



KLICA

News & Information

Kansas Land Improvement Contractors Association

Meet KLICA

KLICA Officers

Joe Schletzbaum

President

913-370-0256

jsconst@rainbowtel.net

Steve Peter

President Elect

620-562-7389

speter57906@abcglobel.net

Mike Loflin

Vice President

785-623-7743

mloflin2273@sbcglobal.net

Jeff Schell

Treasurer

785-562-6816

jefro@bluevalley.net

Kent Henderson

Immediate Past President

620-341-2686

kent@zhkent.com

Directors

Dave Bose

James Fenwick

Randy Myers

Brian Lang

David Orear

Steve Dick

Keith Babcock

Associate: Luke Fanshier

Jon L Ungerer

Executive Director

850 U.S. Hwy 77

Marysville, KS 66508

785 221-8697

jungerer@kansaslica.com

www.kansaslica.com

**Facebook: Kansas Land
Improvement Contractors
Association KLICA**

KLICA Newsletter Editor:

Jon L. Ungerer



Steve and Bevin Law, KACD, looking forward to a mutually beneficial partnership for KLICA and KACD moving forward.

Presidents Message

Steve Peter, President Elect

As I write this it looks like Winter has moved into Kansas. While I know some parts of the state are white with snow everyone in the state is experiencing much colder temperatures. I hope you are all still able to get some work done and we are not looking at a prolonged shutdown this winter. Fall harvest went well with very good milo yields in this part of the state, while it sounds like corn and soybeans accounted for record harvests.

The week of Thanksgiving I was excited about signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts at their Annual Convention in Wichita. While we have always had an informal working relationship with them I am hopeful this leads to stronger ties with KACD and Conservation Districts across the state.

Attending the Fort Hays Tech North Central Open House to see their new Heavy Equipment Operations Program machinery was very exciting. The students have been learning on equipment that was very outdated. It is great to see they will have the newest most up to date machines to learn on moving forward. It makes you feel really good that our scholarships are going to a program that is committed to providing their students with the tools needed to be successful moving forward.

Karla and I along with Amie and Rusty Rush will be attending National this year in Vegas. We are looking forward to taking in ConExpo.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Manhattan this year for our convention. Be safe and stay warm out there.

New Members

We welcome the following new members to the KLICA family. When you see them be sure to introduce yourself, make them feel welcome and see if there is anything we can do to help them out.

Associate

Clark's Field Service
Emery & Alexis Clark
436 N 1900 Road
Lecompton, KS 66050
785-806-2114
clarksfieldservice@gmail.com

Associate

Dymax
Rusty Ecord
402 Miller Dr
Wamego, KS 66547
785-456-2081
Cell 785-214-3499
Rusty.ecord@dymaxinc.com

Special

Pat Simpson
3012 SW Oakley Ave.
Topeka, KS 66614
785-408-2893
deerwood@cox.net



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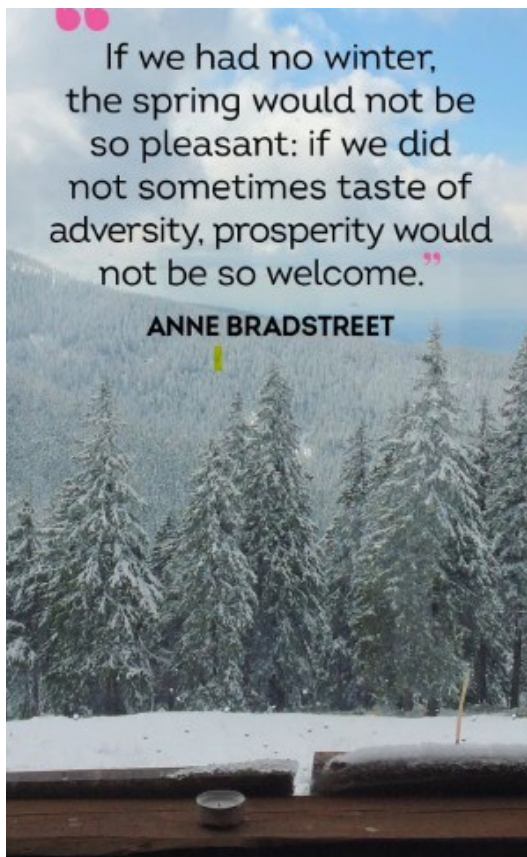
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Members Passed

KLICA is sorry to report the loss of two long time KLICA family members.



Dale Clayton Faelber

April 9, 1926 - August 22, 2025

Dale Clayton Faelber passed away August 22, 2025. Dale and his wife, Norma Rae were owners/operators of Faelber Construction Company, Gypsum, Kansas, joining KLICA in 1968. Dale

served KLICA as President in 1985 and was 1994 Contractor of the Year. Dale loved his association with KLICA. Dale is survived by his daughters, Barbara (Roger) Messenger, Carol (Roger) Schmidt, and Diane Faelber; a son, Gary (Deb) Faelber; sisters-in-laws Dyretha Hall and Ruth Worman; brother-in-law Frank (Dedra) Worman; grandchildren, Stephanie (Terry) Thiessen, Steven (Brenda) Messenger, Gregg (Kerri) Schmidt, Jeff Schmidt, Ashley Faelber, and Zachary Faelber; 7 great grandchildren; and 3 great great grandchildren.



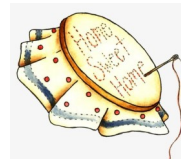
Kathleen "Kate" Jueneman

October 21, 1951

- October 10, 2025

Kathleen (Kate) passed away October 10, 2025. Kate was the wife of George Jueneman, George C. Jueneman Dozer Service, Hanover, Kansas. The Dozer

Service was a KLICA member since 1997 just switching to Special Member when George retired in 2025. Kate loved embroidery, baking, reading, gardening, going to casinos, her family, and her faith. Kate is survived by her husband, George; son, Wade (Karen) Jueneman, Topeka; daughter, Kaylin (Ben) Mueller, Overland Park; daughter, Chelsea (Wade) Hearting, Olathe; grandchildren, Kaden and Shane Jueneman, Cole, Katie, and Cooper Mueller, and Bailey and Emma Hearting; and many beloved brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, and nephews.



KLICA 74th Annual
Convention & Business Meeting Agenda

Sunday January 25, 2026

3:00 - Registration
5:00 pm
3:00 pm Budget & Finance Committee
4:00 pm Officers and Directors Meeting

Sunday Evening Reception

6:30 pm Cornhole Tournament Registration
7:00 pm Cornhole Tournament
Exhibitor Set-Up - Main Hallway
Exhibitors may set up upon arrival Sunday or Monday morning. Please be set up by
8:30 am Monday morning

Monday January 26, 2026

7:00 am Registration
7:30 am Breakfast
Guest Speaker

General Session

Moderator - Vice President Mike Loflin
8:45 am - USDA/NRCS
9:30 am Rachel Schlais, Acting State Engineer
9:30 am - Kansas One Call 811
10:15 am Arch York
10:15 am - Break - Main Hallway
10:45 am
10:45 - Kansas Highway Patrol
11:30 Andrew Schippers - KHP

Ladies Program

9:00 - Tour of Kansas State University
11:30 am Athletic Facilities

12:00 pm

Memorial Luncheon

Remembering those we lost in 2025

General Session

1:15 pm - Total Cost of Machine Ownership
2:15 pm Nick Book - Murphy Tractor
2:15 pm - Smart Crew - All in 1 Construction
3:00 pm Software Andrew Drish
3:00 pm Break - Main Hallway
3:30 pm
3:30 pm - Johnson Company
4:30 pm Craig Benson & Jared Knobbe
4:30 pm - Associates Meeting
5:00 pm
4:30 pm - District Meetings
5:00 pm

Associates Evening

6:00 pm Social & Awards
Length of Membership
Lady of the Year
Contractor of the Year
Associate of the Year
7:15 pm Auction

Tuesday January 27, 2026

8:00 am Breakfast
9:00 am - Committee Meetings
9:30 am No designated locations
9:30 am - Members Annual Business Mtg
11:30 am

Lunch & Tour

Dymax
Dymax will be our host for lunch
and a tour of their facilities.
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Kansas Land Improvement Contractors Association
74th Annual Convention
Hilton Garden Inn, 410 S 3rd St, Manhattan, KS 66502
January 25, 26 & 27, 2026
Attendee Registration Form

Business Name: _____ Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Individual Names Registering:

	Entire Convention \$180.00	Single Day \$75.00 Indicate S, M, or T	Monday Memorial Luncheon ONLY \$30.00	Ladies AM Session Off Site N/C Count Only
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Totals:	_____	_____	_____	_____

Registration must be returned by January 10, 2026 **[No refunds after January 10, 2026]**

**Credit cards are accepted with a 4% service fee added to the total. You will need to complete this registration form and I will send you an invoice for the amount owed.*

- Forms may also be emailed to jungerer@kansasilica.com with payment to follow. If you have questions please contact Jon at 785 221-8697 or jungerer@kansasilica.com
- (By registering for the 2026 KLICA Winter Convention you agree that any photograph taken of you during the Convention may be used in KLICA communications including the KLICA Website, Facebook pages and KLICA newsletter.

Please return to:
Jon L. Ungerer
KLICA
850 US Hwy 77
Marysville, KS 66508

- If you have a donation of an auction item(s) you would like to indicate at this time please list below:***

Item: _____ Donated by: _____

For hotel reservations please contact the Hilton Garden Inn directly at 785-532-9116. Individuals must request code "93Q" group or indicate **KS LAND IMPROVE-MENT CONTRACTORS ASSN.** at the time of booking in order to receive the group rate of \$114.00 plus taxes. Or use the direct link provided to you by email or the KLICA web page: www.kansasilica.com. Cut-off date for hotel reservations at the group rate is **January 9, 2026** to guarantee this price.

**Hilton Garden Inn, 410 S 3rd St, Manhattan, KS 66502
January 25, 26 & 27, 2026**

Business Name : _____

Individual Contact: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Please indicate if your company would like an Exhibitor Booth AND/OR to be a Convention Sponsor:

City/State/Zip: _____

Exhibitor Booth: Includes ONE Convention Registration \$300.00 _____ (Set up - Sunday, January 25 evening or Monday, January 26 by 8:00 a.m.)

Sunday Night Reception \$1500.00 Includes TWO Convention Registrations & ONE Exhibitor Booth Space	Monday Morning Breakfast \$1000.00 Includes ONE Convention Registration & ONE Exhibitor Booth Space	Monday Memorial Luncheon \$2000.00 Includes THREE Convention Registrations & ONE Exhibitor Booth Space	Associates Night Bar \$1500.00 Includes TWO Convention Registrations & ONE Exhibitor Booth Space	Tuesday Morning Breakfast \$1000.00 Includes ONE Convention Registration & ONE Exhibitor Booth Space
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Associate's Night Sponsor(s): \$300.00 \$ _____
Includes One Convention Registration

Monday AM or PM Break Sponsor(s): \$ 300.00 _____
Includes One Convention Registration (Circle One)

Monday AM or PM Break Sponsor(s): \$ 300.00 _____
Includes One Convention Registration (Circle One)

Entire Convention
\$180.00

Single Day \$75.00
Indicate S, M, or T
(indicate which day)

Associates Night
ONLY \$60.00

Ladies AM Session
N/C Count Only

Totals:

Grand Total: \$ _____

- **Credit cards are accepted with a 4% service fee added to the total. You will need to complete a registration form and I will EMAIL you an invoice for the amount owed.**
 - (By registering for the 2026 KLICA Winter Convention you agree that any photograph taken of you during the Convention may be used in KLICA communications including the KLICA web and Facebook pages and KLICA newsletter.)
 - **Return completed form with appropriate payment **by January 10, 2026 to:** KLICA, Jon L Ungerer, 850 US Hwy 77, Marysville, KS 66508 **(No refunds after January 10, 2026)****
 - Please contact Jon at jungerer@kansasilica.com or 785 221-8697 with any questions.
 - ***If you have a donation of an auction item(s) you would like to indicate at this time please list below:***
- Auction Item(s):** _____

For hotel reservations please contact the
Hilton Garden Inn
directly at 785-532-9116
Individuals **must** request code **95Q**
at the time of booking in order to
receive the group rate of \$114.00 + taxes
Or use the direct link provided to you by
email or on the KILCA web page:
www.kansasilca.com
Cut-off date for reservations at the group
rate is **January 9, 2026** to guarantee this
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KLICA Presents Fort Hays Tech North Central Scholarships

On October 1, 2025 the Fort Hays Tech North Central held their Scholarship Reception to present students with the scholarships they were awarded for the upcoming school year. KLICA was there to award the students with our KLICA scholarships. This was the second year KLICA had the opportunity to be involved in this day. This is our opportunity to meet the future of the heavy equipment industry. It is exciting and humbling to know KLICA has the opportunity to assist these students in moving forward to obtain their goal of operating heavy equipment and creating their legacy for future generations. This year KLICA presented three students, all enrolled in the Heavy Equipment Operations Program, with scholarships.



L to R: Jon Ungerer, Executive Director KLICA; Mike Loflin, Vice President KLICA; Kaden Friess, recipient of the Irene Loflin Scholarship; Dave Bose, District 1 Director, KLICA.



L to R: Jon Ungerer, Executive Director KLICA; Dave Bose, District 1 Director KLICA; Kyler Rahmeier, recipient of the KLICA Endowment Scholarship; Mike Loflin, Vice President, KLICA.



L to R: Jon Ungerer, Executive Director KLICA; Mike Loflin, Vice President KLICA; Brody Byers, recipient of the John Loflin Memorial Scholarship; Dave Bose, District 1 Director, KLICA.



Left: Austin Raifsnider, son of Brad & Sarah Raifsnider, Rocking R Dirtworks, received the Peterson Memorial Scholarship.



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KLICA Continuing Education Opportunities

For those contractor member families or their employees who have children who will be pursuing continuing educational opportunities in the 2026/2027 School Year KLICA offers a scholarship to assist them with their financial needs. March 15 is the deadline for these applications to be submitted for consideration at the Second Quarter Board of Directors Meeting. These scholarships are funded in a number of ways including but not limited to memorials donated by the KLICA board in honor of members who have passed; part of the proceeds and donations from the KLICA Golf Tournament; memorials given by friends and family of members who have passed; and designated auction items at the KLICA Convention Associates Night Auction.

An application and additional requirements may be found on the next page of this newsletter or on the KLICA website. Don't forget, National LICA also has scholarship opportunities.



Kansas Land Improvement Contractors Association Scholarship Application

Name: _____ Age: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Educational Institution Attending: _____
Present Year in School: _____ Major Course of Study: _____
Credit Hours Enrolling Next Year: Fall Semester _____ Spring Semester _____
Parent(s) or Guardian(s): _____
Contact Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Company Name/Employer Name
KLICA Contractor Member: _____
Applicant Relationship to Company Owner(s)/Employee: _____
Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Application Requirements/Instructions:

Include this completed form and the following -

- 1) A single page essay which describes your academic, vocational, and personal goals and objectives explaining why you think you should receive this scholarship.
- 2) Your college transcripts which shows your year in school and major course of study. If a college freshman include high school transcripts.
- 3) Three (3) signed letters of recommendation. These can be from school staff/employers/community leaders who are familiar with you and your skills/abilities.
- 4) A wallet size picture (approximately 2"x3"). This picture will be included in the KLICA Newsletter and Directory.

All materials must be mailed to the KLICA office and postmarked no later than **March 15**. Incomplete, late, or ineligible applications will not be considered.

Family members of contractor members and children of contractor member employees are eligible to apply for the KLICA continuing education scholarship.

Jon L. Ungerer
KLICA
850 US Hwy 77
Marysville, KS 66508
jungerer@kansaslica.com
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AUCTION

Administration Announces Much Improved WOTUS Permit Program

The Trump Administration this week announced the release of revised regulations determining which wetlands and other bodies of water qualify as a Water of the United States and are therefore subject to federal permit requirements before construction and other land improvement activities can proceed. The rules will be jointly issued by the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers establishing, according to an EPA release, a “durable, common-sense definition of ‘water of the United States’” under the Clean Water Act. The rule seeks to codify the Supreme Court’s 2023 Sackett v. EPA decision which found that “adjacent wetlands” under the law are those wetlands that have a continuous surface connection to bodies already considered “waters of the United States.” The wetlands must be “indistinguishable” from those waters to be considered jurisdictional.

In the past, various administrations have advanced WOTUS definitions that have been the subject of endless litigation, leaving farm, construction and development projects without a clear picture of the scope of responsibilities under the law. According to EPA, the new proposal would define terms such as “relatively permanent,” “continuous surface connection,” and “tributary” “to appropriately delineate the scope of

WOTUS consistent with the Clean Water Act and Supreme Court precedent.” In addition, “jurisdictional tributaries must connect to traditional navigable waters either directly or through other features that provide predictable and consistent flow,” the release says. The proposal also looks to give states and tribal authorities “clear regulatory guidelines while recognizing their expertise in local land and water resources.” American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall commented, “Clean water is a top priority for farmers and ranchers – we depend on it. We are pleased that the new rule protects critical water sources while respecting the efforts of farmers to protect the natural resources they’ve been entrusted with.

“The Supreme Court clearly ruled several years ago that the government overreached in its interpretation of what fell under federal guidelines. We are pleased that it finally addresses those concerns and takes steps to provide much-needed clarity.”

Once published in the Federal Register, the proposal will be open for public comments for 45 days. EPA and the Corps plan to hold joint public hearings.

Limits on EQIP and Conservation Funding Lifted

Agripulse reports that federal conservation funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) will no longer limit how much farmers can receive. The continuing resolution (CR), passed by Congress before the Thanksgiving holiday, funds through Jan. 30 those parts of the government not covered by three agency specific appropriations bills approved as part of the CR legislation. The CR funds USDA programs and extends the farm bill another year, does not limit payments for both programs allowing projects to receive more funds than they have in the past.

Previously, producers enrolled in EQIP could not receive more than \$450,000 over a five-year farm bill period (from 2019 through 2023), while those enrolled in CSP could not receive more than \$200,000.

EQIP was first established in the 1996 farm bill, merging other conservation programs. The program provides cost-share and incentive payments to producers who sign contracts as long as 10 years promising to implement new environmental practices, like cover crops, no-till and prescribed grazing. The money can also fund new fencing and irrigation equipment.

CSP, which was created in the 2002 farm bill and then overhauled and renamed in 2008, is geared more toward producers who have already implemented some conservation practices in previous years and are looking to expand and use more. The program typically requires a longer-term commitment than EQIP, with producers signing five-year

contracts for not only maintaining conservation practices that have already been established but for also adopting new ones. Agripulse quotes Jonathan Coppess, an associate professor of law and policy at the University of Illinois, who points out that payment limitations have long been part of conservation programs, dating back to the 1936 Agricultural Conservation Program, one of the earliest federal conservation cost-share programs for farmers. “You have a specific cap on the budget authority, which means there’s only so much money available,” Coppess said. “So the more that any large farmer is able to get, the more it squeezes out other farmers.”

Advocates for small farmers fear the changes will lead to a greater share of funding going to larger farms with bigger projects when paired with other recent developments impacting the two conservation programs. Those include changes Congress made to adjusted gross income limitations earlier this year through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) and reduced NRCS staffing levels.

Farmers with adjusted gross incomes of more than \$900,000 were previously barred from participating in EQIP and CSP. However, language in the OBBBA, which was enacted in July, exempted producers who derive 75% or more of their average gross income from this requirement.

Five former Natural Resources Conservation Service chiefs called for lawmakers to loosen the AGI limitations, arguing they are “counterproductive” to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve water quality, soil health and wildlife habitat.



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National LICA Hires New CEO

The National Land Improvement Contractors of America (LICA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dennis Mikula, Jr., as its new Chief Executive Officer, effective January 1, 2026. Mikula joins National LICA with nearly three decades of leadership experience in the land improvement, construction, and business sectors. As President of Mikula Contracting, Inc., a third-generation, family-owned excavation, demolition, and environmental services company established in 1946, he has guided the organization through consistent growth while modernizing operations with technology and best practices. Mikula will assume the role of Chairman of Mikula Contracting as he commences his duties as CEO of National LICA.

Under his leadership, Mikula Contracting has earned multiple honors, including being named New Jersey Family Business of the Year (2020) by Fairleigh Dickinson University's Rothman Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship. The company has also received numerous NJLICA Safety Awards and Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey (CIANJ) "Companies That Care" Awards for community outreach. Currently serving as President of the New Jersey Land Improvement Contractors of America (NJLICA), Mikula has been a vocal advocate for contractors and the broader construction industry. He also has an extensive history of civic and business leadership through his roles on the Executive Boards of the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey, Meadowlands Chamber of Commerce, Bergen New Bridge Medical Center Foundation, and the New Jersey Policy Research Organization (NJPRO).



Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mikula is deeply committed to community service and mentorship. He helps coordinate the Meadowlands Chamber Basket Brigade Program, providing Thanksgiving meals to over 300 families each year. He also continues to mentor young professionals, a passion shaped by more than 20 years of coaching high school and college football. "I'm honored to serve as CEO of National LICA at such a pivotal moment for our industry and our association," said Mikula. "We have an opportunity to modernize our structure, strengthen national-state alignment, and deliver even greater value to our members nationwide. I'm committed to leading with transparency, collaboration, and a bold vision that positions LICA as the nation's top voice for land improvement and conservation." National LICA President Jeff Schell said, "Dennis brings a rare blend of operational excellence, industry leadership, and community spirit. His experience leading a family-owned contracting business and his deep roots in the LICA network make him uniquely qualified to guide our organization into its next chapter." Mikula lives in New Jersey with his wife, Diana, and their daughter, Lucy.

As we close out 2025 the Kansas Land Improvement Contractors Association wishes all their members a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

May 2026 bring you good health, success, laughter, and joy.

May your Holiday Season find you together with family, friends and those you love.





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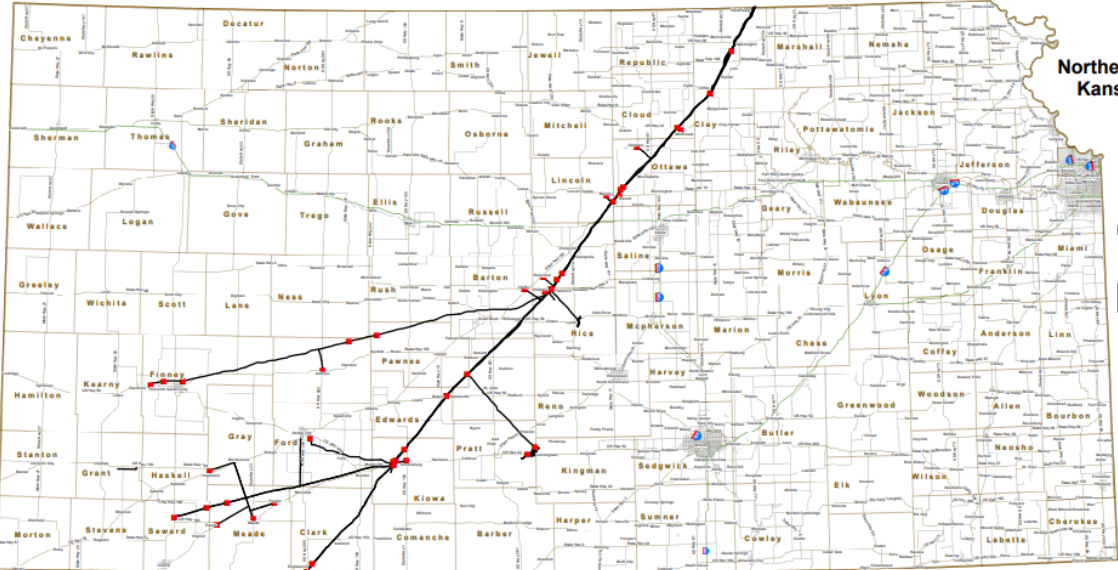
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Line No. _____

MP _____

See Something? Say Something!

Facilities such as natural gas pipelines are considered public utilities. Report suspicious activity observed near gas pipelines to local law enforcement.

Excavator Damage Prevention

- Notify
- Wait
- Confirm
- React
- Stop Dig Carefully

Responsible activities might include:

- Utility
- Construction
- Excavation
- Drilling
- Grading
- Clearing
- Planting
- Harvesting
- Logging
- Firefighting
- Other

Report suspicious activity observed near gas pipelines to local law enforcement.

Emergency Responders

Know the emergency response procedures. Know the location of the nearest gas pipeline. Know the location of the nearest gas pipeline. Know the location of the nearest gas pipeline.

Excavation activities should always be conducted in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Excavation activities should always be conducted in accordance with the following guidelines:
- Excavation activities should always be conducted in accordance with the following guidelines:
- Excavation activities should always be conducted in accordance with the following guidelines:

Gas is flammable, and any leaking gas can ignite. Do not use open flames, cigarettes, or other sources of ignition near a gas leak. Do not use electrical equipment near a gas leak. Do not use a gas leak detector near a gas leak. Do not use a gas leak detector near a gas leak.

Report suspicious activity observed near gas pipelines to local law enforcement.

STEPS YOU SHOULD TAKE IF YOU SUSPECT A GAS LEAK

1. If you suspect a gas leak, stop all activities near the gas leak.
2. Do not use any electrical equipment near the gas leak.
3. Do not use any open flames near the gas leak.
4. Do not use any cigarettes near the gas leak.
5. Do not use any other sources of ignition near the gas leak.
6. Do not use any gas leak detector near the gas leak.
7. Do not use any gas leak detector near the gas leak.
8. Do not use any gas leak detector near the gas leak.
9. Do not use any gas leak detector near the gas leak.
10. Do not use any gas leak detector near the gas leak.

Report suspicious activity observed near gas pipelines to local law enforcement.

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UFG Insurance and Prins Insurance Dividend Payments for 2024

UFG to no Longer Serve as Recommended Insurance Company for LICA

UFG Insurance is pleased to announce a 5.5% policyholder safety dividend has been earned for 2024 by qualifying members of the State Land Improvement Contractors Association (LICA) Insurance Program. While UFG proudly served as the recommended insurance company for the State LICA Insurance Program in partnership with Prins Insurance, UFG has made the strategic decision to no longer serve in this capacity effective December 31, 2025.

UFG will continue to have a strong appetite for insuring grading, site preparation and excavation contractors with a dedicated construction business unit committed to delivering deep expertise and specialized capabilities for the construction industry. UFG plans to offer a renewal policy for eligible contractors currently insured in the State LICA Insurance Program.



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On the Other Side of the Dozer Blade

by Margaret Smelser



My kitchen table thoughts this 60 degree November morning. The grass is still green, but well sprinkled with leaves. A hard freeze just 3 days ago.

My wildlife entertainment

continues - a fat groundhog climbing the oak tree for more acorns, the antics of the squirrels, and the variety of birds and an occasional rabbit.

The deer problem on the roads continues. Lee had two hits just days apart, one vehicle totaled. Thankfully he wasn't hurt.

The "pop up" showers we have had have kept the pasture green. Our partial "crop" of calves brought the highest price ever. Daved does a good job taking care of our small herd, with Lee & Jean's help. Only one pink eye case which was a blessing. The "screwworm" problem working its way from South America is frightening, not just for cattle but every warm blooded animal.

David and Lee have recently worked on two different farms where Lloyd worked years ago. One was a pond Lloyd and David rebuilt.

David went to Atchison on October 31 to renew his CDL - the day before his birthday. On the way he passed an injured bird. He went back and took it to a nearby customer who would take it to a wild animal rescue/rehabilitation center. A barred owl, a beautiful bird. I'm proud of David, hard working hands, tender heart.

They recently attended a memorial service for a drug related death. What a horrific problem drugs have become, with all the senseless deaths. I'd like to think of McLouth as a quiet peaceful town, but we know it can happen anywhere. I pray for the safety of my great grandkids and all our schools.

Traffic has become another serious problem. Any of you moving heavy equipment see people taking risks every day. Hwy 16 through McLouth carries a huge traffic load.

Linda Orear keeps me updated on our KLICA family. I haven't done very well in keeping up. Dale Faelber was one of our closest friends, I kept in touch with him. I knew the last phone visit that he was failing.

November brings special birthday in our family. It seems like Thanksgiving is nearly skipped over with the barrage of Christmas decorations and shop, shop, shop. I'm glad Veterans Day wasn't passed over, "Lest we Forget."

David and Lee had a new experience a few days ago. They had cleared brush on a building site and had to wait for a day that wasn't windy to burn. As careful as David is, some spark started a fire on the track loader. They both had fire extinguishers and managed to put the fire out. They have been waiting for an insurance adjuster, before Randy, our repairman, can determine what has to be done. A backseat, but could have been so much worse - especially if someone had been burned.

Lee & Rachel's, Cora has gone on a number of "parts runs" with the men. What a lively little person she is! Now she is in preschool, and is loving it.

Time to finish this chapter of "life on Dempsey Road". May you have much to be thankful for and a blessed Christmas Season.





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Rambling Thoughts of an Executive Director

Covered earlier in this newsletter is the Fort Hays Tech North Central Scholarship Reception. Since KLICA first donated for an endowment scholarship a couple years ago the number of scholarships KLICA has made to this technical school has already surpassed my expectations and hopes.

I was contacted this past summer by the widow of a long time member. Pat Simpson and her late husband Carl owned and operated Simpson Construction. Pat wanted to donate a couple of paintings and a three legged stool for the auction at this years convention, with the proceeds going towards a John Loflin Memorial Scholarship for a student enrolled in the Diesel Technology program at Fort Hays Tech North Central. Pat is from Beloit. When Kathy and I stopped by to pick these items up from Pat we had the opportunity to sit down and visit with her for awhile, learning of their long history in the heavy equipment industry. Carl was a salesman at Wentz Equipment prior to starting Simpson Construction. Pat was a secretary at Wentz before going on to work for Berry Tractor. Pat was the KLICA Lady of the Year for 2000.

It was so nice meeting and having the opportunity to visit with Pat. I am really hoping we can make arrangements to get her to this years Associates Night at convention, since she is not able to drive herself. I have since found out Pat has a ride and will be at convention! In addition to the items from Pat, which will provide for an additional student scholarship I was recently contacted by another long time KLICA member about making a donation for scholarships. When I contacted Mendi Anschutz, Fort Hays Tech Director of Advancement, she informed me the Hansen Foundation is currently matching 0.50 for every dollar donated towards an endowment scholarship. I got her in touch with the individual wishing to donate and it sounds like they are in the process of creating another endowment scholarship in this individuals name!

On another note KLICA is currently in the process of working with the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts to enter into an MOU with KACD. While we have long partnered with KACD I am excited and encouraged by this development to further strengthen our partnership with KACD and County Conservation Districts across Kansas. This MOU was signed at the KACD Annual Convention in Wichita!

I am very excited about a possible project Dan Meyerhoff, KACD Executive Director contacted me about this summer. Fort Hays University has some farmland that is in need of some conservation work. We

are exploring the possibility of assisting with that work and involving the Heavy Equipment Operations students from Beloit with that effort.

In another positive development the Heavy Equipment Operations program at Beloit received a \$3.7 million dollar EDA grant to purchase new bulldozers, excavators, and motor graders. They were also able to construct a canopy building to house the machines in. Foley Equipment and Murphy Tractor & Equipment Co. worked hard to ensure the program made the most of this funding to provide machines equipped with the most up to date technology and GPS guidance systems available. This opportunity and a solid plan for the future will allow the school to update their machines on a regular basis, ensuring students are never again utilizing severely outdated technologies and machinery. Convention has moved back to Manhattan this year and I think attendees will find the Hilton Garden Inn a nice host hotel. I think our presentations this year should all prove of interest to our contractor members and hopefully they will all be able to find some benefit in them for their operations. The ladies will have the opportunity to visit some of the sports facilities of Kansas State University.

And Associates Night should, as always, prove to be a highlight for everyone. This year we will recognize nine Contractors with 50 or more years of membership and 27 total contractors representing 845 years of membership!

We will recognize two Associates with 60 years of membership and six Associates totaling 205 years of membership!

Special Members will add four members of 75 years and eight members totaling 400 years!

That is a lot of institutional knowledge and more friendships and associations than can be measured!

I am looking forward to our post convention tour at Dymax in Wamego. Please make your plans to attend this Tuesday after our Business Meeting and welcome them as new Associate Members.

The 2026 Swing Away & Pray Golf Tournament will move to Spring Creek Golf Course in Seneca, Kansas. Spring Creek is a beautiful 18 hole course, with adequate golf carts for all teams and should provide nice facilities to host our tournament.

There is a lot going on with KLICA and if you haven't been active and involved in your membership now would be a great time to change that. Attend convention or golf in the Golf Tournament - you'll make connections and friendships that will benefit your business and enrich your personal life!

Looking forward to seeing you in Manhattan!



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NEPA Streamlining Legislation Moves Forward

On November 20, the House Committee on Natural Resources passed the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act, to reform the permitting and judicial review process for construction projects subject to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The bill streamlines NEPA by reestablishing it as a procedural statute, codifying the Supreme Court's *Seven Counties* decision into law. If enacted, the bill would establish a 150-day statute of limitations for filing a legal challenge of a NEPA permitting decision. Additionally, the bill

would restrict third-parties from filing lawsuits against a decision, curtailing frivolous sue-and-settle lawsuits that seek to delay or cancel construction projects altogether.

Project delays caused by prolonged NEPA reviews, permitting, and litigation increase costs and harm the construction workforce by delaying job creation, disrupting hiring, and reducing economic activity. The delays increase labor and material costs, forcing contractors to reprice projects and potentially leading to cost overruns.

LICA Member Benefit

As a contractor, chances are you already have the expertise to provide federally mandated Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) for employees seeking a Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

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LICA Member Benefit



RED WING SAFETY FOOTWEAR PROGRAM

We are thrilled to announce that Red Wing Shoes has been chosen as our preferred national supplier of safety footwear for all U.S. sites.

As of 2025, LICA and Red Wing have signed an Agreement to provide our members with exceptional safety footwear, service, and value. With this Agreement, LICA members will gain access to a range of program highlights, including:



- ✓ A 15% discount on safety footwear off MSRP, as part of an exclusive billing program
- ✓ Multiple purchasing options - In-Store, Mobile Boot Trucks, and Online W/Free Shipping
- ✓ A selection of over 350+ safety footwear styles
- ✓ Digital voucher management platform
- ✓ A 1-year warranty on Red Wing footwear and a 6-month warranty on Irish Setter and Worx footwear
- ✓ Free boot checkups, cleaning and conditioning, and laces for the life of the footwear
- ✓ Over 1200+ retail stores and 170+ mobile shoe stores

[Red Wing For Business Videos](#)



Exceptional Service

If you are currently using Red Wing, rest assured that you will continue to receive the same exceptional service you have come to expect. Additionally, you will now have access to all the program highlights and our national account team.

For Land Improvement Contractors of America members that are not currently utilizing Red Wing, we invite you to consider joining the program. Please reach out to the contacts below and indicate that you are interested in participating in the LICA program. They will arrange a virtual meeting to better understand your needs and fully demonstrate the capabilities of this exceptional safety footwear program.



Dedicated Support Team

Brian Duerinck
Field Account Manager
Red Wing Shoe Company
815-355-4242
Brian.Duerinck@redwingshoes.com

Business Accounts
Red Wing Shoe Company
800-239-1064
business.accounts@redwingshoes.com



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Colby (785) 462-3913	Great Bend (620) 792-5246	Manhattan (785) 537-2101	Topeka (785) 266-5770
Concordia (785) 243-1960	Kansas City (816) 753-5300	Olathe (913) 393-0303	Wichita (316) 943-4211



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Kansas Land Improvement
Contractors Association
Membership Application

Date: _____
Company Name: _____
First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Spouse: _____
Street Address: _____
Mailing Address if different: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Business phone: _____ Cell phone: _____
Fax: _____ Home phone: _____ Email: _____
Sponsor: _____

Annual Dues:	Contractor	Associate	Special
Circle Applicable Member Type	\$325	\$250	\$40

Contractor Services Provided:

<input type="checkbox"/> CH – Concrete/Hardscaping	<input type="checkbox"/> OD – Open Ditch Work/Dredging
<input type="checkbox"/> CR – Crane Service	<input type="checkbox"/> PD – Ponds/Dams
<input type="checkbox"/> DB – Directional Boring	<input type="checkbox"/> RP – Roads/Paving
<input type="checkbox"/> DW – Drainage/Water Mgmt./Irrigation	<input type="checkbox"/> SP – Site Preparation/Demolition
<input type="checkbox"/> EM – Earth moving/Grading/Leveling	<input type="checkbox"/> SS – Septic Systems/Onsite Wastewater Treatment
<input type="checkbox"/> EX – Excavating/Land Clearing	<input type="checkbox"/> TH – Trucking/Hauling
<input type="checkbox"/> GR – Gravel/Rock Production	<input type="checkbox"/> TW – Terraces/Waterways
<input type="checkbox"/> LS – Landscaping/Seeding/Sod	<input type="checkbox"/> UU – Underground Utilities
<input type="checkbox"/> Dealer/Service Company/Consultant/Insurance/Other	

Annual dues are due and payable on a calendar year basis, prior to January 1 of each year.
KLICA dues for new contractor members joining after March 1 are paid up for the next full calendar year.

Return Application to: Jon L. Ungerer, Executive Director
Kansas Land Improvement Contractors Association
850 U.S. Hwy 77
Marysville, KS 66508

Contact Phone: 785-221-8697
Email: jungerer@kansaslica.com



Kansas Land Improvement
Contractors Association
850 U.S. Hwy 77
Marysville, KS 66508

Important Dates for your Calendar.....

- KLICA Quarterly Board Meeting
December 13, 2025
Hilton Garden Inn
Manhattan, KS
- KLICA 74th Annual Convention & Mtg.
January 25, 26, & 27, 2026
Hilton Garden Inn
Manhattan, KS
- National LICA Winter Convention
February 28 - March 2, 2026
Harrah's
Las Vegas, NV
- Swing Away & Pray Golf Tournament
June 12, 2026
Spring Creek Golf Course
Seneca, KS

