Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association

2027 Annual Convention & Members' Meeting

Save $100

Register before Dec. 29th for early bird pricing!

REGISTER ONLINE

Septic Installers, Pumpers, & Technicians 3.0 Hrs. CEUs

Attention New Contractor Members

Convention registration is FREE with your first year of membership!



January 13 - 15, 2027

Embassy Suites - East Peoria

100 Conference Center Dr, East Peoria, IL 61611

"Building Contractor Connections" is what it's all about at the 2027 Illinois LICA Annual Convention & Members' Meeting! Visit the Embassy Suites in East Peoria to connect with industry experts and vendors, tour Komatsu's mine truck manufacturing facility, attend applicable industry seminars, earn septic license CEUs, celebrate ILICA award recipients, and bid on your favorite items at the live auction to support the ILICA scholarship fund. Dedicate a few hours to visit with manufacturers and partners at the free trade show or immerse yourself in the full two-day event, you'll grow your circle and build opportunities either way. We can't wait to see you there!

Convention Agenda

Wednesday, January 13

3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Registration

3 pm; 4 pm; 4:30 pm

Convention, Nomination, Awards Comm. Mtgs.

6:00 pm

Trivia Night

Kickoff your first evening in town by joining up with savvy friends & family members to compete in the ILICA Trivia Challenge while enjoying delicious hors d'oeuvres!

Thursday, January 14

7:00 am - 4:00 pm

Registration

7:30 am - 8:00 am

Devotions

Pathway Ministries will share encouragement rooted in their mission of offering hope, restoration, and Christ centered support to individuals and families in need. Drawing from their work in Peoria, where they provide residential programs, community outreach, and faith based guidance, their message will focus on practical spiritual renewal and the power of compassion in everyday life.

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Septic Training

Installers, pumpers, and portable sanitation technicians receive 3 CEUs from this inclusive training provided by Doug Ebelherr, Contractor Training Store.

8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Tour: Komatsu's Peoria Manufacturing Facility

Join us for an exclusive tour of Komatsu's Peoria manufacturing facility, where some of the world's largest electric-drive mining haul trucks are brought to life.

10:00 am - 10:30 am

Morning Break

Thursday, January 14 (Continued)

12:00 pm

Welcome Luncheon

Convention committee chairman welcome and new member recognition.

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Ladies Activity

Join the ILICA Ladies for a special food focused experience featuring a hands-on cooking/tasting demonstration that will blend creativity, learning, and plenty of laughs.

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

FREE Trade Show

Explore 40+ industry vendors and connect with Associate members showcasing the latest in equipment, technology, and products.

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Afternoon Break

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Happy Hour

Speculate over the 2026 award recipients with a drink.

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Awards Banquet

Help us recognize those individuals and entities that have contributed so much to the Association over the past year during this formal event. Friends and family welcome.

8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Live Auction

Bid on your favorite items from model toys to tools and everything in between during the Live Auction!

10:00 pm - 12:00 am

Associate Hospitality Room

Before you turn in for the night, pop on in to the Associate Hospitality Room to congratulate the 2026 award winners one more time. We know they would appreciate it!

Friday, January 15

7:00 am - 4:00 pm

Registration

7:30 am - 8:30 am

Devotions

Ryan Lee, Bible Teacher and Counselor with Adult & Teen Challenge of the Greater Midwest, will speak during Friday's devotional program. Serving from their Men's Residential Program in Pekin, Ryan brings a deeply personal connection to the ministry as a graduate of the program himself, having overcome substance addiction before stepping into leadership. Today, he uses that lived experience to provide faith based counseling, mentorship, and biblical teaching to men pursuing recovery, offering a message grounded in hope, transformation, and the power of Christ centered restoration.

9:00 am - 11:00 am

FREE Trade Show

Take advantage of your last opportunity to visit industry vendors!

10:00 am - 2:30 pm

Ladies Outing

Join the ladies for shopping, discovering hidden treasures, and enjoying great food and fellowship! Explore some of the area's unique thrift and vintage shops, including The Pickers Daughter, where you're sure to find something special and enjoy a delicious and relaxing lunch at the Emerald Tea Room. Come ready to shop, sip, savor, and enjoy a wonderful time together! Meet at the registration desk for car pooling.

10:00 am - 10:30 am

Morning Break

11:00 am

Associates Committee Meeting

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Digging into What's Next: Positive Response and JULIE's New Software

This presentation by JULIE's Brian MacKenzie will cover how to properly use the Positive Response System, why it matters for safety and legal compliance, and how it protects operators from violations and liability. JULIE's newest ticket entry software features and benefits will also be showcased.

12:00 pm

Luncheon

Friday, January 15 *(Continued)*

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Big Picture Drainage & Water Management Design

Are you a contractor that installs tile drainage and water management systems? Do your designs account for current and future client needs? Do you design for a field, watershed, and community? Join this experienced panel session to learn more about drainage system and water management system design considerations. You will hear tips, learnings, and experiences from a few ILICA contractor perspectives: LaVerne Weber, Grade Solutions; Jon Seevers, Seevers Farm Drainage; Scott Day, Day Drainage

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Beyond the Transaction: Preparing the Business, the Owner, and the Next Chapter

Business transitions are about more than completing a transaction. They are about preparing a business for continued success, helping an owner navigate one of the most significant financial and personal decisions of their life, and positioning the next owner for long-term success. This session will explore how business owners can evaluate the readiness of their company for a future transition, identify the characteristics of an ideal successor or buyer, and align an eventual ownership change with their retirement and financial planning goals. Attendees will also gain insight into the buyer's perspective and learn how thoughtful preparation can help create fair and sustainable outcomes for both parties. Whether ownership is transferred to a family member, key employee, management team, or outside buyer, a successful transition requires preparation long before a transaction takes place. Participants will leave with a framework for preparing the business, the owner, and the next owner for the next chapter.

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Afternoon Break

Grab a sweet treat at the ice cream social.

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Tax Updates

Get all the latest tax & accounting updates from Dustin Courson, Courson & Associates.

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Boosting Competitiveness: A Contractor's Guide to the IL Works Bid Credit Program

What is the IL Works Bid Credit Program, and how can it benefit you as a contractor? Join our educational session to find out! This session is designed to give you a foundational understanding of the Office of IL Works and why it plays an important role in State funded contracting. The educational session will briefly explore the origin of the Office of IL Works, established through the Jobs Program Act (2019), then shift the main focus to the fundamentals of the Bid Credit Program, explaining how you as a contractor can earn and redeem bid credits to strengthen your competitiveness when bidding on State funded projects!

Friday, January 15 *(Continued)*

6:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Final Regular Board of Directors Meeting

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Members' Dinner Meeting & Election of Officers

All members are encouraged to participate. Members will be given updates from our various committees, as well as have the opportunity to guide Illinois LICA through 2027.

8:30 pm - 12:00 am

Associate Hospitality Room

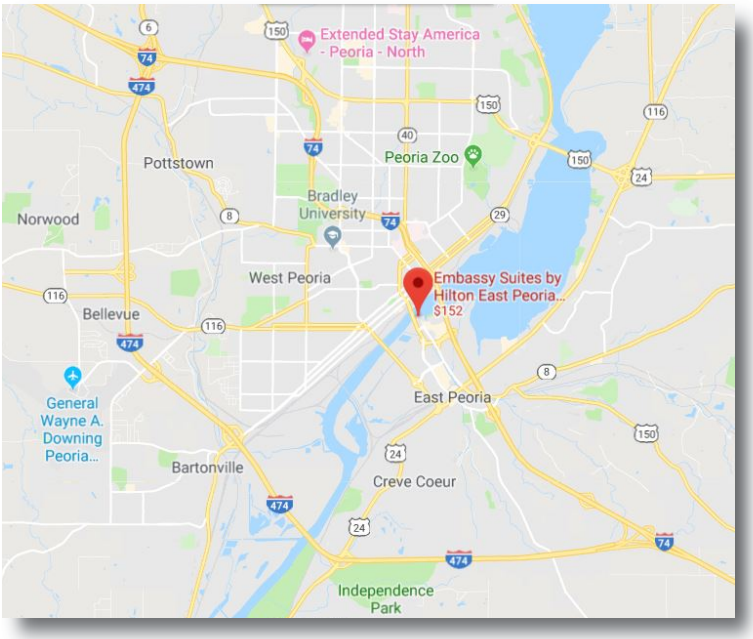
Pop into the Associate Hospitality Room one last time before calling it a night to chat about the day's events and to close out the event in the company of friends.

Hotel Info

The Embassy Suites East Peoria is offering a room rate of $129 per night for a standard king or a double queen, plus applicable state and local taxes.

To take advantage of this room block rate, follow the hotel link received via email after registering for convention online, or call the ILICA office for the hotel code: 309.932.1230.

This rate will expire on December 29, 2026, so register for convention as soon as possible!



Tour



See Where the Giants Are Built!

Ever wondered what it takes to build a mining truck so massive that it can tower over a two-story house? Come see for yourself.

Join us for an exclusive tour of Komatsu's Peoria manufacturing facility, where some of the world's largest electric-drive mining haul trucks are brought to life. These aren't ordinary trucks—they can carry 200 to 400 tons of material and stand roughly 26 feet tall. It's a fascinating look at people, technology, and manufacturing at an enormous scale. Come see the trucks. Meet the people who build them. Experience manufacturing from the inside. You'll never look at a mining truck—or a factory—the same way again.

(Closed toed shoes and long pants are required to enter the factory. PPE will be provided.)

Ladies' Outing



Calling all LICA Ladies, grab your keys and your shopping spirit! Lunch at the Emerald Tea Room and treasure hunting through local vintage and thrift shops. Everything's close by, so we'll carpool to keep things simple. Don't miss the fun!

The Picker's Daughter: thepickersdaughter.com
Two Sisters & a Warehouse:
www.twosistersandawarehouse.com