



2010

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Greetings from your State President

Dee and I just returned home on the 17th of July from the National LICA Summer Convention in Peoria, Illinois. It was a great convention with a lot of educational events and seminars. Iowa had a very good attendance.

There were tours on Tuesday and Wednesday for the men and women. Seminars started on Thursday starting out with LICA benefits. The seminar that followed was about Feeling & Looking your Best at Any Age. It was a very interesting one for all.

The rest of the seminars were about Safety Behavior, Technology, Right Job/Right Tool, and Emissions.

On Friday were Committee Meetings which had a lot of new ideas and ending with our Region 4 meeting. That night everyone went to the Caterpillar Plant and watched a demonstration of different pieces of heavy construction equipment. They started a small project with a mini excavator and ended with an 800 hp dozer. It was a really great show. After the show, they fed us a great meal.

Thanks to all the members of Illinois LICA for hosting a great summer board meeting

This month Iowa LICA will be at the Farm Progress Show in Boone. Steve Miller, Region IV VP, and other volunteers will be telling the people all about LICA and why landowners should hire an LICA contractors.

Iowa LICA Summer Board Meeting

Iowa Board and Committee Chairs met at the Iowa LICA farm near Melbourne, Iowa on Sunday, July 11. We had a great meeting. We had discussions on topics for the upcoming Annual Meeting and Convention which will be held January 9, 10, 11, 2011 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines, Iowa.

One of the topics discussed was new rules for CDL drivers. We hope to have someone at the convention to update us on new changes. The Board and Committee members have come up with over 25 different educational topics for the upcoming convention. Also, much time centered on the impact of tile drainage on recent flooding. You can read some of my

comments on the back page of this letter.

Membership Drive 2010

It has been several years since we have had a real live bang up membership drive. This is the year to make it happen. Doug Egeland, Iowa LICA Membership Chairman, and others have come up with a challenge to all members and districts to increase membership. Other states across the nation are out to “get us”. For the last several years we have been flirting with that “400 member” count. This is the year to break through.

The contest will run from August 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010.

If you sign up:

- 7 or more new members, you and your spouse will receive free convention registration and \$500 cash.
- 5 or 6 new members, you and your spouse will receive free convention registration and \$100 cash.
- 3 or 4 new members, you will receive free convention registration.
- 2 new members, you will receive \$25 cash.

The district with the biggest percentage of gain in membership (based on August 1, 2010) will receive a traveling trophy. The district with the smallest percentage of gain in membership will receive a traveling **UGLY** trophy. These will also be exhibited at the convention and carried to the district meetings by the state president as a reminder of “**who can do it**” and “who is a couch potato.”



Iowa Farm Progress Show

This year Iowa LICA will have a display at the Farm Progress show near Boone, Iowa. The show dates are: Tuesday, August 31; Wednesday, September 1; and Thursday, September 2. The show times are 8 AM to 5PM on Tuesday and Wednesday and 8 AM to 4 PM on Thursday. Region IV VP, Steven Miller, is in charge of the display and needs your help. Setup for the show is on Monday, August 30. He could sure use at least one person to help him get things ready for the show. Iowa LICA will be in the same tent as the NRCS, IDALS, DNR, FSA, CDI, Trees Forever, and Iowa Rural Water Association and a couple others. This is a great opportunity for Iowa LICA to let people know who we are.

We also need a few more volunteers to help out during the show. If you would be able to help out, give me a call at 319-240-2420 or send me an email at iowalica@indytel.com.

New Insurance Program for Iowa LICA Members

Bruce Mosier of Prins Insurance, Inc. and others have been working for the past few years to come up with a health program for Iowa LICA members. We can now announce the addition of a new Iowa LICA Associate Member, **Group Benefits, LTD.** This company provides more than a health insurance program. The following is a little information about the program. You will be receiving more information in the near future.

Our Story

At Group Benefits, Ltd., we are in the business of creating success – success for the agents, affiliates, and customers with whom we partner. Although “group” is part of our name, we do so much more. We have experts ready to help with a variety of products – from individual health and life to wellness and Long-Term Care. We are ready to be your one resource for insurance and benefits guidance.

Our Philosophy

Our core philosophy is to do the right thing for our customers and agents. For our customers, we contract with top carriers to ensure access to the best options – and we won't sell you a policy that isn't in your best interest. But the key to our success is our agents. We have relationships with hundreds of agents, providing assistance on a host of products. We treat our agents to 100% vesting, free marketing support and collateral, and flexible sales structures and product offerings to enhance their books of business.

Our Partner Companies:

Group Benefits, Ltd.

Group health is where we got our start in insurance. We've assisted our agents in finding affordable benefit coverage for over 1,000 small and mid-size companies.

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We expanded our health business to include individual health insurance and Medicare products. Our experts have provided guidance and helped shop the market for more than 30,000 customers.

America's Financial Consultants

When agents began asking for our support on life and annuity sales, we recognized an opportunity for growth. Now, we offer an array of financial products.

The Other Health Plan

Wellness and health insurance go together. That's why we developed a comprehensive health improvement solution to help groups and their employees to live a healthy life and be active in the fight against rising premiums.

Exceptional Specialty Products

To create a full-service experience for agents, we created a company to provide them with affordable logo-enhanced merchandise and help their marketing dollars go further.

Toll-Free (800) 640-7382

Fax (515) 222-5342

www.groupbenefitsltd.com

Welcome another new Associate Member:

LDJ – Thunder Creek Equipment

Mike Schippers
1833 Highway 163
Pella, Iowa 50219
866-535-7667

www.ldj-products.com

Sales of fuel delivery trailers

Random thoughts from your Executive Director

The discussion of ag drainage and whether or not it causes increased problems for flooding is a hard one to answer because everyone has their own views and no amount of talk seems to convince anyone to the contrary. We have to realize that when it rains we are going to get the water one way or another-over the surface or underground. We are not producing more water; we just change how it is transported. I don't think most people realize it takes 24 to 48 hours for rain water to infiltrate and enter the subsurface drainage systems. By that time the peak flood threat is over.

We often hear the weather forecaster say that because of the saturated soil conditions flooding is a great possibility. Doesn't it seem reasonable that if we have subsurface drainage, flooding would then be reduced?

A few weeks ago flooding in Waterloo, Iowa had nothing to do with tile drainage. The answer to their flooding problems was to increase the size of the storm sewers in the area so the water could hit the river sooner. What do think that would do to increase a flood level?

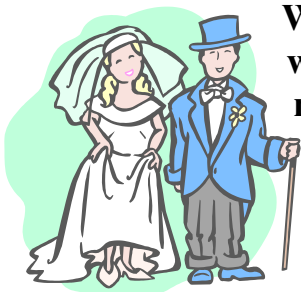
Rain in Oelwein a few weeks ago flooded and damaged several homes. This had nothing to do with tile drainage

This past year there has been unprecedented flooding in Nashville-----water poured into the Grand Ole Opry---
-was that water from tile drainage?

The Rio Grande river was flooding at all time highs---- I don't know of much tile drainage in Texas!

I have heard that because of increased tile drainage in Iowa, we have destroyed the wetlands. I would like to remind people that since the 1985 farm bill, it is **unlawful** to drain wetlands. Iowa has less tillable land today than we had just a few years ago. There are many factors that affect flooding. Let's not focus on one sector and say that is the answer. To be honest, I am thinking that getting 10 inches of rain in a few hours causes more flooding than any other thing I can think of.

One last thing.



Who celebrated 50 years of marriage this last month? Well, I wish I would have known sooner, but I got the information too late for the last newsletter. Worthin and Maretta Grattan celebrated their 50 years of marriage July 10. The Grattan's have been two of the most active Iowa LICA members for as long as I can remember. Congratulations Worthin and Maretta!!!