



For Immediate Release

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**Illinois Professional Lawn Care Association (IPLCA) to Dissolve:
ILCA to Become the New Professional Home for IPLCA Members**

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IPLCA History

In 2007, the founding members of the Illinois Professional Lawn Care Association formed an organization to deal with issues and concerns important to Illinois lawn care professionals. The mission of the IPLCA is utilizing resources to effectively, efficiently and environmentally manage lawns in Illinois.

IPLCA has grown every year since inception. However, that growth has been harder to come by recently and the IPLCA is currently facing what many small associations face in terms of attracting new people to key leadership positions that are committed to seeing the association continue to grow.

In light of these challenges, the IPLCA will dissolve their organization as of September 12, 2016.

The Aftermath of Dissolution

It was the goal of IPLCA's leadership to work with another professional organization to carve out a home, complete with a suite of benefits that would draw their members to the new organization. The IPLCA viewed the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association (ILCA) as the strongest association to best advance the interests of lawn care professionals. One of the most critical areas facing lawn care professionals are increased regulatory burdens. IPLCA knows ILCA has the local, state, and national advocacy efforts in place to diffuse problems and eliminate cumbersome regulations on operators.

ILCA Will Become the New Home for IPLCA Members

The ILCA Board voted unanimously to allow the IPLCA to communicate to their members that the ILCA will become the new professional home for IPLCA members. Current IPLCA President, Mark Opal, says "the IPLCA Board strongly encourages all members that are not currently members of the ILCA to join the association and support their efforts."

IPLCA Members Can Remain Active in the Industry

To ensure the turf industry still has representation and grows its influence in Illinois, the ILCA Board agreed to the following:

- Creation of a standing Turf Committee to handle the development of Turf Education Day (TED) and other turf-related initiatives, programs, and resources. The Turf Committee will be open to former IPLCA members, joint members, and existing ILCA members.
- Continuance of Turf Education Day (TED) on an annual or biannual basis.
- Former IPLCA members will be invited to serve on ILCA's Regulatory and Legislative Committee to help combat negative, and advance favorable, lawn care legislation.
- Former IPLCA members will be invited to serve on the Future Landscape Industry Professionals Committee (FLIP) to make sure lawn care is included in the messaging.

To help build a bridge from IPLCA to ILCA, ILCA is offering a discounted first year membership rate. This only applies to IPLCA members who are not currently members of ILCA. IPLCA members who fit this criteria can expect an email with ILCA membership sign up information.

The ILCA Board is very excited about aligning the two organizations' missions. The ILCA Board commends the IPLCA for almost 10 years of education, programs, advocacy, and camaraderie. They look forward to carrying that torch forward, together.

About ILCA

Since 1959, ILCA has provided its members with the resources needed to enhance their performance and ensure continued growth and success. The Association's mission is to enhance the professionalism and capabilities of members by providing leadership, education, representation, and services while promoting environmental awareness and the value of the landscape industry. ILCA employs a wide variety of means to fulfill its mission including: seminars, workshops, publications, trade shows, awards, networking, scholarship grants and social events. ILCA is a 501 (c) (6) nonprofit trade association with more than 800 member companies.

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