

**League of Agricultural and Equine Centers
January 2018 News**

Happy New Year! January is our favorite month, because we get to see many of you in person at The League Footing Academy (Jan 12-13) and Symposium (Jan 14-17). Details are below, and as always we have a fantastic line-up of presenters for you. What a great benefit of your League membership! We look forward to seeing you there.

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Welcome New Members

We are happy to welcome the following new members to The League. We hope you take full advantage of all your membership has to offer!

Congratulations, Justin Best Footing Honorees!

At The League, we're proud of our educational programs like the League Footing Academy, but we're even prouder of our members and their commitment to excellence. The Women's Professional Rodeo Association recently presented the Justin Best Footing Awards. This program allows the WPRA Board of Directors and members to recognize those committees in each of the twelve rodeo circuits that have put forth extra effort to ensure their rodeo had the safest, most consistent ground conditions throughout the entire rodeo. This in turn ensures a safe and level playing field for the barrel racing contestants and their horses.

Congratulations to two League members honored:

California Circuit, second place: George Ingalls Equestrian Event Center, Norco, CA

First Frontier Circuit, third place: Grange Park Equine Facility, Centre Hall, PA

2018 League Footing Academy and Symposium

The 2018 Footing Academy will be held January 12-13 at the George Ingalls Equestrian Event Center in Norco, California. This is a fantastic opportunity to bring your facility to the next level by learning all you need to know about providing the best footing for your customers' needs.

The League Symposium is always highly educational, plus it's a great opportunity to network with your peers, participate in topical discussions, and give back to the organization by sharing your own experience and expertise. The Symposium will be held January 14-17 in Ontario, California, and will feature a tour of the Los Angeles Equestrian Center as well as the George Ingalls Equestrian Event Center. This year's topics include:

Website Design

Food & Beverage
Animal Disposal during Events
Risk Management
Biosecurity
How to Retain Staff
Green Initiatives-composting, recycling
Project Management
Naming Rights
Seasonal & Part Time Labor Issues
Holding Multiple Events at the Same Time
Roundtables for New Facility Managers
Horse Shows following Livestock Shows
Security
Are You Covered? Malicious Acts, Terrorism
Challenges to Small vs. Large Facilities

Upcoming League Events

The League Forum

The League Forum is a round table teleconference sponsored bi-monthly by The League. Every other month a topic will be announced. Interested participants are asked to sign up through the League office: info@laec.info or 859-887-0033. A dial-in number and passcode will be sent the day prior to the call. It is not a toll free call. Long distance charges will accrue depending on your telephone calling plan. Each call will be moderated by a board member or CMEC graduate. Experts may be included on the call to give their knowledge of the specific topic. The times will be 2:00 eastern, 1:00 central, 12:00 mountain, 11:00 pacific and 10:00 Alaskan time.

Be sure to mark your calendars and contact the League office if you wish to be on a call.

Feature Article: Vacuum Excavators

Vacuum excavators, or industrial vacuum units, are highly useful for a wide range of jobs, such as removing debris or water from drains or trenches, vacuuming up animal waste or other materials, and cleaning up after natural disasters. When determining whether to purchase one for your facility or rent by the job, there are several factors to consider. "In many cases, the rental cost throughout the year will pay for a trailer mounted vacuum that will do the work of the larger truck vacs," explains Brian Showley of Vac-Tron Equipment. "Worst case scenario, the unit is paid for in two to three years, but it also allows the facility to do daily maintenance throughout the year, keeping the stalls and drainage system clean. This makes for a healthier environment for the horses."

There are a variety of types of vacuum excavators on the market, so how does one choose the best type? For equestrian facilities, Brian recommends the LP (low profile) series from Vac-Tron. "The LP series is the best choice for industrial cleanup applications," he says. "This machine provides the filtration system that can handle even the smallest of dust particles and

contains them to a cyclone and filter canister so they are not expelled into the air inside the facility. This unit also has a full engine enclosure for quiet operation. There are systems that only provide vacuum such as our CS (competitive series) models, but in most applications the combination of vacuum and high pressure water systems (hydro) are required. This combination allows our LP series to do multiple cleanup jobs and have onboard water to clean the unit after the job is complete. This same unit can do vacuum excavation projects on the facility property such as locate existing utilities, help in the repair of broken or leaking water lines, and transporting excavated materials to the dump site.”

Vac-Tron offers diesel, super diesel, and gas models with a variety of features, including hydraulically operated, full-open rear doors and waterproof, lockable control panels. All Vac-Tron trailers are engineered and built for low profile towing which provides a level of safety that may not be seen in other equipment, and service points are accessible from curbside. For more information, visit the [Vac-Tron website](#).

LEGIS Corner: Serving on a Board of Directors

Being involved in your sport can sometimes mean that you serve on a board of directors. This is a great opportunity learn more about the sport you are involved in and to help make a difference. However, you also need to make sure you are protected. Does the group you are serving maintain some kind of liability policy for clubs and associations? If not, then if a claim is made against the association, the organization will have to hire an attorney using its own funds. This scenario can quickly cause an organization to go out of business, but liability insurance will provide legal defense in most instances.

Additionally, make sure the club or association maintains Directors and Officers Coverage in addition to liability. If a disgruntled person makes a legal claim against the organization, each of the directors is likely to be specifically named. Without D&O coverage, each individual director would then be responsible for providing his own legal defense. The personal assets of each director or officer could be at risk in a lawsuit.

We don't want to scare you away from volunteer service, but we want you to be aware of the insurance needed to provide proper protection for the association and its directors. [LEGIS](#) has the expertise to help clubs, associations, and their boards obtain suitable insurance for their activities.



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