



April \* May \* June \* 2017

Union meetings are the 1st Thursday of the month

5:00 p.m. Executive Board / 7:00 p.m. General Membership meeting

**St Cloud Area Money Allocation Meeting**

Wednesday April 12, 2017 @ 4:30 p.m. at the St Cloud Labor Home

## **METRO AREA ALLOCATION OF MONIES MEETING APRIL 6, 2017**

**Local 15 extends our deepest sympathies to the families of:**

Robert Geiger 12/27/16

Robert Clark 1/08/17

Roger (Tim) Gustafson  
1/09/17

Marvin Vollrath 1/31/17

### **CREDIT UNION DEDUCTION**

May 1st, 2017 \$32.00 will be deducted from your Credit Union account to cover deaths # 22 (from 2016) & #'s 1-3 for 2017

### **Retiree Dues Increase**

Effective January 1, 2017 Retiree dues increased to \$29.00 as amended at the 2016 U.A. General Convention.

### **Health Fair**

April 8, 2017 8am - 2pm  
This year's venue is:  
US Bank Stadium  
HealthandBenefitsfair.org

### **Pipe Trades Services of Minnesota:**

www.ptsmn.org

(651)645-4540

#### **Wellness Centers:**

(651)348-8851 Metro  
(507)218-3095 Rochester

### **NEWZ FROM AARP THE Active Attractive Retired Plumbers**

Brothers and Sisters,  
Another Minnesota winter is in the books!!!  
Soon we will be going tee to green, and we will be able to fish without drilling a hole (which means your boat will float again !!!!)

Our monthly meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month starting at 1:00 (happy hour prior, starting at ????)

The venue is Elsie's located at 729 Marshall St. NE. in Minneapolis.

**Remember to also check us out at:**

[www.plumberslocal15.com](http://www.plumberslocal15.com)

 [facebook.com/Plumbers15](https://www.facebook.com/Plumbers15)

 [twitter.com/Plumbers15](https://twitter.com/Plumbers15)

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Just a reminder that money allocation for the Minneapolis area is Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup> at the monthly membership meeting. The St. Cloud allocation is April 12 at 4:30 PM.

As we have discussed at several of the prior membership meetings the Trustees for the Pension fund have been looking at making some changes to keep our funds strong and sustainable. The past ten years have been tough with the historically low interest rates. Although we remain in very good shape and remain in the green status we need to always look out to the future to be sure we are doing the right thing for both the current retirees and the apprentice that has 35-40 years before he/she retires. For those of you that haven't taken advantage of it yet I encourage you to make an appointment with Foundations Retirement consultants. You will find their information in the margins of this newsletter. This is another benefit of your retirement plans to have access to free retirement planning.

We had nearly 200 applicants for the Local 15 Apprenticeship program this year which is up approximately 25% over last year. Interviews start Wednesday March 29. Good luck to all those that applied. I believe we have some of the best instructors in the UA but it is also up to the foreman and journeyman on the job to teach these apprentices as they are coming up through the program so please do your part. We will have a need for helpers again this year also. If you know of someone that may be interested in being a plumber but wants to try it out before applying for our program have them sign up as a helper. Helpers are sent out by the order in which they apply and their availability. They must have reliable transportation.

Good luck on fishing this year and as always stay safe.

**Respectfully, Rick Eilers  
Business Manager**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Welcome Spring! With the longer days and sunshine comes a new and energized attitude. For some it might be the opportunity to hit a golf course, and for others it might be the opportunity to get out in the boat, or in a Turkey blind. For a lot of us, it also brings a new energy and a renewed enthusiasm at work. To be able to shed a few pounds of winter clothing, and to

drive on dry pavement while looking at a lush green landscape seemingly potholed with foundations going in, and structures going up, is a welcoming site for us in the Construction world.

This year we have experienced an early uptick in hiring and opportunity for our Plumbers. Shortly after the holidays Local 15 had started to receive requests for Plumbers and Apprentices, and as the frequency of these requests has increased, we are now facing the challenge of filling the requests in a timely manner. If you had been laid-off, or have been out due to injury and you are ready to return, please call the Hall and give us an update.

By now you all have received the Newsletter from Pipe Trades Services MN. I hope you all take the time to read through it with all that is new at the Wellness Centers, and changing with our Health Care Network. I also want to remind everybody that the Health and Benefits Fair is coming up on Saturday April , 8th from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at US Bank Stadium. Make sure to stop by Pipe Trades Services area at the Health Fair to meet with representatives from Health Partners along with folks from the fund office and Wellness Centers.

**Gas Distribution Members** - Please take the time to return your money allocation ballot.

Have a great spring, and take a moment to make someone's day.

**Fraternaly yours, Scott Gale  
Business Agent**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

I would like to start by welcoming everyone to another spring that has plenty of work. Once again, things are rolling along very well in all our markets.

I often write and speak a lot about our residential market. I recently attended the PHCC Unity Conference of the union PHCC contractors and UA locals from across the country. I can't tell you enough about how important our residential market is. In places like Chicago, they are having trouble holding onto that market. They have a "Schedule A" in place as well as having market recovery funds in place to try to prop up that market and they are still slipping. To keep our rate equal for ALL plumbers is a huge part of keeping us unified. I believe that a single rate is very important for our local. It shouldn't matter if you're piping a new stadium or doing service on a residential house faucet, we are all Local 15 plumbers. To do this, we use our residential rebate program. This is a very cost effective and efficient method to keep our

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Our meeting dates this quarter are: APRIL 18<sup>th</sup>.....MAY 16<sup>th</sup>.....and JUNE 20<sup>th</sup>

If you haven't attended a meeting yet, please seriously consider it, we would love to see you, and remember, the "meetings" are mostly social !!!

**Some Retiree MILESTONE birthdays for this quarter!**

**APRIL:**

10<sup>th</sup>—Gordy Reinking-75  
22<sup>nd</sup>—Ken Freindshuh-70  
30<sup>th</sup>—Chris Pajak-60

**MAY:**

2<sup>nd</sup>—John Sydoski-70  
9<sup>th</sup>—Fred Lane-70  
12<sup>th</sup>—Dick Wagamon-85  
13<sup>th</sup>—Len Gavic-70  
21<sup>st</sup>—Al Gustner-70

**JUNE:**

11<sup>th</sup>—Stan Peterson-80  
27<sup>th</sup>—Ace Scarver-80

**NOTE:** Sometimes I get phone calls, letters, etc. claiming I missed a birthday.....remember the key word here is MILESTONE, meaning it would end with a 5 or a 0.

PS: If you have comments or want to add to this column, Please Email me at: [tculshaw@comcast.net](mailto:tculshaw@comcast.net)  
Cheers, beers, and sunshine !!!!

**Fraternally, Local 15 retired officers,**  
Tom Culshaw,  
Tom Daugherty,  
Ken Friendshuh  
Tom Woodfill

Remember that you have a valuable tool available to help assist you in managing your Defined Contribution Pension investments.

**FOUNDATIONS  
RETIREMENT  
CONSULTING**

Call for an appointment if you have not already done so.  
John and Steve Ehlers  
952-697-3707  
[john.ehlers@lpl.com](mailto:john.ehlers@lpl.com)  
1660 South Highway 100,  
Suite 500, St. Louis Park,  
MN 55416

foothold in our residential market. To lose the residential market will cost you a lot more money than it does to contribute to the rebate program. Health care and pensions would need a lot of money to recoup a 15 to 20 percent loss in revenue. If we lost a 20 percent market share, a boost of over 3 dollars would be needed just to maintain our funds. So again "Thank You" for keeping Local 15 strong!

With that being said, I hope you have yourself a good spring, a little luck on fishing opener and a Happy Easter.

**Sincerely, Joe lane  
Business Agent**

**Hello Brothers and Sisters,**

Hoping everyone had a good winter season and we are now looking forward to the upcoming warmer months of spring and summer. Work in the metro areas as well as our St. Cloud counties is already picking up from a short lull this winter. Looks like it's going to be a very busy and productive construction season.

I would like to take this time to invite all our brothers and sisters to make the effort to attend our monthly union meetings. There is a lot of information presented and discussed at these meetings. The executive board will give a report for the month. This includes items that the E-Board has acted on, as well as money spent or donated with the E-Boards approval. Also, the JJATC will report on activities with training along with upcoming classes, continuing education and various license requirements.

Following the reports of the executive board and the JJATC will be the Business manager and business agent's reports for the month. Information presented will include business operations of our local union, Pipe Trades Services, rebate and market recovery. Also reported to the membership is the man power status along with various job site visits. Discussions and questions are always welcome. Please make an effort to attend these meetings, and let's see if we can boost our monthly attendance. For those of you that attend our unions meetings, I encourage you to invite co-workers to come on down and join us. After the meeting, enjoy a little socializing...beverages are provided. During the warmer months we fire up the grill and have a bite to eat.

Please always remember, be safe out there brothers and sisters. Thank you.

**Respectfully, Scott Lichliter  
Business Agent**

**Local 15 is Hosting the 96th Annual  
Minnesota State Pipe Trades Convention  
Held June 14 - 16 at Mystic Lake Casino**

Our two Delegates elected in March to represent Local 15 along with the full time officers were:

Brother John (Jack) Lawrence  
Brother Scott Sundgaard

**News from the Apprenticeship Office:**

**Coming Soon!!! You will soon be able to download our new app at the Apple Store or Google Play and easily access our webpage, other links & your continuing ed. information with just one click. Check our website soon for additional information!**

**New Apprentices:** Many of you will have the opportunity to work with our new apprentices. Thank you for your commitment with the training of these future plumbers. Your knowledge, patience & expertise is invaluable when it comes to their training in the field.

**ASSE Renewal:** The Minneapolis Plumbers JAC will be offering a 3 night renewal class for members who are already ASSE rebuilder certified. This class will give you 4 technical credits towards your continuing ed. and is offered 5/16, 5/18 & 5/23/17 & 6/13, 6/15, & 6/20/17. ASSE cost is \$75.00. Class size is limited to 20. Registration is closed 1 month prior to class starting.

**ASSE Full Certification:** A 60 hour class will be scheduled in August. Dates are 8/8, 8/10, 8/15, 8/17, 8/22, 8/24, 8/29, 8/31, 9/5, 9/12, 9/14, 9/16, 9/21, 9/26 & 9/28/17. Please call the office to get registered. Class size limited to 20. ASSE's cost is \$190.00.

**Continuing ED Classes:** Ongoing continuing ed. classes are scheduled Thursdays through June 15 & will resume again August 24, 2017.

**2 classes will be scheduled this fall in St Cloud.**

**Med Gas Certification:** The Minneapolis Plumbers JAC will be offering a full Med Gas Certification this fall. This is a 10 night class, dates are 10/3, 10/10, 10/12, 10/17, 10/19, 10/24, 10/26, 11/7, 11/9 & 11/14 from 5:00 – 9:00 pm. Call the office to get registered (612)374-5262. The limit is 20, and NITC's cost is \$180.00.

**Med Gas Recertification Class:** For members who need to renew their installer license or take a continuing ed. class for their existing license a class will be offered on 9/14 with the installer test on 9/21/17. Call the office to register; class size limited to 20. NITC's cost is \$120.00. Class is closed for registration on 8/14/17.

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

Scholarship applications are available. Please call the Hall for more information and to have them mailed out. Some of the applications are available on the web for download, log on to the websites below for more information.

[www.mnpipetrades.org](http://www.mnpipetrades.org)

[www.uanet.org](http://www.uanet.org)

[www.mnaflcio.org/about/scholarships-awards](http://www.mnaflcio.org/about/scholarships-awards)

[www.unionplus.org/college-education-financing/union-plus-scholarship](http://www.unionplus.org/college-education-financing/union-plus-scholarship)

(The deadline for Union Plus was January 31, 2017)