

**INDIANA LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of 72<sup>st</sup> Annual Business Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 29, 2026**

The 72<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the Indiana Land Improvement Contractors Association was held at the Renaissance Hotel in Carmel, Indiana, on Thursday, January 29, 2026. The meeting was called to order by President Keith Miller at 1:30 p.m. Introductions were made. Guilford Wehr, Jr. moved to have an open agenda. Todd Gross seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Minutes: James Ramsey moved to accept the minutes from the 2025 annual meeting. Brendon Sasser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Smidler presented the written treasurer's report. Total of all funds is \$195,524.94. The Ladies' savings account has a balance of \$7,043.96. Nate Miller moved to accept the treasurer's report as given. Sam Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed. The budget for the coming year was presented. Joe Stull moved to approve the 2026 budget. Bryan Noggle seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President's Report: Keith Miller reported he has been busy with the field day committee, working with Nanci Gutwein planning the state convention, working with the National safety committee, and attending the Illinois state convention.

National Report: Tony Cain stated that he is very pleased with the new CEO for LICA, Dennis Mikula. Tony attended the Illinois state convention and is working with the field day committee. Adam Cook stated he also is very pleased with the work Dennis Mikula is doing. Adam announced that the 2027 winter National convention will be held in the Phoenix, AZ area.

Area Director's Reports: All directors remarked about the cold and snowy conditions. John Hack II reported that the Septic draft for the State of Indiana has been approved and is making its way through the process. In the NW region, the economy is good and no slow downs.

Executive Director's Report: Nanci Gutwein presented a written report of her activities.

Technical Advisor's Report: Mike Cox stated he and Scott Wagner will be holding an NRCS update on Friday with information on programs, leadership changes, etc. He urged members to fill out the pricing surveys either by paper or online. A drawing for a \$100 gift card will be held from those who fill out a survey.

Legislative Update: James Ramsey reported on two issues that are most relevant to the members. They are Local Income tax withholding, and assessment of business personal property.

Standing Committee Reports:

Membership: At this time 101 INLICA memberships have been paid with two new members being voted on today. Jake Field, of Field Drainage in Kewanna, IN, and Brent Whitesell, with Whitesell Drainage and Exavaction, LLC, of Terre Haute, IN, were presented for regular membership. John Hack II moved to accept these members. James Ramsey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Scholarship: Josie Page, Jillian Page, and Zoey Craw are the scholarship recipients for 2025. The board voted yesterday to limit the scholarships to two in the amount of \$2,000 per year. Those eligible are children and grandchildren of contractors and associates.

Convention: Nanci reported that the convention is going well except for less attendance than normal. The ladies will be going to the Carmel Salt Caves and Spa tomorrow.

By-Laws: Copies of the by-laws with changes were distributed to members for review. After a short discussion, Todd Gross moved to accept the amended by-laws as presented. Bryan Noggle seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Necrology: No deaths were reported during the last year.

Old Business:

Field Day - A session was held this morning giving details about the planned field day at the Purdue Acre Farm. A hybrid National convention is being offered during the same week at the field day location. As discussed in the meeting last night, National is asking INLICA to pay for travel and hotel expenses for the National Executive Board and National staff running \$10,000 to \$12,000. National stated they will be supportive and help promote the field day regardless of the decision about the convention. Much discussion of the pros and cons of the joint venture took place. John Hack II moved to invite National to have their convention in conjunction with the INLICA field day at Purdue and offer to pay travel and hotel expenses for the National Executive Board and National staff and CEO pending approval by National. Todd Gross seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Business:

Nominations and Election of Officers and Directors:

The following slate of officers was presented for 2026: President - Keith Miller, Vice-President - Nate Miller, Treasurer - Chris Smidler.

The following is the new slate of directors for the board:

	Term ending 1- 2027	Term ending 1 - 2028	Term ending 1 - 2029
NW Director	Sam Baker	Tony Cain	Austin White
NE Director	Todd Gross	Guil Wehr, Jr.	Kevin Hohman
SW Director	William Harriman	Dean Neiswinger	Rob Wood
SE Director	John Pickering	Brendon Sasser	Mike Koehne
Associates	Steve Holtzleiter	Brenden Noggle	Nathan Darter
At-Large	Chris Smidler	Joe Stull	Bryan Noggle

Chris Smidler moved to accept this slate of officers and directors. James Ramsey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

National Convention:

Keith Miller and Joe Stull will be attending National convention in Las Vegas. James Ramsey moved for INLICA to pay for travel and hotel expenses for Nanci Gutwein and voting delegates. Todd Gross seconded the motion. The motion passed. John Hack II will serve as alternate delegate.

Steve Holtzleiter reported from the Associates meeting: The associates like the current location. They would like to be able to move in either Wednesday night or Thursday morning so they have the option of being there less days. They would like to see the banquet and auction on Thursday night so they could be back home by Friday night. They would also like INLICA to consider having a regional convention with surrounding states.

James Ramsey moved to adjourn the meeting. Todd Gross seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Frieda Pickering, Recording Secretary

Attendees:

President -	Keith Miller
Vice-President -	Nate Miller
Treasurer -	Chris Smidler
National Officer -	Tony Cain
Region III VP -	Adam Cook
Technical Advisor -	Mike Cox
NW Director -	John Hack II
	Sam Baker
NE Directors -	Todd Gross
	Kevin Hohman
	Guilford Wehr, Jr.
SE Director -	John Pickering
	James Ramsey
	Brendon Sasser
SW Director -	Dean Neiswinger
At Large Director -	Joe Stull
	Bryan Noggle
Executive Director -	Nanci Gutwein
Recording Sec -	Frieda Pickering
Members -	Burr Worl
	Brian Mohr
	Chris Mitterling
	Gabe Pankop
	Jake Field
Guest -	Hailee Young