



2011

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Iowa LICA Contractor of the Year

Doug Egeland of Ossian, Iowa was named Iowa LICA Contractor of the year. Doug Egeland Tiling is a diversified company that installs tile and does all types of farm and commercial earthwork. One of his specialties is building upscale ponds with many unique amenities.



Doug has served in many capacities as an Iowa LICA member. He has been involved with membership development, education, and was very instrumental in the purchase of the Iowa LICA farm near Melbourne, Iowa. Doug and his wife, Mary Lou, have presented educational seminars in his district, state, and national meetings. Doug has held all offices at the state level and also served as Region IV Vice-president. Doug was nominated by Bruce Barnhart.

Winner of the Iowa LICA State Technician award is **Judy Hagan** of Cedar



County. Judy was nominated by Bruce Barnhart. Judy is now retired after 33 years with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Judy has spent her life promoting conservation projects to improve water quality and control the raindrop where it falls to try to reduce flash flooding in West Branch.

Another winner of the Technician Award was the **Winneshiek County NRCS**.

Doug Egeland of Ossian nominated the entire office for their work promoting soil conservation work in Winneshiek County. Winneshiek is one of the busiest counties in the state. The list of projects completed by this county is almost endless. The staff of this office is always very friendly and willing to work with both the landowner and the contractors to make the projects beneficial for all.

Iowa LICA Soil Conservation

Award Winners:

Fawcett Farms of Cedar

County. Fawcett Farms was nominated by Bruce Barnhart and Steve Brown. The Fawcett family has been very proactive in construction of conservation practices on their farms.



Regan Gingerich of Gingerich Tiling nominated the **Rich and Sheila Burr** family of Lone Tree, Iowa for the LICA Conservation Award. They have completed over 3500 feet of terraces, 68,000 feet of drainage tile, and over 2,800 feet of waterways. The Burr family has worked hard for many years to do all they can to preserve our soil and protect our waters.

Newly Elected State Officers:

Gene Blazek of Lawler is the President of Iowa LICA for 2011. Gene is a second generation Iowa LICA member. Gene operates Blazek Corporation located in Lawler, Iowa. Gene is not what many people believe is the “traditional contractor” of Iowa LICA. Gene brings to the association more than a dozer and drainage background. Blazek Corporation works with sewer and water, on site waste system, earthmoving and excavating, trucking, and much more. As our association grows, so does the diversity of the membership.

A message from your newly elected president.

As I'm writing this today, we have an audit going on in our office. This is not an IRS audit. It is an audit by a CPA firm we hire to report the financial condition of our business. This information will be used by our bank, by the DOT, and our insurance and bonding companies.

The bank uses this information as an annual financial statement. The DOT requires an annual CPA audit if you want to bid as a prime contractor on any of its projects. Our insurance and bonding companies use the information in much the same way as the DOT to help determine how large of a project you are able to complete. The more in depth the audit is, the better your rating will be.

Audits can be done anytime throughout the year, but are typically done at the end of the fiscal year, and are required to get any kind of bonding for your business. If you anticipate bidding as a general on any projects in the future, you need to work on your bonding now. Start by talking to your insurance agent about bonding. They will either have direct contact with bonding companies or will be able to refer you.

Ken Rasch once told us, "It is better to be prepared and not have the opportunity, than it is to have the opportunity and not be prepared."

Gene Blazek, President of Iowa LICA

Iowa LICA members elected **Tim Recker** from Arlington, Iowa as the incoming state vice-president. Tim is a farmer and excavating contractor. Tim has a very extensive background in legislative work in Des Moines and Washington D.C. Tim will be a valuable asset to the members of Iowa LICA. Tim owns and operates Recker Excavating, Inc. Tim has gained valuable experience as a past president of the Iowa Corn Growers.

The Capitol---Des Moines

On Wednesday, January 26, 2011, Iowa LICA members Steve Miller, Randy Liddle, Leonard and Mary Ann Drish, Mark Erpelding, Russ Peters, Dave Maxwell, Bruce Barnhart, and Tim Recker talked with State Representatives, Senators, and Iowa Governmental Department Heads about the need to continue funding for work to protect Iowa's soil and water for future generations. Iowa LICA was invited to attend the event by the Conservation Districts of Iowa. All the LICA members thought that this event was very worthwhile and hoped that it would continue in the future

Convention 2011:

Many people work hard to make sure we have a successful convention. Most of the people that work at the convention volunteer their time and efforts. On behalf of the membership of Iowa LICA, I would like to take this time to thank two members who have given a lot and not received the recognition they deserve.

Mary Lou Egeland. Besides making sure her husband, Doug, tows the line, she has done much more for the association. I don't know if many of you know that she is the one who gets all the auction items numbered and ready for the auction. She has been doing this ever since we started having a list. On top of that, this year she volunteered to help out at the registration desk when Judy Speicher had to leave just before the convention began.

Lorri Keppler. What a ball of fire! She kept things moving on Sunday night making balloon hats for everyone that wanted one and even for a few who didn't. She spent a whole day at the Farm Progress Show doing face painting which drew one of the best crowds at the show. On top of that she put on 4 seminars at the convention plus she is the one I rely on to take minutes for all board and membership meetings.

State Wide District Meeting:

Iowa LICA Chairman of the Board, Randy Liddle, has worked hard to get this meeting set up. Many members had expressed their desire to visit "**The Iowa Gold Star Military Museum**". There had even been talk about doing this during the past convention, but it was decided that it would also be a good event for a district meeting.

Meeting will be held on: **Friday, March 11, 2011**
Tours at 10:00 A.M.

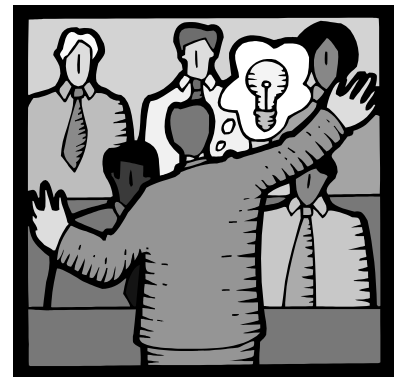
Lunch will be served at 12 noon with meeting to follow.
When you arrive, we will meet at the South Gate at 7105 NW
70th Ave. in Johnston, Iowa.

NOTE: Photo Identifications required upon entrance to Camp Dodge (drivers license accepted).

Price for tour is free but could leave donation.
If you have any questions, call Randy Liddle at 319-231-5590.

Mission Statement:

"The Iowa Gold Star Military Museum's mission is to honor and depict the military experience of Iowa citizens in all wars, homeland defense and Iowa service. The museum's purpose is to collect, preserve and exhibit materials that illustrate the story of Iowa's military past from statehood to the present. The Iowa Gold Star Museum honors the heroic service of all Iowa veterans. As a state institution, we want to be recognized as the Premiere Veterans Museum for the state of Iowa.





ATTENTION:

July 27 & 28, 2011

Iowa LICA and others will be hosting the 2nd Midwest Construction Expo and Field Day at the Iowa LICA Farm located approximately ½ mile east of Melbourne, Iowa on July 27 & 28, 2011. The last Expo & Field Day was a great success. We had over 1000 contractors from all over Iowa and the midwest in attendance. We had dozers, backhoes, excavators, concrete recycling machines, tree mulchers, backfillers, trenchers, plows, and the list

goes on. Don't miss this one. If you have any questions about the expo, please feel free to contact me at 319-240-2420. Information on hotels in the area will be coming in the next newsletter.





Midwest Construction Expo & Field Day 2011

As one year goes by another begins. This is the year of the 2nd Biannual Midwest Construction Expo & Field Day. The expo will be held on July 27 and 28, 2011 at the LICA Farm ½ mile east of Melbourne, Iowa. Over 1000 people attended the two day event in 2009. The excitement of the expo has already gotten people

talking. If you didn't make it to the expo in 2009, we hope to see you this year. Associate members will be bringing equipment in from all over the state. You won't want to miss this one. Put this event on your calendar.

If you need any information about the convention call me at 319-240-2420.

