

WINTER 2026



NEW YORK LICA NEWS

LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS • NEW YORK CHAPTER

September 30, 2025

Glow with your Hands

1200 young people from 4 counties participate in hands on demonstrations of various industries and companies.

PRESIDENT

David Rule

VICE PRESIDENT

Dennis Bliss

SECRETARY

Jeff Phair

TREASURER

Dennis Bliss

DIRECTORS

Andrew Aupperle

Derek Cassiano

Derek Decker

Linda Rule

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Maura Dibble

3330 Pratt Road

Batavia, NY 14020

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newyorklica@gmail.com



UDIG EXPO • October 2025 • Oncenter, Syracuse, NY



WATCH YOUR EMAIL - WE ARE PLANNING ON HAVING A ONE-DAY SEMINAR AT THE HAMPTON INN, BUCKLEY RD, SYRACUSE ON TUESDAY, MARCH 17th.



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Safety Group #562
Annual Meeting
March 13, 2026
Batavia, NY**

**Hard Hat Show
March 18 & 19, 2026
NYS Fairgrounds**

**NYLICA 13th Annual
Golf Outing
Fri.. September 11, 2026
Batavia Country Club**

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, DAVID RULE



Hello all,

Seems like an old fashioned kind of winter doesn't it? Hope everyone is staying busy and warm. I think we are all looking forward to Spring!

I would like to personally welcome LICA's new CEO, Dennis Mikula. As a long time LICA member and business owner, Dennis is well aware of the challenges, trials and tribulations of owning and operating a business. I think he will be a great fit in his new role.

We will be at Hard Hat at the NYS Fairgrounds on March 18 & 19, 2026, We will be at booth 115. Look for the green shirts, stop by and say hi. Hope to see many of our members and old friends.

We are already planning for the 13th Annual Golf Outing, on Friday, September 11, 2026 at Batavia Country Club

David Rule

Welcome New Members

Jennifer Bogner
J. Bogner Construction, LLC
Sardinia, NY 14134

Jonathan Clark
Turf Titan Lawn & Property Services, LLC
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Garrett DelGatto
Superior Plumbing & Excavation
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Dina DeVito
Landscapes by Dina DeVito
Selden, NY 11784

Laurie Millspaugh
Millspaugh Construction Co., LLC
Albion, NY 14411
Peyton Lane

P&J Landscaping & Tree Service
Kingston, NY 12401

Joseph Rossini
Rossini Equipment Corp.
Monticello, NY 12701

Hunter Stella
C.S. Excavation, LLC
Geneseo, NY 14454

Jeff VanCamp
Rock Solid Services, LLC
Phelps, NY 14532



Reasons to belong and stay with New York LICA

- * Become more knowledgeable in the changes in the construction industry
- * Increase your company's profitability
- * Attend seminars to learn ways to become more competitive.
- * Newsletters that keep you informed
- * Be a part of National LICA
- * Contractors, their families are eligible for NYLICA & LICA Scholarships
- * Be eligible for the NYLICA Safety Group # Worker's Compensation Insurance with dividends of up to 40%



Land Improvement Contractors of America

3080 Ogden Avenue, Suite 300, Lisle, IL 60532 • Phone: (630) 548-1984 • Email: anational.lica@gmail.com • www.licanational.org

National LICA Welcomes Dennis Mikula, Jr. as New Chief Executive Officer

Seasoned industry leader and business executive to begin January 1, 2026



Lisle, Illinois - 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 Chair 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.

NYLICA Scholarship Recipients



Christopher Agle

Christopher Agle of Collins, NY is the son of David & Christine Agle and the grandson of Richard & Betty Agle. He is a student at Alfred State pursuing an associate's degree in Mechatronics. He has achieved 90s in all of his classes last semester. He has learned a lot from his technology classes, Intro to electrical, where he learned more about basic components and improved his surface mount soldering skills. In his digital logic class he learned relay ladder logic used in industry and basic logic gates. He will be talking electronic fabrications, circuit fundamentals and sold modeling. Christopher is also participating in a hiking club planning hikes and camping trips. After he completes is degree at Alfred State, his goal is to get a job at Moog, Inc as a machine repair technician. This scholarship will help him in completing his schooling, and then be able to use the skills that he has learned to get a job that will make a difference.



Maggie Bacon

Maggie Bacon of Dansville, NY is the daughter of Peter and Renee Bacon. She is a junior at St John Fisher College with a double major in Sport Management and Media/Communications. She was able to retain her place on the Dean's List. Maggie also interned with the Dansville Gliders Baseball League where she managed all the social media feeds and updates and was an outstanding addition to their team. She is continuing with her religious education and helps to teach a class to other students. As part of being a service scholar, she volunteers at St. Ann's Nursing Home twice a week. Maggie is a member of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, also the Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track teams, which she qualified for the regionals in all three seasons. She continues to strive for excellence in and out of the classroom in an effort to obtain an internship in the sports management field. As a prior recipient of the NYLICA Scholarship, she also thanks the awards committee for this opportunity and for their support.



Samuel Bliss

Samuel Bliss of Doylestown, Pa is the son of Eric and Sarah Bliss and the grandson of Dennis and Pam Bliss. He is a sophomore at Dickinson College with a major in economics. His academic goal is to maintain a 3.6 GPA or higher, requiring a goal-oriented drive to excellence that he is trying to build that will be applicable beyond the classroom. He is continuing to hone his skills and be open to new ideas and concepts in the field of economics that might yield to a career. He feels that everyday is an opportunity to get better. Samuel's personal goals are related to baseball. He plays on the varsity at Dickinson working diligently to secure a role as starting pitcher. He will continue to do everything he can to improve his abilities and help his team be successful. This scholarship would support his education at Dickinson of which he is very proud.



Henry Decker

Henry Decker of Fillmore, NY is the son Derek and Sarah Decker and a junior at Alfred State College. He is in the Mechanical Engineering Technology program. He spent two years at his local BOCES taking the Pre-Engineering & CAD class. During his studies he has come to appreciate all aspects of engineering. Henry has learned about computer-aided design, (CAD) material science, manufacturing, machining and more. He is currently interning at Koike Aronson in Arcade, NY. This has been a great opportunity to see how the classroom theory can be applied to real world problems. He has come to love the manufacturing and heavy industry sector and think that this applies to LICA as there are many products and services that contactors can use to enhance their business, as well as engineers, welders, and many more. He looks forward to continuing his education and future career opportunities.

NYLICA Scholarship Recipients



Daniella DeVito

Daniella DeVito of Selden, NY is the daughter of Dina and Daniel DeVito and a senior at Newfield High School. She is interested in going into Nursing. Daniella grew up in the sport of gymnastics, so she has seen her share of injuries, which sparked her interest in nursing and helping others. She feels that she would be able to offer compassionate care and understanding of injuries through her experiences. Her goal is to further her education by earning a Masters degree to hopefully work in a hospital or doctors office where she can be a part of improving health outcomes and helping patients to recover and stay healthy. Daniella would like to use her skills and education to provide comfort and healing, making a positive impact on individuals and communities. This scholarship would help her to take the next step toward fulfilling her dream of becoming a skilled and compassionate nurse.



Brayden Smith

Brayden Smith of Oakfield is the son of Raymond and Kristin Smith. He is currently a junior at Ashland University with a major in business management. His love for football resulted in his being a walk on at Ashland his freshman year. His sophomore year was a humbling experience, but he was finally able to play and was awarded a football scholarship. Brayden also achieved a 4.0 GPA during his fall semester. As a junior he unfortunately suffered a dislocated elbow, but managed to play after 3 weeks and his team went on to win their second conference championship and second playoff game. This scholarship has helped him significantly with paying for school at Ashland and has allowed him to continue his education with the goal of someday running his own construction company.



Trey Zittel

Trey Zittel of Springville, NY is the grandson of Ken and Janis Zittel. He is a freshman at St Bonaventure University. In high school and first year in college, he was a three sport athlete, on the Honor Roll, and an employee. He has learned to manage his time, stay disciplined and push himself beyond expectations, Trey attended St, John Fisher University where he maintained a 4.0 GPA, but found it wasn't the right fit for him. He is transferring to St Bonaventure to continue his education and make the most of every opportunity. He has always felt the need to help others, especially having the courage to step forward when others step back. Trey would like to follow in his brother's footsteps by pursuing a career in law enforcement. He is not trying to copy his brother, he wants to carve his own path, while still looking up to the one who inspired him. He is grateful for receiving this scholarship after working hard to stay committed to his goals and this support would help him to continue.



**The World Is
Yours To Conquer**

NYLICA will be there! • Booth 115
Look for all the Green Shirts



**38th ANNUAL
HARD HAT EXPO**

Located in the EXPO CENTER

MARCH 18-19, 2026

WEDNESDAY 9 AM - 4 PM & THURSDAY 8 AM - 3 PM
NYS Fairgrounds • 581 State Fair Blvd • Syracuse, NY 13209

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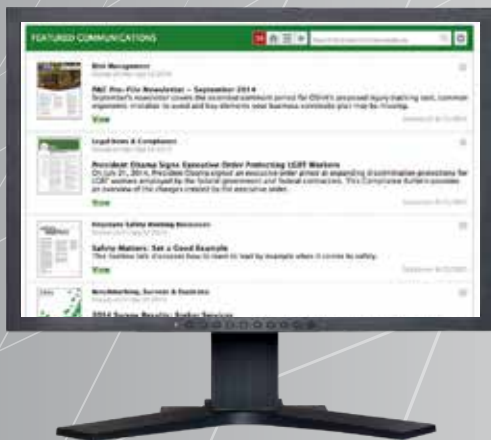
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Don't Forget!
**NYLICA 13th Annual
Golf Outing**

To benefit NYLICA Scholarship Fund
on Friday, September 11, 2026

Batavia Country Club
7909 Batavia Byron Rd.
Batavia, NY 14020