

SEPTEMBER 2023

# OLICA NEWS

LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA • OHIO CHAPTER



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## A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings Members and Friends of OLICA,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Wow, it is hard to believe we are in the fourth leg of summer already. I would like to thank all of you who attended the summer picnic in June and the National Summer Meeting in July out in Lincoln, Nebraska.

As summer turns into fall, let's reflect back and appreciate the time spent with our families in this beautiful region that we live in. Sometimes, with all the hustle and bustle, we do not take time to appreciate everything we have and hold dear.

The Farm Science Review is right around the corner. It looks like as an organization we will be installing 42,000+ feet of tile this year. Please consider helping with this event. We have been so blessed in the past by members, their employees, and our awesome associates who donate their machines, time, and supplies for these field days. Please contact Steve Gerten at 419-235-1883 if you are able to provide any help with this event.

As harvest begins, and drainage gets installed in freshly harvested fields, I want to encourage each of us to remember to always be safe.

Remember if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,  
Doug Nieman  
OLICA President  
(330) 466-0882

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES

OLICA has had a busy summer and as we head into fall and winter it does not look like things are going to be slowing down.

Our summer picnic was enjoyed by all in attendance. A big **THANK YOU** to Nieman Excavating for hosting this event.

Even with temperatures in the upper 80's and high humidity levels, the OSU Lima Branch Field Day was attended by close to 100 people.

Up next is our FSR Field Day and before we know it the 2024 OLICA Annual Winter Meeting will be here.

I challenge each and everyone of you to become more involved in your organization. Come out to the field day and work along side fellow members installing drainage tile. Join us at the OLICA Winter Meeting and join contractors from across the country at the National Winter Meeting in Virginia Beach.

### 2023 FARM SCIENCE REVIEW FIELD DAY

This year's Farm Science Review Field Day will be held September 19-21, 2023 at the Molly Caren Ag Center, London, OH. We are always in need of volunteers to help out at the field day, so please consider joining us at this year's event. You will have the chance to work with other contractor members, meet some of our associate members, check out the latest in ditching machines, drainage design, GPS grade control technology and water drainage management. We cannot have a successful field day without **YOU**. Any and all help is greatly appreciated.

### 2024 OLICA ANNUAL WINTER MEETING

Plans are well underway for our 2024 Annual Meeting, which will be held January 2-4, 2024 at the Embassy Suites, Dublin, OH. Speakers for our educational seminars are being contacted so if there are any topics you would like to see covered at the meeting, please email Event Director, Pat McConnell at [tpmc76@yahoo.com](mailto:tpmc76@yahoo.com) or myself at [ohiolica@gmail.com](mailto:ohiolica@gmail.com). This is your meeting and we value your input so please don't hesitate to contact us with your suggestions.

### 2024 NATIONAL LICA WINTER CONVENTION

The 2024 National LICA Winter Convention will be held at the Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel, February 13-17, 2024. Pre-convention tours will include the Military Aviation Museum, Nauticus Maritime Museum, USS Wisconsin, guided tour of Colonial Williamsburg and Merchants Square. More information will be coming soon!

### 2024 OVERHOLT DRAINAGE SCHOOL

The 2024 Overholt Drainage School will be held March 11-14, 2024 in Columbus, Ohio. The OLICA Board of Directors voted to award scholarships for 25% off fees to attend the Overholt School for members or their employees, one per member per year. More information on the school and how to apply for one of the scholarships will in the next newsletter.

**THANK YOU** for being an Ohio LICA member.

Amy Gerten, Executive Director

## WELCOME NEW CONTRACTOR MEMBER

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## WHERE'S DIGGER

Congratulations to Paul Chester, Chester Ag Engineering for winning a \$50 VISA gift card. His name was drawn from the individuals who found Digger in the last issue.

Digger is hidden within the pages of this issue. When you find him send his location to OLICA's Executive Director at

[ohiolica@gmail.com](mailto:ohiolica@gmail.com)

by October 15, 2023. Your name will be entered into the drawing for a \$50 VISA gift card.



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# OHIO LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

## CONSERVATION FIELD DAY

*in conjunction with the*

2023 Farm Science Review

September 19-21, 2023

Molly Caren Ag Center

135 SR 38 NE

London, OH



Ohio LICA will be holding a field day in conjunction with The Ohio State University's Farm Science Review. This year we will be installing approximately 45,000 feet of 4" tile. We have asked our Associate Members to pitch in and many have already donated equipment and materials. As always, we are grateful for all the assistance we receive, not only from our Associate Members but from our Volunteer Contractor Members as well. Your generosity enables us to have a successful field day and we appreciate everything our members do for our organization.



We are in need of volunteers to help out at the field day so please add these dates to your calendar. If you are available to help with this project please RSVP by email to [ohiolica@gmail.com](mailto:ohiolica@gmail.com) or text or call Steve Gerten at 419.235.1883. Any amount of time you can give to this project would be greatly appreciated.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND TO RSVP CONTACT STEVE GERTEN 419.235.1883

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## 2024 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



The Board of Directors of the Ohio Land Improvement Contractors Association is pleased to announce the availability of a limited number of academic scholarships. The board of directors voted to increase the scholarship amount to \$1,000 and include individuals attending trade schools as well as those attending two or four year post secondary learning institutions are eligible to apply for one of these scholarships.

Selected recipients will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to use towards tuition, books, and/or fees. Awards will be presented in January at our Annual Meeting at the Ohio LICA Awards Luncheon. Recipients will be notified and are invited and highly encouraged to be in attendance. The scholarship check will be sent directly to the institution for deposit into the student's account.

**Submit your application at:**

**<https://form.jotform.com/232316439884161>**

**Clicking the scholarship link under the News tab on OLICA's website ([www.olica.org](http://www.olica.org))**

**Scanning the QR Code**



**Applications must be submitted no later than November 15, 2023.**

## FORMER OLICA MEMBER HONORED

Longtime OLICA member Ron Cornwell was posthumously inducted into the Hancock County Agricultural Hall of Fame on June 15, 2023. Ron was highly involved with OLICA, serving on the Board of Directors in 1976-78, 1984-1986, 1990-1992, 1997-1999, and 2003-2005. He was secretary in 1978 and again in 1997-1999; Vice President in 1985 and President in 1986. Ron became Executive Director in 2007 and served until 2010. He became an honorary member in 2011 and served on the Policy Committee from 2014-2016. In 1974, Ron became one of the instructors at the Overholt Drainage School teaching about lasers every year until 2009 when his health started to fail, but he would continue to show up at the school every year for a day or two until his passing in 2019.





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Bruce Mosier, PRINS Insurance, explains the LICA Safety Portal to members in attendance at the Sumer Meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska. This portal gives every LICA Contractor member access to safety materials. Members can log-in to a personalized LICA Portal and search for any topic that relates to your business as well as view an up to the minute news feed tailored to your company's needs. This portal is a free benefit to all contractor members. Email [anational.lica@gmail.com](mailto:anational.lica@gmail.com) to set-up your account and get started.

# Safety LICA Portal

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Safety Policies



Safety Meeting Material



State Requirements



OSHA Requirements & Newsletters



Business must be a member of a State Chapter of LICA. Each member will gain complete access to the ZyWave Resource Library! Email: [anational.lica@gmail.com](mailto:anational.lica@gmail.com) to set-up an account and get started!

Questions? Contact Bruce Mosier or Kari Van Es at Prins Insurance for additional information.

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# PRESS RELEASE



## **UFG Insurance and Prins Insurance announce State LICA Insurance Program 2022 dividend results**

UFG Insurance strives to uphold its policyholder promise to ensure businesses are financially prepared to overcome losses with its trustworthy insurance protection. The carrier is proud to have fulfilled this important promise for the members of the State LICA Insurance Program last year.

LICA contractors who participate in the program have access to UFG's trusted insurance products, gold-standard service from the UFG claims team, dedicated risk control assistance and other perks like the opportunity to earn a safety group dividend\* based on loss ratio.

Last year, the group loss ratio for members of the State LICA Insurance Program (Arkansas, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Wisconsin) earned members a 1% safety dividend for 2022.

"We congratulate the LICA contractors in our program on earning a safety dividend and for their demonstrated commitment to safety," says UFG Insurance AVP and Branch Manager, Matt Schleier, who also serves as the State LICA Insurance Program advocate.

UFG's risk control services will continue to champion support for the businesses insured, helping them foster the safest settings possible with fewer and less severe losses, which will undoubtedly continue to improve results.

The State LICA Insurance Program has been a trusted pillar for LICA members for more than 25 years. UFG is honored to serve as the recommended insurance company for the State LICA Insurance Program in partnership with Prins Insurance.

If you're interested in learning more about the State LICA Insurance Program or taking part in it, contact Prins at 800-831-8545.

*\*The availability of dividends is declared from surplus funds and are not guaranteed.*

###

### **About UFG's State LICA Insurance Program**

UFG currently offers insurance to chapter members in: Arkansas, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, Missouri, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Wisconsin. The State LICA Insurance Program is administered by Prins Insurance Inc. of Sanborn, Iowa.

### **About Prins Insurance Inc. of Sanborn, Iowa**

Prins Insurance has partnered with LICA contractors for more than 25 years to provide an insurance product that gives the opportunity to work with your independent agent while taking advantage of a comprehensive insurance program that focuses on the unique needs of your industry. If you have questions about the State LICA Insurance Program, contact Prins at 800-831-8545.

# OLICA SUMMER PICNIC



THANK YOU Nieman Excavating for hosting the Summer Picnic



Good Food



Equipment Rodeo

Winners: Hunter Nieman, Josh Steiner, Jesse Sax



Above: Enjoying time spent with friends

Below: Kids enjoying a game of softball



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# NATIONAL LICA SUMMER MEETING



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Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum

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Lincoln Industries



Speedway Motors Museum of America



Nebraska Tractor Test Laboratory



LICA Leadership Panel



Associate's Night Scholarship Auction

2023 NATIONAL LICA SUMMER MEETING

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| BRON                                     | Purple Wave Auction        |
| Fratco                                   | Sapp Bros. Inc.            |
| The Johnson Team                         | SHoule Inc.                |
| LICA Educational Foundation for Veterans | World Insurance Associates |
| Machinery Trader                         | Wolfe Equipment            |
| Modern Ag. Inc.                          |                            |



Board Meeting

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# Safety Matters

## Common Sense and Safety

Serious accidents can happen when you take safety for granted. Consider this situation: a man was adding fuel to his lawnmower. He poured some gasoline, then took a step back with the open fuel can in his hand. Meanwhile, his neighbor walked up behind him with a lit cigarette. The can touched the cigarette and the explosion burned both men.

This accident was due to a lack of safety awareness. The man with the fuel can should have ensured there were no open flames in the vicinity, while the man with the cigarette should have checked that there were no flammable materials present.

Taking things for granted often involves multiple safety violations, such as poor communication, not being alert and taking unsafe risks. Making assumptions when it comes to safety leads to serious accidents and injuries.

### Check and Double-check

Always check for proper safety precautions and mechanisms, and double-check when necessary.

Check tools for flaws or malfunctions before using them. Do not assume they are fine just because they were yesterday.

Look before you step out into an aisle, even if power trucks and other equipment do not usually travel there.

Never assume a situation is safe unless you verify for yourself. For instance, do not trust that a ladder that

you come upon is secured properly unless you double-check it yourself.

### Personality Traits Can Lead to Accidents

In a recent study of characteristics of accident-prone employees, one of the personality factors associated with repeated injuries was self-assurance. These individuals are too confident that nothing will go wrong, rather than making sure safety procedures are followed. Confidence is good while working in hazardous conditions, but overconfidence can make someone take unnecessary chances, which often leads to accidents and injuries.

Another accident factor was found to be the desire for dominance. Accident repeaters tend to have decided opinions of their own, and comparatively little regard for the opinions of others or for safety rules. Just because you are experienced or knowledgeable in a certain area does not mean it is okay to ignore safety precautions.

### Safety for Everyone's Sake

People who take safety for granted and think that they know best are often the most prone for accidents. It is important to remember that safety is a group initiative, and that everyone needs to follow safety precautions and avoid taking risks to maintain a safe workplace.

If any misunderstandings or questions develop concerning your job, clear them up right away by consulting your supervisor.

**Never take safety for granted!**

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# OSU LIMA BRANCH DRAINAGE INSTALLATION FIELD DAY



THANK YOU to the volunteers who donated their time, talents and machinery to make our field day successful. Another big THANK YOU to the associates who donated materials. We could not do this without YOU!!



OSU Lima Interim Dean and Director, Margaret Young, speaking to field day attendees during lunch.

Bruce Clevenger, Farm Management Field Specialist gives a presentation on Farm Drainage Economics to field day attendees.





## OHIO LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

8603 Road 5  
Leipsic, OH 45856  
ohiolica@gmail.com

### UPCOMING EVENTS

OLICA Farm Science Review Field Day • September 19-21, 2023  
Molly Caren Ag Center, London, OH

2024 OLICA Annual Winter Meeting • January 2-4, 2024 • Embassy Suites, Dublin, OH

2024 National LICA Winter Convention • February 13-17, 2024 • Virginia Beach, VA

2024 Overholt Drainage School • March 11-14, 2024 • Columbus, OH

2024 National LICA Summer Meeting • July 9-13, 2024 • Pittsburgh, PA

New members are always welcome. You can find a membership application on our website at:  
<http://www.olica.org/about-us.html>

To get the most out of your membership take advantage of all the benefits LICA has to offer.  
Visit our webpage at [www.olica.org](http://www.olica.org) for a complete list of benefits.

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