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Executive Director

Scott Grams

Statewide Director of Development Kellie Schmidt May 15, 2023

Dear Member:

We have much to celebrate as the unification between the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association (ILCA) and the Illinois Green Industry Association (IGIA) is nearly complete. This is a historic achievement over 50 years in the making and we're so happy you are part of it. By renewing your membership, you exemplify your commitment to the association, industry, and professionalism. We know that the unprecedented demand our industry has experienced in the last two years has been demanding on your team, which means a need for greater support from your association.

Kellie Schmidt has now joined the ILCA staff as the Statewide Director of Development. Bringing the two organizations together will allow us to blast member value to the state line and better incorporate the needs of growers and garden centers on top of landscape, lawn care, tree care, irrigation, and other professionals. Through unification, we increase our reach, membership, education, legislative advocacy, and staffing.

Looking ahead, we have identified specific opportunities to offer training and networking opportunities statewide. These efforts will be guided by members through the proven structure of ILCA committees. The former IGIA InVigorateU and Growers committees will join 22 other active committees that create the program and events calendar. We are actively recruiting more involvement and broader perspective, so if you want to ensure your ideas are heard, contact Kellie to get connected.

ILCA is changing our fiscal year from July-June to a calendar year. After many discussions with our members, we determined that asking for renewals during the busy season when cash flow is tight was a burden. ILCA has tremendous renewal rates, well above industry standard, but are always looking for ways to make annual membership easier on our members.

As a result of this change, we are asking members to renew for 18-months, instead of the usual 12. This helps us avoid an additional 6-month renewal period for 1/2 the dues. So, the dues renewal for 23-24 will be higher, but the next dues renewal will not be until January 1, 2025.

The state of the industry remains strong as it continues to enjoy the impacts of the economy and clients wanting to reconnect with nature and their neighbors. ILCA offers dozens of programs throughout the year and is capturing more recorded content than ever. This library of recorded education will soon be available to all members whether for professional development, CEUs, or just training on a rainy day.

We look forward to another prosperous year for our industry. As ILCA expands, so do our goals and responsibility to our members. ILCA thanks you for your enduring support and commitment to professionalism.

Sincerely,

Scott Grams
Executive Director

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Kellie Schmidt Statewide Director of Development

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ILCA's Mission...To enhance the professionalism and expertise of members by providing leadership, education, representation, and services while promoting environmental awareness and the value of the landscape industry.