

LILWA WANTS YOU! and why you should want LILWA

It's official. The country is in the grips of a recession and we're all going to have to do a bit of belt tightening. In view of this unfortunate circumstance, why would any business want to take on an additional expense, such as membership in a trade organization? Well sir'or madam' membership in an organization like ours may just be one of the best investments you can make to help guide your business through these uncertain times. Read on.

The Long Island Liquid Waste Association has three types of membership: Regular Membership, Associate (A) and Associate (B).

Regular Membership is open to Septic Service Contractors licensed to operate in Nassau and/or Suffolk County. The majority of these companies can be considered small businesses with many having less than five employees, and companies of this size are often at a distinct disadvantage when purchasing many of the goods and services needed to operate. However, as LILWA members, they can take advantage of the purchasing power of the group and the savings can be considerable. For instance, the discount on group health insurance plans alone, obtained through LILWA, can actually exceed the cost of membership in the Association.

In addition, regular members may opt to be listed in the [Find A Company](#) page, an extremely popular feature of this web site. All members in good standing appear on the page, in alphabetical order, with their core operating area, so that potential customers who may be searching for a company by name, or by geographical area, can easily find a company to work with. LILWA's ranking in the search engines often puts us in the top five or better in the results of internet searches related to septic system problems. Picking up one or two jobs in this way can more than make up the cost of LILWA membership, and as is often the case, once you've done work for a customer, additional business follows.

Keep abreast of the latest industry technologies, equipment and health and safety issues, as well as special deals and offers by attending Board Meetings (open to all members), Special Seminars, and Committee Meetings. Members are also kept informed via a quarterly newsletter, this web site and monthly mailings of the Board Meeting minutes.

Other benefits include a comprehensive Certification Program through which your employees are given instruction and tested on basic industry health and safety issues and the necessary skills to function as competent technicians in the Septic Service Industry. Companies with employees who complete the program satisfactorily are highlighted in the Find A Company listings. Candidates for

certification are charged a nominal fee for instruction and testing.

Members also have an efficient line of communication to the Suffolk County Septic Licensing Board via LILWA members who sit on the county Septic Advisory Board. Other networking opportunities exist at LILWA Board Meetings and social functions.

There are two types of Associate Memberships. The first (A) is open to those in related industries, such as operators of sewage treatment plants, manufacturers and/or suppliers of equipment used in our industry. These Associates have the same rights and benefits as Regular Members including the right to hold and/or nominate candidates for office, serve on committees and to vote in Association elections. They may also participate in the Internet Banner Advertising Program whereby Associates' ads are carried on the LILWA web site at no additional charge. Associate Member businesses are often given preference by the Regular Membership when they purchase goods and services. Associate Members can also make presentations at LILWA meetings and the networking opportunities have proven invaluable to many of the businesses who are currently enrolled, all of which makes Associate Membership an excellent investment.

The second type of Associate Membership (B) is open to any other businesses or individuals that support the mission and ideals of the Association. These members do not hold office nor do they vote in Association elections. As such, their dues are much less than the other classes of membership they may attend meetings and network with the other members. As with all Associates, the other members often prefer to do business with LIWA members. Associate (B) members are also eligible to participate in the Internet Banner Advertising Program at no additional charge. The monthly cost of this membership is under \$17 a month, less than you'd pay for a banner ad on a comparable web site.