources Conservation Service, was named a Merit Award recipient.

Ruth has been an active partner of ILICA for a number of years, providing technical assistance to our Association and many of our contractor members during her tenure with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. She could not only be seen in-field during our demonstrations answering questions from event attendees and our contractors about the design she helped develop, but she was also at the table with ILICA discussing current and future partnerships, training opportunities, and conservation practice improvements in 2017. Without her guidance and assistance this past year, we would have not seen the installation of two high profile bioreactors in Illinois that promoted the practice to tens of thousands of people. And she is always just a phone call or email away regarding any of our Association concerns or partnership and design needs.

The final 2017 Merit Award recipient named at Convention has been another long-time partner of ILICA and is a current life member of the Association. He recently announced his resignation from our ILICA Certification Program that he helped develop roughly 15 years ago. A recognized professional himself, holding a PhD in Ag Engineering and Soil & Water from the same university where he later professed for decades, the University of IL, this recipient has been one of the primary forces behind the ILICA Certification Program’s development, maintenance, and continuation over the years. He has invested hours of his time proctoring, tailoring, and delivering the program to countless contractors within the Association. And he has brought added value and industry expertise to our membership through his involvement with this program. For all these efforts and his outstanding support of the Association, Kent Mitchell was named a Merit Award recipient.



Merit Award: Kent Mitchell, pictured with (L-R) Cathy & Ted Mitchell (son), and wife, Marlene Mitchell

Shiny Shovel Award

Bringing recognition to those members and partners that have consistently supported Illinois LICA in every, or almost every, event throughout the year (i.e. financially, physically, and promotionally), Shiny Shovel Award recipients are highly en-

(Continued pg. 13)

2017 ILICA AWARD RECIPIENTS (CONT.)

gaged, supporting ILICA at the numerous functions held every year. Their shovel never sets down long enough to acquire rust, but instead is shiny from its continual use.

Being a state-wide association with functions spread throughout the state, Illinois LICA held 6 business meetings, 2 education workshops, a golf outing, a member picnic, 2 membership drives, 2 summer demonstration projects, countless conference calls & industry partner meetings, 2 National LICA Conventions, and an Annual Meeting.

For an individual to provide financial, physical, and promotional support to all, or even most, of these events is a notable recognition for someone who receives no monetary compensation for their dedication, commitment nor time donated to the Association. And yet this year's Shiny Shovel Award recipient earned this recognition for devoting his personal time, finances, man-power, and experiences to almost every activity listed for this year. He is a long-standing member of the Association with 2018 marking his 30th year of membership and service with Illinois LICA. Following in the footsteps of his father's dedication and contributions to the Association, Brian Brooks was named the 2017 Shiny Shovel Award recipient.



Shiny Shovel Award: Brian Brooks, pictured with Awards Committee Chairman, Bill Dean

Mr. Contractor Award

This year's Mr. Contractor, Eric Layden, was born and raised in a small farming community. Following graduation from high school, he attended a state college here in Illinois. After college, he traveled around to several states working in different fields of employment. An opportunity to move back



Mr. Contractor Award: Eric Layden, pictured with wife, Angela Layden

to his hometown and join his dad and brother in the farm drainage business came up, and he took it. He has been working very hard for the past 11 years and has made many "CONNECTIONS."

Before returning home, he put his degree in Geography to use by teaching Physical Science at a private Islamic school in Las Vegas. Later, he became an

IT manager for a custom block manufacturer and distributor in Tucson, AZ. It was during this time that he met his lovely wife.

He has helped with the last 2 Farm Progress Shows and the Corn Growers project. He has served as chairperson of the Convention Committee and Education Committee. Finally, he serves on his church's Parish Council and is the proud father of 3 children.

Innovator Award

Called the Innovator Award, this new for 2017 recognition was developed for those individuals that do not fit "neatly" into our current, more traditional award criteria, yet that stand out for their visionary or trendsetting contributions to conservation. Innovator award recipients are highly aware of their conservation responsibility as a landowner, partner, or ILICA member. They are strong conservation supporters and promoters that are "early adopters" or innovators actively involved in the betterment of the conservation industry. They recognize the value of partnership and are willing to work with various interests for the optimization of resources and conservation promotion.

Our 2017 Innovator was a graduate of West Central High School, where he awarded the John Philip Sousa award in music. He graduated from Kentucky Christian University with Degrees in Bible & Business Management. He is married to his wife, Joy, and has 3 kids: Kayla (10), Timmy (5), and Leah (1). Formerly employed by Precision Products, a Trimble construction dealer, where his responsibilities included sales, installation, and training of laser and GPS construction tools, this Innovator began full time at his family's business, Schlatter's, Inc. in 2006. This third generation Innovator is creative and thinks outside the box regarding all his endeavors. In the water management industry, particularly GPS technologies, he has been a leader in the development of software and processes for the survey, design, and installation of tile systems. Recently, he has developed an app for the android based cell phones that allows users to load tile lines onto the phone and identify their location in the field. For these reasons, Joey Schlatter, Schlatter's, Inc., was recognized as the 2017 Innovator Award recipient.



Innovator Award: Joey Schlatter, pictured with father and awards banquet emcee, Ron Schlatter

TECH TALK: TIPS TO LONGER UNDERCARRIAGE LIFE



Several oversights in maintenance and operation will result in excessive wear on undercarriage parts. And because the undercarriage can be responsible for up to 50 percent of a machine's maintenance costs, it's all the more important to properly maintain and operate crawler machines. By adhering to the following recommendations, you'll get more life from an undercarriage and significantly reduce maintenance costs:

Track Tension

Operate the machine for at least a half hour to allow the track to acclimate to the working area before you check and set the track tension. If conditions change, like additional rainfall, re-adjust the tension. Tension should always be adjusted in the working area. Loose tension causes whipping at higher speeds, resulting in excessive bushing and sprocket wear. If the track is too tight, it causes stress on the undercarriage and drive train components while wasting horsepower.

Shoe Width

Equip the machine to handle the condition of the specific environment, using the narrowest shoe possible that still provides adequate flotation and function.

- A shoe that is too narrow will cause the machine to sink. During turns, the back end of the machine slides, causing excess material to build up on top of the shoe surface which then falls into the link-roller system as the machine continues to move. Tightly packed material built up on the roller frame may cause reduced link life due to the link sliding across the packed material, which may also cause the carrier roller to stop turning; and
- A slightly wider shoe will give better flotation and accumulate less material because the material is farther away

from the link-roller system. If you choose shoes that are too wide, they may bend and crack more easily; cause increased wear on all components; may cause premature dry joints; and may loosen shoe hardware. A 2-inch increase in shoe width results in a 20 percent increase in bushing stress.

- See related recommendations under the debris section.

Machine Balance

Improper balance can cause an operator to believe wider shoes are necessary; accelerate undercarriage wear, thus shortening life; cause an inability to fine doze; and create an uncomfortable ride for the operator.

Check out the education opportunities at AEMPU.org.

- A properly balanced machine will provide even track roller wear from front to rear and minimize track link rail scalloping. Good balance also will optimize track flotation and reduce the amount of track slippage; and
- Always balance a machine on a smooth, level surface and set balance with the attachment that will be on the machine.

Operator Practices

Even the best operators will struggle to notice track slippage until it is near 10 percent. That can cause decreased productivity and increased wear rates, especially on grouser bars. Decrease the load to avoid track spinning.

- Undercarriage wear is best measured in travel miles, not operating hours. Newer track-type machines measure travel by miles or kilometers in both forward and reverse;
- Consistently turning in the same direction results in unbalanced wear with more travel miles on the outside track. Alternate turning directions when possible to keep track wear rates the same. If alternate turns are not possible, check the undercarriage more often for unusual wear;
- Minimize nonproductive high operating speeds to reduce wear on undercarriage components;
- Avoid unnecessary operation in reverse to reduce sprocket and bushing wear. Reverse operation causes more bushing wear regardless of speed. The use of adjustable blades will limit the time spent in reverse because you can turn the machine and tilt the blade the other direction; and
- Operators should begin every shift with a walkaround. This visual inspection *(Continued pg. 15)*

TECH TALK: TIPS TO LONGER UNDERCARRIAGE LIFE (CONT.)

should include a check for loose hardware, leaky seals, dry joints and abnormal wear patterns.

Application

The following conditions are applicable only if the machine is working on a level surface:

- Dozing shifts the weight of the machine forward, causing faster wear on the front idlers and rollers;
- Ripping shifts machine weight rearward, which increases rear roller, idler and sprocket wear;
- Loading shifts weight from the rear to the front of the machine, causing more wear on the front and rear components than on the center components; and
- A qualified person should regularly measure, monitor and predict undercarriage wear to better identify repair needs early and get the most life and lowest cost per hour from an undercarriage. When checking track tension, always coast the machine to a stop rather than braking.

Terrain

When not working on level surfaces, you should follow these recommendations:

- Working uphill causes higher wear on rear undercarriage components. Allow Mother Nature to help you by working downhill because tracks last longer working downhill;
- Working on hillsides increases wear on the undercarriage parts that are on the downhill side of the machine but does cause excessive wear on guiding systems on both sides of the machine. Alternate sides when working on hills, or rotate the tracks from side to side when working on one side more than the other;
- Excessive crown work causes more wear on the inner components of an undercarriage so check the inside track wear often; and
- Excessive vee ditching (working in depressions) causes increased wear on an undercarriage's outer components, so check often for outside track wear.

Debris

Material packed between mating components can cause incorrect engaging of parts, which will lead to increased wear rates:

- Clean debris from the undercarriage when needed during operation so rollers will turn freely, and always clean out debris at the end of a shift. This is particularly important in landfills, wet conditions or any application where material can become packed and/or frozen. Roller guards may trap debris and increase the effects of packing;
- Use center punched shoes if the material is extrudable, but don't use them if the material has mud-like consistency; and
- Maintain the proper level of guiding because over-guiding will keep debris in the undercarriage and an under-guided machine will be more likely to have dry joints.

Excavators

There are three specific recommendations for digging with excavators:

- The preferred digging method is over the front idlers to reduce the potential for structural problems;
- Dig over the side of the excavator only when absolutely necessary; and
- Never dig over the final drive.

Source: Reprinted with permission of the Association of Equipment Management Professionals from their Equipment Manager magazine; article author: Tim Nenne

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STATE CONVENTION & MEMBERS' MEETING

According to Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Shallow men believe in luck; wise and strong men in the cause and effect." As we all know, safety is critical in our industry and not something that we just "luck out" on. Sometimes it takes a little energy and a conscious effort, as contractors learned at the 2018 ILICA Convention. "Think Safety, Act Safely" was the theme of the 2.5 day Convention that provided great education, networking, and socializing opportunities for members.

Averaging over 140 attendees during the first two days of Convention, ILICA members had the option of attending over half a dozen education sessions, septic training, partner reports, and the trade show. Safety education sessions covered JULIE updates, distracted driving, trench safety, and CPR & AED certification. Other education sessions included section 404 permitting requirements, taxes & accounting, and drainage law. Education sessions were highly attended and during breaks members visited over 30 trade show exhibitors. Ladies also kept plenty busy holding their own CPR & AED certification training, making various crafts, and enjoying lunch and cosmetology activities during their Friday outing. The opening evening activities wrapped up with a silent & live auction where Paul The Goodluck Bear ended up being "traditionally" auctioned off for the last time, sending him into retirement. The following night the Awards Banquet brought much needed recognition to our most active and dedicated members and partners (see pages 12-13) and included the release of ILICA's newest award; the Innovator Award was presented for the first time to Joey Schlatter, Schlatter's, Inc., for his creative thinking and recent smartphone application development. Wrapping up the banquet, Christopher Carter simply amazed our members with a performance that could only be described and explained as "gifted."

Survey feedback from the 2018 Convention was generally positive. After much consideration the Convention Committee has once again decided to hold the 2019 ILICA Convention at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria. Expect significant agenda changes. Finally, don't forget to thank all this year's Convention sponsors and donors when you see them next, between now and then! The success of our events hinges on their generosity and support!

(Continued pg. 17)



Pictures (top to bottom): Education sessions, like this one from JULIE, were full; Members had the opportunity to get certified, or recertified, in CPR & AED; Ladies visiting the Prins Insurance & United Fire Group booth during the trade show



THANK YOU

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Pictures (top to bottom): Convention Chairman, Eric Layden, addresses a full exhibit hall; Chris Carter identifies personal items while blindfolded with help from Sheena Brown; ILICA Associates; Ladies getting pampered; Ladies toured Obed & Issac's Brewery over lunch

FEATURED ILLINOIS LICA BENEFIT: FREE ATTORNEY PHONE CONSULTATION

**HURRY!
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ILICA's free attorney phone consultation program is back! For a limited time, the Wessels Sherman telephone consultation program is offered to members at no cost during the months of February - July. This benefit, offered to members many years ago, was discontinued due to lack of use. However, Wessels Sherman has provided ILICA members another opportunity to tap into their expertise at no cost to members for the duration of this offer. As program popularity grows during this timeframe, ILICA and/or individual contractors have the option of extending this great benefit indefinitely. The choice is ours, so take advantage of this offer today!

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Easy Access to Firm's Attorneys: To help our clients who select the \$75.00 monthly flat rate program, Wessels Sherman provides cell phone numbers of all of its attorneys.

Scope of the Program's Telephone Consultation: Legal counseling by a Wessels Sherman attorney under the \$75.00 per month flat rate program covers the following kinds of activities:

- Opinions on how to handle personnel problems;
- Conferences as to whether or not a certain course of action could lead to significant legal difficulties;
- Discussions regarding whether or not a particular issue or concern indicates that there should be follow-up consultation and/or legal research, etc.

These are just examples of possible phone calls that could come to Wessels Sherman under this program. The program obviously does not apply to telephone discussions of "ongoing/pending" litigation and non-litigation matters we are handling for a client. Telephone discussions concerning "ongoing/pending" matters will be billed at our normal hourly rate as discussed below. In addition, the program is also **not** intended to be:

- A substitute for thorough legal research when needed; and/or
- A substitute for an in-depth strategy session.

Of course, if the attorney contacted under the \$75.00 monthly flat rate program is required, by virtue of the telephone call, to follow up with legal research, drafting of letters and/or documents, drafting of employee handbooks, contacting governmental agencies and/or officials, etc., those activities would be billed to the client our normal billing structure.

In order to avoid any misunderstandings about what telephone services are encompassed within the monthly flat rate program, in circumstances where the attorney must perform services beyond those covered by the program, our attorneys are instructed to alert you that a charge in addition to the \$75.00 flat rate charge may be incurred for any extra services. You will be so advised in all such cases, except where Wessels Sherman is handling an ongoing/pending matter, prior to the rendering of the additional services. However, if you are ever in doubt about whether a certain phone call falls under the \$75.00 per month flat rate telephone consultation program, feel free to ask the appropriate attorney directly whether or not this legal problem would fall into the \$75.00 per month program.

Please feel free to contact any of our five offices regarding a phone client question. Phone numbers are below:

St. Charles, IL – (630) 377-1554	Chicago, IL – (312) 629-9300
Minneapolis, MN – (952) 746-1700	Oconomowoc, WI – (262) 560-9696
Davenport, IA – (563) 333-9102	

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Illinois

OSHA Competent Person/Flagger Workshop

March 1-2, 2018

CIT Trucks - Peru, IL

2650 May Road

FREE, but space limited. See registration on page 11.

Board of Directors Meeting

March 10, 2018

Jubilee Café - Kickapoo, IL

7127 N. Kickapoo - Edwards Road

Committee meetings: 10 am - 1 pm

Board Meeting: 2 pm

National

2018 National LICA Summer Convention

July 9-15, 2018

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel

Grand Rapids, MI

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“LICA TO ME”



Author, Eric Layden, of Layden Drainage, Inc. based in Hoopeston, IL

Hi everyone, my name is Eric Layden. I have been a drainage contractor for eleven years now based out of Hoopeston, IL. (Hoopeston is about thirty miles north of Danville.) I got into the farm drainage business when a local contractor was retiring, and my Dad bought the business for my brother and me to run. My brother had some limited experience with tiling, so after I got a crash course in surveying with a laser, and the operation of a Buckeye Super H, we began draining acres. Our first project was sixty acres and then an eighty came next. Talk about getting thrown into the ring right away! The first spring we took on our first 160 project. I remember being so intimidated by the task of surveying and designing that one. It was also on this job that the trencher's dig pump and dig motors failed. Being a drainage contractor seemed so hard during those days. My brother left the business after four years, and the following year I bought the business from my Dad. The business has had continued success, and has been able to upgrade every piece of equipment since the beginning, as well as adding a Wolfe plow and a Kubota Mini excavator to the fleet.

So what does all of this have to do with what ILICA has done for me? I joined the organization a few years into my career. I took advantage of the free convention pass that first year and suddenly found out that there were other people out there that have the same types of stories, other people that have gone through the same struggles with machinery and employees, other people that have faced the same challenges that I had already encountered at that point in time. I thought ILICA dues were too high, and I wanted to know how I could benefit from my new membership. One long-time member told me if I ask the right people the right questions, the knowledge I would receive would pay for a lifetime of ILICA dues. A few other members asked me about my operation and within minutes I started to understand how this organization was already benefiting me. I learned different ways of operating and several tricks of the trade. Many ideas were implemented right away. Another contractor told me early on that you only get out of your LICA membership what you put into it. The fact that the association has so many great benefits that save me

“The true benefits of ILICA are the friendships and business contacts that I have made, and the exchange of information that has help guide me to become the contractor I am today.”

money is just icing on the cake. The true benefits of ILICA are the friendships and business contacts that I have made, and the exchange of information that has help guide me to become the contractor I am today. Throughout the years, I have attended many different education workshops and continue to attend convention every year. I have many certifications under my belt that I would not have if I had stayed at home. Some of these include IDOT, OSHA, Forklift, CPR, and ILICA's own certification. I continue to learn new tricks of the trade from other active members still today. I have friends and associates that I can rely on for help if I need it. Suddenly, being a drainage contractor doesn't seem so hard these days.

In the early 2000's, I studied Physical Geography at Illinois State University. At that time, I learned about GIS programs and how they were starting to provide many industries new tools for conducting business. Like many of you, I got to experience this technology make it into our industry. The use of GIS and RTK have dramatically changed how drainage systems are being designed and installed and how equipment is being controlled. I was so happy to make the change from the laser transit. I remember the beginning of Google Earth and how incredible it was and still is. Never could I have imagined back then, that being a drainage contractor I could change the physical geography of the Earth around me, and that one day I would be able to see many of those changes from the Internet. This is what drives me. That is what makes this business profoundly rewarding for me. You can only learn so much from your own experiences. Whether you spend your days in an excavator, bulldozer, tile plow, trencher, backhoe, or jumping from one machine to the next like me, ILICA provides the educational opportunities to make you a safer, smarter, and more efficient contractor. Be safe and profitable this spring.

SAFETY FEATURE: MAKE SAFETY A PRIORITY ON THE JOB SITE

Safety takes teamwork: keep your eyes open for hazards on the construction site and report them to keep our safety program on solid ground.

Safety on the job site is something all employees should take seriously—nothing less than the future of your family is at stake. They are counting on you to provide food and shelter, and an on-the-job accident could very easily disable you, leaving security and future plans up in the air.

Together, you and your co-workers can get your own safety program off the ground by giving your supervisors or safety leaders ideas on how things can be made safer. Any idea, no matter how small it may seem to you, may prevent a serious accident.

If you are a seasoned employee, you can use your years of valuable experience to spot potential safety hazards. Or, if you are a new employee, you may be able to spot something right away that an old pro may have overlooked.

Here are some examples of rules you can follow to set an example for others and help your safety program succeed.

- Do not engage in horseplay on the worksite at any time—stay focused on the task at hand.
- Allow your coworkers to stay focused at all times by refraining from distracting actions.
- Always wear the required personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Watch your footing at all times, and never run to get where you are going.
- Remember that sanitation is key: keep yourself and your worksite clean and free from debris.
- Know your limits—never work at a height that makes you uncomfortable, especially if it will make you sick, dizzy or too nervous to safely perform.
- Never perform work that you are unauthorized to do.
- Make a conscious effort to remain visible, especially during night work or near motor vehicle traffic.
- Watch out for the safety of non-workers, too. Pedestrians or bystanders can be seriously injured or killed if construction workers do not practice caution.
- Know what to do in case of emergency, whether it's an on-the-job injury or natural disaster.

In short, safety takes teamwork. Whatever your job is or whatever your duties include, keep your eyes open for hazards and report them. Help keep our safety program on solid ground!



Discussion Date: _____

Employee Participants



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