

by promoting voluntary sharing of cyber threat information between public and private entities to defend against cyberattacks as well as by enhancing cyber innovation and research. The Chamber at least supports the framework behind this legislation. It was referred to a Senate committee on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The next step is a committee vote.



*Remember Those Who Serve*

## MEMORIAL DAY REFLECTIONS

Memorial Day is a good time to reflect on the sacrifices and services of the American soldiers and veterans and the U.S. military men and women. The American military is, has always been and will always recruit the best and finest of the crop of young men and women of the country and we will continue to shower them with appreciation, support and prayers, as we have always done. Memorial Day is just an opportunity for us to express the special places they have in the hearts of America citizens and more by honoring the people who work in the various branches of the military.

The horrific tragedy of September 11, 2001, has stirred all and reawakened the spirit of patriotism in all hearts and unity and oneness binds all Americans in a special bond. The words 'United We Stand' and 'God Bless America' still hold the power to stir out hearts on this very special day. Let the feelings of true patriotism and love for all those who have risked their lives for the sake of America show by putting up American flags in front of your houses, have parties with patriotic themes to honor military and ex-military men and women in your neighborhood and community. It is a good idea to coax them into telling more about their experiences with the military and on the warfront and you may get an opportunity to hear some exceptional real tales that you may have not even imagined about.

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# The NLICA NEWS

Vol. 18, No. 5

The Nebraska Land Improvement Contractors Association

May 2012



## DATES TO REMEMBER:

July 10-14, 2012  
National LICA Summer Meeting  
Hilton Garden Inn  
Manhattan, Kansas

July 22, 2012  
NLICA Annual Picnic  
Golden Spike Tower  
North Platte, Nebraska  
10:00 Meeting  
11:30 Lunch  
1:00 NLICA Tour

September 8, 2012  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Divots Conference Center  
Norfolk, Nebraska

November 3, 2012  
Convention Plan Meeting  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Holiday Inn  
Kearney, Nebraska

January 15-16-17, 2013  
NLICA Annual Convention  
Holiday Inn  
Kearney, NE

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Memorial Day Reflections



## PLAN TO ATTEND THE NLICA SUMMER PICNIC SUNDAY, July 22, 2012

The NLICA summer picnic will be held Sunday, July 22 2012 at the Golden Spike Tower and Visitors Center, 1249 North Homestead Road, in North Platte, Nebraska.

The tower sits eight stories above Union Pacific's 2,850 acre Bailey Yard and provides a panoramic view of the world's largest train yard. This yard is where east meets west on the Union Pacific line and it manages 10,000 railroad cars of which 3,000 are sorted daily to make sure cargo gets to its destination. There is a lot to see.

Please note that our NLICA meeting will start at 10:00 A.M. in the visitors center. The lunch will be served at 11:30 A.M. and our tour will begin at 1:00 P.M. The time change is to accommodate those who want to tour the facility and still have a distance to drive afterwards. All of this is offered FREE to LICA members.

This is a great opportunity - a must see for anyone.

## COME TO NORTH PLATE USE THE CLC LODGING CARD

Sign up for the LICA benefit of the CLC Lodging card and save money when you come to North Platte to tour the Golden Spike. Here are a few of the facilities you can use the card at: Hampton, Holiday Inn, Wingate, Super 8, Best Western, Red Roof, or Days Inn. More are listed on their website.

Testimonials have been heard from members that say you can save half the cost. If you need to travel out the day before the picnic here is a benefit to take advantage of. There is no charge for LICA members to get this card. See the national LICA website for further information and sign up right away.

## NATIONAL LICA SUMMER MEETING

The 2012 National LICA Summer Meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn located in Manhattan, Kansas. Call 785-532-9116 for reservations by June 11, 2012. Mention the Land Improvement Contractors meeting in order to get the group rate.

### Tentative Schedule of Events

July 10 <sup>th</sup>	CAT Works Tour	OZ Museum & Winery
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Case & Universal Lubricants Tour	Flint Hills Discovery Center & KSU
July 12 <sup>th</sup>	Educational Seminars	Landoll Corporation Tour Associates Night
July 13 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meetings	Dinner & Entertainment at Purplewave
July 14 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting	

Registration and tour sign up information will be coming soon from the national office.



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Patti McArdle

Visit our website  
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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

NLICA members,

We had a good meeting at the Miletta Vista Winery north of St. Paul, NE. Thank you to all members and board members who attended. Some good wine, hospitable staff, nice facility with a very scenic view over looking St. Paul and the Loup river valley. Thank you also to Rick and Sue Vlach for suggesting the location.

Tim Haakenstad gave an update on what is happening in NRCS and also answered some questions about certain bid lettings and contracts for wetland projects that were brought before the board members.

A new tentative program for state convention was also discussed. There will be more discussion on that in the future.

It is time to be making plans for the National LICA summer meetings in Manhattan, KS from July 11 - 14, 2012. Patti will have details in the newsletter and they will also be in the national newsletter.

Also, the Nebraska LICA summer picnic will be held at the Golden Spike museum in North Platte on July 22nd, so please be watching for the details. If you are a train buff, it should be very interesting.

~ *President*  
*Jim Wemhoff*

**OFFICIAL NOTICE**

The NLICA Board of Directors will meet Sunday, July 22, 2012 in North Platte, NE at the Golden Spike Tower and Visitors Center, 1249 North Homestead Road.

Note: 10:00 A.M. Board Meeting  
11:30 A.M. NLICA Picnic



**A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The new membership directory is at the printer and will be proofed two or three times before the final copy is accepted. They will be out this summer. I would like to thank all the associate members who place ads in the book in support of the association.

It is not too soon to be thinking about the convention of 2013. If you happen to know of, or work with, a NRCS or NRD person in your area who would be deserving of the awards we present please send in their name. If an issue comes up this summer and you think it would be a good idea to have a seminar on it please let us know that as well. The committee strives to make the convention an interesting learning experience for all members and appreciates your input.

As you read on the front page the summer picnic will be in North Platte. We plan to travel on Saturday and I have already made a room reservation. Using the CLC Card we are only spending half of what we would be charged without the benefit. That is my testimonial.

~ *Patti McArdle*

**OUR SCOFFLAW SENATE**

*by John Peterson*  
*LICA Director of Government Relations*

29 April, 2012

I'm writing this on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, exactly three years since our U.S. Senate last passed a budget, on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Adopting a budget is not optional. It is required by law. Under the 1974 Congressional Budget Act, the Senate must move a budget out of the Budget Committee by April 1<sup>st</sup> of every year, and adopt a budget resolution on the floor by April 15<sup>th</sup>. What on earth is happening in the Senate? The House of Representatives has completed its budget work in each of the past two years, but by contrast the Senate is continuing its open defiance of the budget law for the third year in a row.

The Senate majority can bring a budget to the floor any time it wishes and pass it with just 51 votes. It cannot be filibustered. Yet in 2012, with a 60 vote majority, Democrats chose to keep their own committee-passed budget from receiving a vote in the full Senate. In 2011, Majority Leader Reid said it would be "foolish" for his party to do a budget, so it never even wrote one. In 2012, just last week, Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad was forced by his own majority to cancel what would have been the first committee votes on a budget resolution in more than two years.

The budget offered by the president has received no votes from either party, and it would bring the fifth straight trillion-dollar deficit next year and would increase spending by 62% over the next 10 years. As Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL) said "If we continue down this path, disaster is not merely probable, but inevitable." Sen. Sessions is the ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee.

Why might it be that the majority in the Senate has refused to lay out a budget? So far they have been unable to develop a budget that they could unite behind and publically defend. There may be another motivation that explains the Senate majority's dereliction of duty. If a budget is opened for consideration on the Senate Floor, it begins a period of extensive amendment and debate. Senators would be forced to face public accountability on how much they wanted to tax and spend. Could it be that Reid's strategy is deliberate to shield his members from tough votes and electoral risk?

I don't understand how the Senate can be in violation of the law and no one cares. I believe our Senate actions exemplify a Washington culture that does not respect taxpayer dollars. It's not only GSA partying in Las Vegas: our own Senate has proven it is unfit to lead. I have written to my two Senators complaining about this. I am anxious to see how they respond.

**PETERSON'S POTOMAC PALAVER**

More federal regulations of interest to LICA Members

*by John Peterson*

*LICA Director of Government Relations* 04 May, 2012

**Access to Capitol. H.R. 3603, the Jumpstart our Business Startups Act (JOBS).** This legislative package, composed of a number of bills, would make it easier for small businesses to raise capital by providing relief from several restrictive SEC regulations related to investors and shareholders, certain corporate governance and executive compensation regulations, and mandatory audit firm rotation for initial public offerings. This could be legislation LICA members would support. It passed the House on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The next step is a Senate vote.

**Union Elections H.J. Res. 103.** This resolution of disapproval would invalidate a recent rulemaking by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to compress the time between petitions and union representation elections. I would think LICA would support this sensible resolution which would protect employers' free speech rights. It was referred to a House committee on February 16<sup>th</sup>. The next step is a committee vote. I'm a pessimist. Even if it passed both Houses it would not be signed by the president, who is very pro-union.

**Regulatory Reform, H.R. 4078, the Regulatory Freeze for Jobs Act of 2012.** This bill would prevent the largest, most costly new regulations from being finalized until the national unemployment rate improves significantly. It is intended to restore balance to the federal regulatory process and rein in major, economically significant regulations that foster uncertainty and inhibit job creation. This bill would place an important check on rulemakings that impact jobs and the business community's ability to compete. It was referred to a House committee on February 17<sup>th</sup>. The next step is a committee vote.

**Surface Transportation Reauthorization, S. 1813, Moving Ahead in Progress for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.** This multiyear reauthorization bill would, at a minimum, maintain funding for highways, public transportation, and safety at current levels; encourage private sector investment; consolidate programs; eliminate mandates; cut red tape and government bureaucracy; increase funding flexibility while requiring accountability; and provide more opportunity for leveraging scarce federal resources. The Chamber of Commerce is supporting this bill. I suspect many of our LICA members do also. It passed the Senate on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The next step is a vote in the House.

**Cybersecurity, S.2151, Strengthening and Enhancing Cybersecurity by Using Research, Education, Information, and Technology (SECURE) Act.** This bill would improve cybersecurity