

2nd Qtr
2024

INDIANA LICA NEWS

2024 INLICA Officers

President

Joe Stull
1300 W 1000 S
Kingman, IN 47952
765-585-4089

Vice President

Keith Miller
13529 S 150 E
Kokomo, IN 46901
765-776-2458

Treasurer

Chris Smidler
15071 W 100 S
Medaryville, IN
47957
219-863-3395

Executive Director

Nanci Gutwein
PO Box 425
Francesville, IN
47946
219-204-1722
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LICA WATER MANAGEMENT FORUM

Professionals planning for the future!



St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, IN
June 13 & 14, 2024

Water management professionals will unite at the LICA Water Management Forum—an exclusive platform bringing together contractors, farmers, government officials, the education community, and other industry leaders in water management solutions. The two-day event will overflow with opportunities for education, demonstration, networking, sponsorship, and exhibition. Seize the chance to promote your products and services before, during, and after the event! Your support will not only elevate your brand but also contribute to shaping the future of sustainable water management.

Reserve your ticket today.
Scan the code below



A Word from our President

Hello everyone from the final day of May!

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and possibly even wrapped up with pre-planting work and onto those summer projects of various kinds. Fast approaching are the warm and HOT days of summer...I think. Even more quickly approaching is the LICA Water Management Forum. For those that may have missed previous notices about this event, it is in our state! Some might even say it's practically in our National President's backyard. Go register today if you haven't already done so. And when you do go to the national events page to register, send it to some local students and remind them about it. The event is FREE to them! Spread the word about the opportunity for some water management education they, as well as some of your customers, might find interesting. Also available are different safety courses as OSHA compliance and integration (1st aid) and OSHA 10 hour. The afternoon before these 2 days of education there is a 9 hole outing for those of you that enjoy chasing little white balls around for a few hours.

As a reminder we will also be holding our quarterly board meeting Thursday evening after the day's brain stimulating education. Final details will be found either in this newsletter or shortly in email.

Stay safe and see you in under 2 weeks.

-Joe Stull



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**LICA Water Management Forum
June 13 & 14 - St. Joseph's College - Rensselaer, IN**

Thursday, June 13

7:00 am	Registration & Outdoor Exhibits	
8:30 am - 9:00 am	Opening Session	Courtney Auditorium
9:00 am - 9:45 am	<i>"Drainage System Capacity: Sizing Mains for Today's Agriculture."</i>	Courtney Auditorium
9:00 am - 4:00 pm	OSHA 10 Hr- part 1	Classroom
9:45 am - 10:00 am	Break Sponsored By: The Cook Family	
10:00 am - 10:45 am	<i>"Use the Drain Spacing Tool to Maximize Profit."</i>	Courtney Auditorium
10:45 am - 11:00 am	Break Sponsored by: NACD	
11:00 am - 11:45 am	<i>"Benefits of Drainage Water Management, Drainage Water Recycling, & Installation Considerations"</i>	Courtney Auditorium
11:45 am - 2:00 pm	Lunch & Outdoor Exhibits	
2:00 pm - 2:45 pm	<i>"Pipe Perforation Style Affects How Fast you can Drain."</i>	Courtney Auditorium
2:45 pm - 3:00 pm	Break Sponsored by: SHoule Inc.	
3:00 pm - 3:45 pm	<i>"Working with the USDA-NRCS."</i>	Courtney Auditorium
3:45 pm - 4:00 pm	Break	
4:00 pm - 4:45 pm	TBA	Courtney Auditorium

Friday, June 14

8:00 am	Registration & Outdoor Exhibits	
9:00 am - 9:45 am	<i>"Advances in, and Benefits of, Using Automated Outlets."</i>	Courtney Auditorium
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Intro to Heavy Construction	Classroom
9:00 am - 2:00 pm	OSHA 10 Hr - part 2	Classroom
9:45 am - 10:00 am	Break Sponsored By: Fratco	
10:00 am - 10:45 am	<i>"Applications and Overview of Solar Lift Stations."</i>	Courtney Auditorium
10:45 am - 11:00 am	Break Sponsored By: Agri Drain Corp.	
11:00 am - 11:45 am	<i>"NACD Legislative Update."</i>	Courtney Auditorium
11:45 am - 2:00 pm	Lunch & Outdoor Exhibits	
2:00 pm - 2:45 pm	<i>"Applications & Advantages of AGPS & Trimble in Farm Drainage."</i>	Courtney Auditorium
2:45 pm - 3:00 pm	Break	
3:00 pm - 3:45 pm	<i>"Opportunities to Work with Conservation Drainage throughout the United States."</i>	Courtney Auditorium

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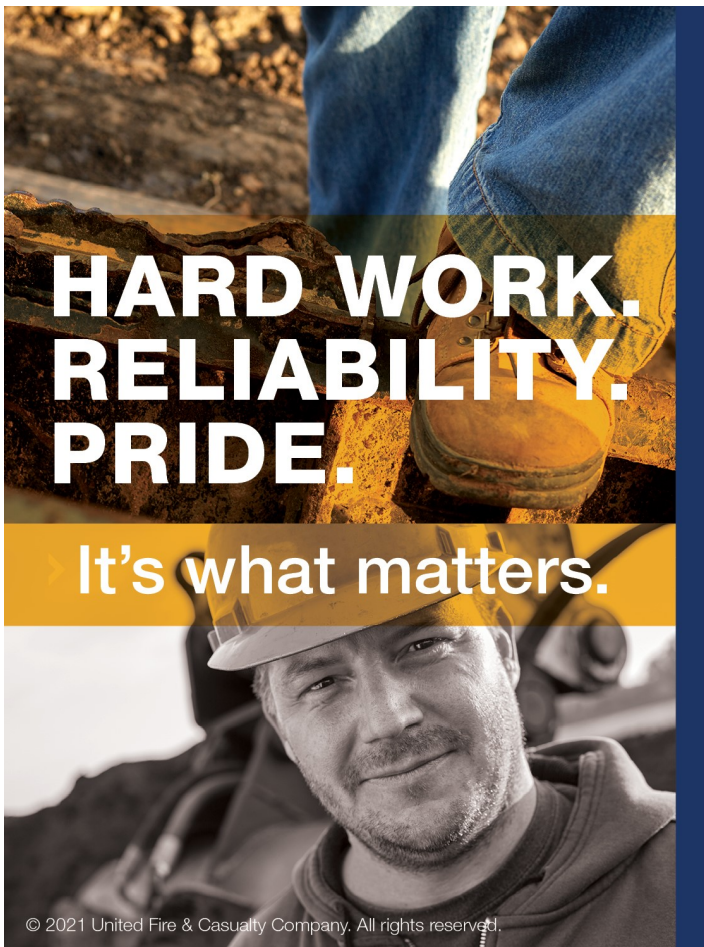
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Be sure to read through the following sessions that will be offered at the upcoming Water Management Forum. Then use the QR code located on this front cover to register. You can also go to licanational.org and use the link under the events tab to get registered. Registration is required for all attendees.

**2024 NATIONAL LICA
SUMMER MEETING**
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

JULY 9 - 13
OMNI WILLIAM PENN HOTEL

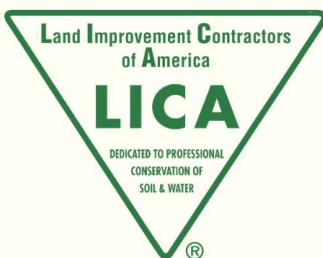
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FRIDAY, JULY 12

NATIONAL LICA LEADERSHIP PANEL

PRESENTED BY: TONY CAIN, NATIONAL LICA PRESIDENT
ADAM COOK, REGION 3 VICE PRESIDENT
TED LASHLEY, REGION 6 VICE PRESIDENT

Have you ever aspired to take on the challenge of serving as a State Chapter Board member or aiming even higher for a position on the National Board? Many individuals lack the knowledge into how to embark on these roles or the responsibilities they entail. Prepare for an engaging session where LICA Board Members share their experiences at both the State and National levels. Feel free to engage them with your inquiries regarding leadership opportunities within LICA. Discover their motivations for joining, their leadership experiences, and the valuable rewards they gained from their involvement in LICA. Let the narratives of leadership unfold!



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Education Sessions

St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, IN

June 13 & 14, 2024



LICA WATER MANAGEMENT FORUM

Professionals planning for the future!

June 13, 2024

9:00 am - 9:45 am

Drainage System Capacity: Sizing Mains for Today's Agriculture

**Presented by: Jane Frankenberger, Professor & Extension
Agricultural Engineer, Purdue University**

Authors: Matt Helmers, Chris Hay

Drainage system capacity depends on how fast water gets to the drains, and also how fast the drains get water to the outlet. Decisions about lateral spacing determines the first, but often the drainage system capacity is limited instead by the size of the main. This presentation will demonstrate how to use the Transforming Drainage Calculators to calculate main size needed to align with drain spacing decisions for various soil and field properties.

10:00 am - 10:45 am

Use the Drain Spacing Tool to Maximize Profit

Presented by: Ehsan Ghane, Michigan State University

Join this talk to learn what drain spacing will maximize the annual return on investment. We offer a site-specific drain spacing for your farm, based on your soil, weather, and economic conditions.

11:00 am - 11:45 am

**Benefits of Drainage Water Management, Drainage Water
Recycling, and Installation Considerations.**

Presented by: Vinayak Shedekar, Ohio State University

Can tile drains do more than just "drainage"? Learn about strategies to manage drainage water for profitability and water quality. Dr. Vinayak Shedekar will talk about two edge-of-field practices - controlled drainage and drainage water recycling. Learn more about design and construction guidelines and management strategies for these drainage water management practices.

Education Sessions

St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, IN
June 13 & 14, 2024

June 13, 2024



2:00 pm - 2:45 pm

Pipe Perforation Style Affects How Fast you can Drain

Presented by: Ehsan Ghane, Michigan State University

Join this talk to learn the difference between 4-row and 8-row pipes. Difference between regular-perf, sand-slot, and sock-wrapped pipe. If you choose your pipe without attention to pipe style, you may be missing out on great drainage improvements.

3:00 pm - 3:45 pm

How to Work with the USDA-NRCS

Presented by: Scott Wagner, Agricultural Engineer, USDA, NRCS

Are you ready to make improvements on your land but not sure where to start? The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) may be able to help! NRCS works with farms of all sizes, forestland owners, tribes and other individuals interested in conserving the soil, water, and other natural resources on their land. NRCS can help you identify natural resource concerns and develop a conservation plan to address those issues on your property. Funding is available to help you offset the costs to implement the actions identified in your conservation plan. Learn about all the different conservation drainage solutions available to you.

June 14, 2024

9:00 am - 9:45 am

Advances in, and Benefits of, Using Automated Outlets

Presented by: Charlie Schafer, C.E.O., Agri Drain Corp.

In this session, you will learn about innovative products that take traditional gravity flow subsurface drainage systems to the next level. Agri Drain's Smart Drainage System® gives you the ability to monitor and manage your drainage systems remotely, ensuring proper moisture levels for maximum yield, while reducing nutrient loss and risks associated with drought or excessive moisture. We'll also discuss how to identify suitable sites, developing your system design, and the best approach to programming your automated water management system to maximize returns on investments, creating the most beneficial outcomes for crop yields and for downstream neighbors and communities. Now it's time to put your drainage system to work!

Education Sessions

St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, IN
June 13 & 14, 2024

June 14, 2024



10:00 am - 10:45 am

Applications and Overview of Solar Lift Stations

Presented by: Jamie Near (Solar Lift Stations)

Solar powered drainage lift stations are gaining popularity. This presentation will cover the common applications for using solar direct power to operate pumps and we'll look at some case studies to support and demonstrate the capabilities of these systems. We'll also discuss the Solar Lift Station design, system features, installation, and operation.

11:00 am - 11:45 am

NACD Legislative Update

TBA

2:00 pm - 2:45 pm

Applications & Advantages of AGPS & Trimble in Farm Drainage

Presented by: Nate Cook, Cook's AGPS LLC &

Joey Schlatter, Schlatter's Inc.

Moderator: Vinayak Shedekar, Ohio State University

For over two decades, GPS technology has proven indispensable for surface and subsurface water management. It plays a crucial role from the initial planning stages to the precise control of machinery. We invite you to join us at the LICA Water Management Forum for an insightful seminar featuring two industry experts. Nate Cook from Cook's AGPS LLC will deliver an overview of AGPS, while Joey Schlatter from Schlatter's Inc will provide insights into Trimble technology. After the presentations, a Q&A session will be held, offering attendees and existing users the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the applications and advantages of AGPS and Trimble in farm drainage.

3:00 pm - 3:45 pm

Opportunities to Work with Conservation Drainage Throughout the United States

Presented by: Keegan Kult, ADMC

There are more opportunities now than ever to work with water management and conservation drainage throughout the U.S. This session will showcase successful pilots that ADMC and its members have been a part of, such as the Iowa Batch and Build and the Minnesota Turn-Key Approach. Both have accelerated the rate of practice implementation while proving to be beneficial to the contractor and landowners. Keegan will then touch on other major opportunities around the U.S. and answer questions on how to best get involved.

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OLD TIMER'S PERSPECTIVE: "BID" MEANS BADLY INSTALLED DRAINAGE

Article written by Michigan LICA Member, Mike Cook

Fellow MLICA Contractors: Over the years I've had discussions with many of you concerning competitors "cutting prices" in quotes to farmers who ask for a "bid" to drain a field. Yes, lowball quotes are frustrating, but, as a fellow professional, I'd like to share my approach to handling a bid request from a customer.

Let's envision a scenario: a farmer seeks a bid for tiling a 40-acre field with minimal grading, spaced every 30 feet. In my estimates, I consistently quote \$50 higher per acre than the competition. However, it's important to clarify with the customer from the outset that what I provide is an **estimate**, not a bid. Why? Because I define "bid" as *BADLY INSTALLED DRAINAGE since it often implies compromises in quality, favoring the cheapest option over lasting effectiveness.*

Mr Farmer, consider this: I could easily reduce costs upfront by downsizing mains from 10 inches, 8 inches, and 6 inches to just 8 inches and 6 inches, saving \$700. Nice savings, but you'll regret when the mains cannot carry enough when we get a large rain 2 days in a row and water ponds. Pounded water on your crop has been proven to reduce yield anywhere from 5 to 50%. Let's assume 150 bushel corn per acre at a low price of \$4; a minor 5% loss will cost you 7.5 bushel per acre for 40 acres equaling 300 bushels total. At \$4 a bushel that would equal \$1200 in only one year. We know all too well the consequences when inadequate drainage fails to manage heavy rainfall, resulting in flooded crops and diminished yields. It's not merely about immediate savings but safeguarding the long-term investment. Beware of costs not included in a bid. While some contractors may omit certain expenses to make their bids appear more appealing, I prefer to include all necessary components like move in costs and connections upfront, ensuring there are no surprises down the line. My aim is always to deliver a final bill that's not only accurate but also lower than initially estimated. And let's not forget about headers. Research indicates that the last segment of a lateral line often underperforms. I've seen work that stops short 15' of the field edge or header. 43 lines x 15 ft = 750' which would save \$450. While skipping this component might yield a \$450 savings, it's a compromise I refuse to make, prioritizing quality and effectiveness above all else. As professionals affiliated with MLICA, we're committed to continuous improvement and adherence to industry standards. It's imperative that our customers remain informed, including completing the requisite 1026 form with Farm Service to preempt any potential regulatory issues.

In conclusion, while the term "bid" is best used for government, development projects, etc. where engineered quantities and specs are closely watched, in our line of work, we must prioritize quality and integrity above all else. *I remind my employees regularly "if you can't get something just right, let us know & we'll all make it right; a buried mistake will only hurt our reputation."* Our reputation hinges on our ability to deliver excellence, and any mistakes must be rectified promptly to uphold our standards. Let's continue striving for excellence in all that we do.

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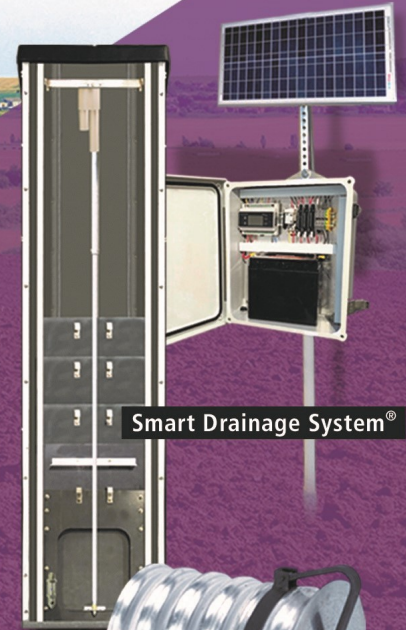
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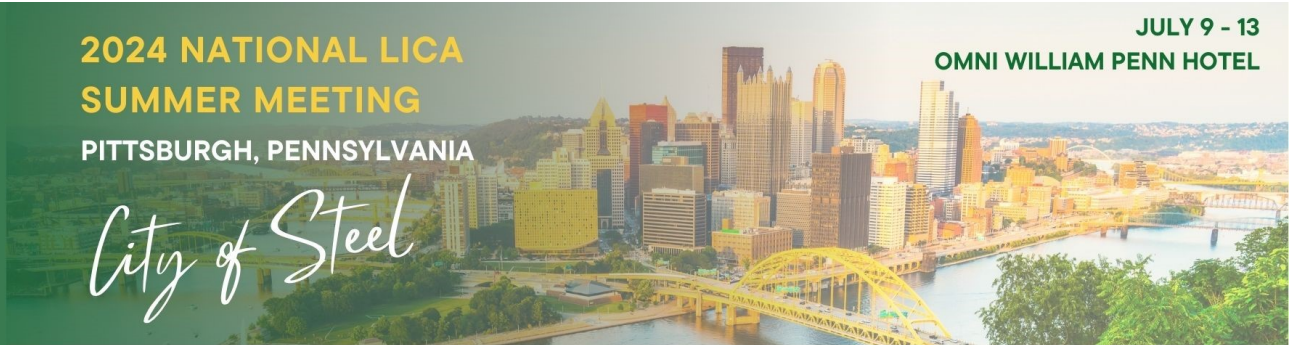
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**2024 NATIONAL LICA
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JULY 9 - 13
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TODAY



LICANATIONAL.ORG

Be sure to visit licanational.org to see the full schedule of summer meeting events and to download the registration page.

Farm Bureau Sees More it Likes in House Farm Bill Than Senate's

by NAFB News Service
May 20, 2024

The American Farm Bureau sees much it likes in the House farm bill proposal but less in the Senate's as the partisan battle lines deepen in the lead-up to Thursday's House Ag panel markup. The farm bill fight has reached a boiling point even before the House markup, with Ag Democrats mounting a full-court press against Chair GT Thompson's GOP proposal, unleashing an exhaustive roster of hunger, conservation, and labor groups who are opposed to it. But the American Farm Bureau, National Cattlemen, and even the National Farmers Union see much they like.

"Where Chairman Thompson is coming down is he's doing an across-the-board reference price increase that is 10 to 20 percent over what is currently the statutory reference price," says Joe Gilson, director of government affairs with Farm Bureau. "And Farm Bureau believes that the 10 to 20 percent increase is meeting the moment."

Senate Ag Chair Stabenow's plan at five percent more heavily favors southern crops. Stabenow would lower the AGI income cap to \$700,000 for farmers to receive farm payments.

"They might have a gross income that's over \$700,000, but net income where they don't make any money that year because of the increased expenses that they faced on the farm," Gilson says. "And so, just the reality of farming in today's inflationary environment, that's not going to work for a lot of farms and ranches."

And, on CRP, Gilson says Farm Bureau is concerned because Stabenow's proposal increases the number of acres and increases the payment rate.

That CRP will compete with beginning farmers and ranchers. House Chair Thompson hopes if he can get some bipartisan support in committee and advance a bill in the House, it will put pressure on Senate Democrats to move. But it's a tall order in an election year and the need for another extension by September 30th.

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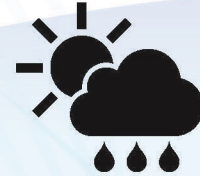
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 13th & 14th 2024– National LICA Water Management Forum
St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer IN

Board Meeting evening of the 13th—Fenwick's Brewery

July 9th-13th 2024 –National LICA Summer Meeting, Pittsburgh PA

September 7th 2024—Board Meeting, Location To be Announced

December 7th 2024– Board Meeting, 10AM Renaissance Marriott
North, Carmel IN

January 21st-23rd 2025– NACADE Conservation & Drainage Expo

January 21st—INLICA Annual Board Meeting Renaissance Marriott Carmel

January 22nd– INLICA Awards Banquet , Entertainment and Auction



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Inland marine: tools and equipment safety

A safety checklist developed by UFG Risk Control for LICA partners

Your business probably has a significant inventory of portable equipment, tools and machinery. Not only are shop tools and equipment valuable, but so are office computer systems plus employee-owned tools.

Protecting tools and equipment can mean the difference between a few hours of lost production or several days without income. When assessing your inland marine risk, consider the following:

Shop

- Building security could include: good exterior lighting, motion sensors, door/window contacts, locks, barricades, glass break sensors, cameras, etc. The system should be monitored to allow for quick response by law enforcement.
- Clearly identify your portable equipment with a company asset number or other unique identifier. Model and serial numbers should be recorded, stored in a safe place and provided to your shop insurance agent.
- Company-owned tools in the shop and field trucks should be inspected and inventoried annually. Damaged tools should be repaired or replaced.
- Employee-owned tools in the shop should be inventoried and the estimated values verified annually. Employees should have separate insurance coverage on their tools.
- Tools, equipment and tool boxes on field service trucks should be secured and lockable.
- Field service trucks should be parked inside the building during non-business hours.
- Field service truck tools should be inspected and inventoried annually.
- Vehicles should be inspected before each use.

Office

- Computers, monitors, printers and other electronic equipment should be clearly identified with a company asset number or other identifier. Model and serial numbers should be recorded, stored in a safe place and provided to your insurance agent.
- Computers should be equipped with a security and virus detection program that updates automatically and performs a full scan at least weekly.
- Electronic records should be backed up on a daily basis. A copy of these records should be stored off site or in a cloud account.
- Portable computers (laptop/tablet, etc.) and cell phones containing company records should be password protected.
- Computers, telephones and other electronic equipment should be plugged into surge protection strips or similar devices.



United Fire Group and Prins Insurance Donate to INLICA Education

Indiana LICA, along with the other LICA state Chapters were recently invited to Cedar Rapids to attend the LICA Insurance Program Annual Meeting. During this meeting INLICA was presented with a check for \$6,113.32 to use for education. INLICA is very grateful for these additional funds that will allow us to offer educational programming to our chapter.



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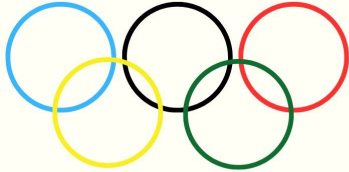
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2024 LICA SUMMER OLYMPICS Associates' Night - Friday, July 12



Get ready to channel your inner Olympian as we debut the LICA Olympics in celebration of the 2024 Summer Games in Paris! Select your squad of 4 champions strategically and aim for that shiny Gold medal! With games ranging from ring toss to memory challenges, every team will battle it out to clinch the ultimate victory based on points earned. Let the games begin!



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New Bremen, OH 45869
419-629-2259
nupcoplastictubing.com

HYDRAMAXX
(573) 769-3338
www.portindustries.com
HydramaxxSales@portind.com

