

SPRING 2025



# NEW YORK LICA NEWS

LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS • NEW YORK CHAPTER

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

### PRESIDENT

David Rule

### VICE PRESIDENT

Dennis Bliss

### SECRETARY

Jeff Phair

### TREASURER

Dennis Bliss

### DIRECTORS

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Derek Cassiano

Derek Decker

Linda Rule

### ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Mark Henderson

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Maura Dibble

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Batavia, NY 14020

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

July 8 - 12, 2025

LICA Summer Meeting

Radisson Duluth-Harborview

Duluth, MN

Jim Anson

**Parker Excavation & Construction**

DeKalb Junction, NY

Milton Bailey

**Next Gen Excavation, LLC**

Manlius, NY

Dell Boyle

**Boyle Farms**

Conklin, NY

Jason Celebucki

**JC Outdoor Services**

Schenectady, NY

Chris Crandall

**Crandall Excavating, Inc**

Lake George, NY

Bill Dunn

**Bill Dunn Excavating, Co.**

Mexico, NY

Evan Dyer

**Dyer's Dirt Works, LLC**

Owego, NY

Craig Ethage

**Paver 1**

Fulton, NY

Rene Ezzell

**Pine Creek Landscape**

Bergen, NY

Mark Grupe

**Gemini Construction, Co.**

Cairo, NY

Bruce Hinz

**Rt 19 Gravel, LLC**

Filmore, NY

Trista House-VanDusen

**Tristek Enterprises, LLC**

Parish, NY

Phil Keida

**Stone Age Landscaping, LLC**

Frankfort, NY

Cecile Martin

**Martin Building Enterprises, LLC**

North Rose, NY

Randy Nolt

**Spruce Hill Excavating**

Waterloo, NY

Dan & Tim O'Hara

**O'Hara Excavating**

Auburn, NY

Tim Race

**Race Excavation**

Millbrook, NY

Matt Simpson

**Simpson Brothers**

Cortland, NY

John Sklarz

**PLS Asphalt Maintenance**

Frankfort, NY

Bill Smith

**Bill's Trucking & Excavating**

Middleburgh, NY

Sheelah Zink

**Zink's Septic Solutions**

Palmyra, NY

Friday, September 5, 2025

NYLICA 12th Annual Golf Outing

Batavia County Club

Details Inside



# A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, DAVID RULE



Hello all,

I am sure this finds you all gearing up and working. I think we are all ready to get back to work after this past winter!

National LICA has been working very hard on all of our benefits, the latest one is a CDL In-House Training. This would eliminate the need for off site training, You would use yourself or your existing crew and equipment. This benefit alone could save you thousands of dollars. See the information on page 7. Give Caroline Krug a call or email and find out how to use this exciting new benefit.

We are also planning for our upcoming 12th Annual Golf Outing on September 5, 2025 at Batavia Country Club. Mark your calendars for this fun filled day. As you know from the past newsletter this event has enabled us to award scholarships to 7 very deserving young people for their education. We start the day with registration and Bloody Mary's. Then a Shotgun start with

lunch on the turn. A sponsored beverage cart will be available. After golf, we have a Happy Hour, a Prime Rib dinner, Awards and to finish the evening - an Ice Cream Truck. Even if you are not a golfer, I guarantee you will have a great time, please join us!

I would like to encourage you, as a NYLICA member to reach out to us and share your ideas that could make our organization even better. An organization will continue to grow and become stronger when we receive input from our members and work together.

Stay safe. Have a productive and profitable Summer. *David Rule*

## *In Memory of Russell Sturtz*

Russell Sturtz, Sturtz Excavating of Mexico, NY

a longtime NYLICA member, passed away January 10, 2025.

Our condolences go out to all of his family and friends.



From the Executive Director

I want to thank all the people who helped us at Hard Hat, it was a very productive and successful couple of days and it wouldn't have been possible without this crew! Our President, Dave Rule, longtime member, Bill Hatch, LICA CEO Jerry Biuso, LICA Veterans Foundation Executive Director, Eddy Mayen, and Kevin Delaney and Eli Diamond from Tompkins Insurance. Also, other members who spent time at our booth, Board member, Jeff Phair, Safety Group Board Member, Wayne Taylor, Associate Board Member, Mark Henderson, and of course, all of our current members who stopped by to chat, say hi or maybe ask some questions. It was great seeing everyone and getting another chance to connect.

**Please** look into all the benefits that is a part of your membership, we have more than 25 benefits, more than any other trade organization. National LICA is always working on new ones for you, all to help you to work safer.

401K  
ADMC Membership  
Big Iron Auction  
Big Switch Discount  
Business Legacy Plan  
Busy Busy  
Buy/Sell Equipment  
CAT Extended Powertrain  
CDL Training

Cleanfire Discount  
Custom OSHA Program  
Machinery Trader:  
Buy/Sell Equipment  
ECommerce  
Equipment Values  
Hosted Website  
Telematics Plus  
MASA Medical Transport

M&V Custom Apparel  
National Scholarships  
NYLICA Scholarships  
NYLICA Safety Group  
Payroll & HR  
Petrocon:  
CAT Replacements Parts  
Commodities  
Sunbelt Discount



# US DOT Threatens Construction Funding Over New York City Congestion Pricing

**Brian Deery, Director of Government Relations LICA**

US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy warned New York Gov. Kathy Hochul that punishments would be instituted if she didn't end New York City's congestion pricing program. In a letter to Hochul, Duffy gave the governor 30 days to demonstrate why her refusal to comply with the Trump administration's demands to end the practice wasn't illegal. He warned that failure to do so would incur "serious consequences," including withholding Federal construction funds.

The first round of punishments would include a halt in advance construction authorizations for projects in Manhattan, a halt in National Environmental Policy Act approvals for projects in Manhattan, and a halt to approvals for "Statewide Transportation Improvement Program amendments."

If New York remains out of compliance, another tier of punishments may be instituted, including halting FHWA-backed projects and funding, with the exception of safety-related initiatives.

Duffy says in the letter that the construction of federal-aid highways as a toll-free highway system has long been fundamental to the Federal-aid highway program. Except for limited exceptions allowed by Congress, highways constructed with Federal-aid highway funds cannot be tolled.

US DOT Transportation canceled the agreement approved by the Biden Administration authorizing New York to implement a temporary cordon pricing program which charged a \$9 congestion toll to enter parts of Manhattan. According to Duffy, perpetuating this type of cordon pricing program forever on federal-supported roads is unprecedented in the history of the United States and completely inconsistent with any previous pilot project. The letter says New York State Department of (NYSDOT) has thirty days to state how their non-compliance is not illegal. If the unlawful tolls are not stopped, or after evaluating NYSDOT's response, FHWA determines that New York remains out of compliance, the agency will take the threatened action.

In a dire threat to the state the letter threatens that the detailed corrective measures may be expanded to other geographic areas within the State of New York if noncompliance continues. Both the city and state Departments of Transportation have joined a suit the Hochul-controlled Metropolitan Transportation Authority filed in February.

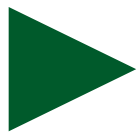


## **ATTENTION ALL NYLICA MEMBERS! ANOTHER BENEFIT OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP: WEBINARS**

There are currently several webinars uploaded that cover the new 401(k) & CDL programs - they are available on the National LICA YouTube channel. There are 7 videos on that page including: The LICA Story, The LICA Leadership Panel, LICA Retirement Savings Plan, Beneath the Surface, Contracts Matter and our new CDL Training!

# Dividend Declaration

FOR NEW YORK LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS SAFETY GROUP 562  
POLICY YEAR JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024



Safety Group 562 is pleased to announce a **cash dividend of 40% and 10% deferred for upfront savings**

Qualifying Members of the Safety Group 562 for the policy year 2023-2024 will be receiving an immediate cash dividend of 40%.

In addition, we have deferred 10% of the dividend to allow for a maximum upfront discount. The maximum discount is 30% for eligible policies renewing July 1, 2025.

Members in good standing will be receiving dividend checks in the mail directly from the State Insurance Fund.

With the immediate 40% cash dividend:

- We are returning \$1,038,000 of premium to our members in the form of a cash dividend
- After dividend, our net contingent balance will be in excess of \$11,030,000
- Eligible members will continue to be eligible for an upfront discount of 30%

We finished the year with a loss ratio of 33% and 167 Safety Group Members.

**STRONG HISTORY**



- ✓ Continuous dividend payment since the program's inception in 1994
- ✓ 30% advance discount for eligible insureds
- ✓ Above industry average dividend payout



**REFERRALS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED!**

Eligible contractors include:

Grading of Land; Excavation; Septic System Installation; Drain Tile; Landscapers; Flat Concrete Work; and Paving/Repaving Parking Lots & Driveways

**TOMPKINS**   
Insurance Agencies

Joe Teresi, VP/Group Manager  
tiasafetygroup@tompkinsfinancial.com  
1-888-261-2688 Fax: 585-344-1354

# News from your Safety Group Manager



Spring is upon us and summer is coming up fast. This means that it's almost renewal time for members in Safety Group 562, the workers' compensation program underwritten by the NYSIF and endorsed by NYLICA.

**We're excited to announce that we recently declared a dividend for the 2023-2024 policy period returning over \$1,000,000 to the LICA policyholders.** Dividends have been paid to accounts in good standing. A total dividend of 50% was declared with 40% being paid out in cash, and the remaining 10% deferred to enhance the safety group discount. The 30% discount is for eligible accounts and will be reflected in your renewal policy. If you have questions on either the dividend or your renewal policy, please feel free to reach out to us at Tompkins.

One reason a dividend can be delayed is failure to complete your audit in a timely manner. We still have a few safety group members with audits from 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 policy period. We hope you can all get these completed as quickly as possible so any delayed dividends can be paid and full discounts applied to your policy. **The 2024-2025 policy audits will begin being scheduled in starting in July.**

One of the main benefits of the audit is making sure your coverage and premiums match, meaning you won't be paying too much for your workers' compensation insurance. Additionally, your policy requires audits to verify your estimated payroll and help ensure you're paying the appropriate amount.

We also want to remind safety group clients of the valuable resources available from NYSIF at NYSIF.com. **One of the most valuable resources is you have access to is Zywave, a library of resources that can be customized for your own use.**

These resources include topics such as safety manuals, tool box talks, and resources to assist you with staying compliant with employee benefit items, like sick time and newly enacted retirement benefits.

Maintaining a safe work environment during the dog days of summer is imperative. **We strongly encourage you to visit NYSIF.com, establish an account if you do not have one already, and search away.** We are always available to assist you with getting established or helping to find a specific topic you might need.

In closing, we want to say thank you for trusting Safety Group 562 for your workers' compensation insurance needs. **We know you have choices, and we're glad you're choosing NYSIF Safety Group 562** to provide you with a stable, long-term solution for your insurance needs.

**We're always interested in growing Safety Group 562, and your referral is the best advertising for our safety group.**

Our competitive upfront pricing, along with a reliable history of above-average dividends, makes our program the top choice for contractors like you. When you refer a fellow contractor, not only is it a great compliment to us at Tompkins, but we are also able to share the benefits and grow the association and safety group.

As always, if you have questions please feel free to reach out to Tompkins Insurance, Group Manager for LICA Safety Group 562, underwritten by NYSIF.

1-888-229-6151

TIASafetyGroup@tompkinsfinancial.com



# 2025 National LICA Summer Meeting

## Agenda & Meeting Information

July 8 - 12 - Radisson Duluth Harborview

Duluth, Minnesota

### **Tuesday, July 8**

8:00 am - 5:00 pm Soudan Mine Tour

### **Wednesday, July 9**

9:45 am - 12:30 pm Grand Sightseeing Tour

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm Executive Committee

### **Thursday, July 10**

8:00 am Opening Breakfast

9:00 am - 5:30 pm Committees

12:30 pm Ladies' Luncheon

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Associates' Night

### **Friday, July 11**

8:00 am Breakfast

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Educational Seminars

1:00 pm Lunch

2:00 pm Executive Directors' Meeting

### **Saturday, July 12**

8:00 am Breakfast

9:00 am - 10:00 am National Board Meeting

### **What Does Summer Meeting Registration Include?**

Summer Meeting registration includes all meal functions, Associates' Night, Educational Seminars, Committee Meetings, and the Board Meeting. All registered members will receive, a name badge, and a program when they check-in on site and are welcome to ... even encouraged to, attend any of the Committee Meetings and the Board Meeting. For a list of committees and their functions, visit [LICANational.org](http://LICANational.org).

### **Attention LICA Families: We've Got You Covered!**

The National Ladies' Committee is pleased to announce that it will cover the expenses for children's activities during the Summer Meeting. If you and your children go to an attraction during the Summer Meeting, simply present a receipt to the National Staff.

### **LICA Ladies' Luncheon**

The LICA Ladies' Committee is hosting a lunch on Thursday, July 10, for the women participating in the National Summer Meeting. Join the women of LICA for delightful food and engaging conversation.

### **Radisson Duluth Harborview**

Located just minutes away from Canal Park and the DECC/Amsoil Arena, the Radisson Duluth-Harborview is uniquely designed as a circular hotel. You can easily access shops, restaurants, and museums along the waterfront via the connected Skywalk. Treat yourself to a delightful evening at Harbor 360, the rotating restaurant that offers breathtaking views of the harbor.



**Scan code for Summer Meeting details.**

**Go to [licanational.com](http://licanational.com) for more complete details and registration information.**

# As a LICA Member Provide In-House Training for CDL Drivers

Save thousand\$ and join LICA today!

- Step-by-step guidance
- Use your existing crew and equipment
- Eliminate the need for outsourcing



## CDL ENTRY-LEVEL DRIVER TRAINING (ELDT) TRAINING PROVIDER RESOURCES

PREPARED BY *THE LAND IMPROVEMENT  
CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA*

**Cnational.LICA@gmail.com. | 630.453.8488**  
**licanational.org**



The Land Improvement Contractors of America (LICA) supports contractors across the U.S. with training, advocacy, and real-world resources to grow their business.



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# ONLINE FOCUS AUCTION JUNE 25, 2025

LIST BY: MAY 26, 2025

## QUARTERLY AUCTION DATES

9/24/25 12/17/25

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### LIGA MEMBER BENEFITS

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