



PLUMBERS LOCAL 15

January * February * March 2015

Event	Date & Time	Place
Union Meeting	January 8 th , February 5 th , March 5 th 7:00	Local 15 Union Hall
Nominations Pipe Trades Convention	February 5 th 2015 @ 7:00	Local 15 Union Hall
Water's off	March 21 st , 2015 7:00 a.m.	Roseville, Radisson
Health Fair 2015	March 28 th , 2015 8:00a.m -2:00	Mpls Convention Ctr

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank our members for all their support over the last year. It's been a great year for Local 15, hours continue to go up and the outlook for next year looks very good as well. Finding members that have Minneapolis Comp cards continues to be a struggle I don't understand why you would limit yourself and be excluded from working in Minneapolis or St. Paul because you don't have this license. We pride ourselves on being the best trained so take advantage of the Journeyman Training classes that the Minneapolis JATC offers.

Thank you to all those that helped out with the Christmas party, especially the retirees for filling the candy bags, cooking the hot dogs and filling balloons, their help is always very much appreciated. Santa made his appearance and promised the kids they would get everything on their wish list, hopefully that came true.

Apprentice applications will be open the first 2 weeks of March, if you know of anyone interested be sure they get in touch with Jack Hettwer at the Apprenticeship office or contact the hall for any additional information. The way it looks now there should be opportunity for helpers this spring also.

I have announced at the last 2 membership meetings that the Minnesota Pipe Trades has an opening for a full time organizer. The job description is on our website or you can contact me. The interviews are set for the end of February, so if you want to apply send your resume to me at the hall or e-mail to ricke@plumberslocal15.com and I will forward it to the Pipe Trades office. Have a great 2015 and work safe.

Sincerely, Rick Eilers
Business Manager

Nominations for the Minnesota Pipe Trades Convention

Nominations: Thursday, February 5th, 2015 @ 7:00
Voting: Thursday, March 5th, 2015 @ 7:00
Run off (in case of tie): Thursday, April 2nd, 2015 @ 7:00

The convention will be held at Treasure Island Casino - Wednesday, June 17th – Friday, June 19th, 2014
(You must be a member in good standing for the period of at least one year to qualify to be nominated)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope all of you and your families have a great holiday season, and I wish you all a Happy New Year! As 2014 passes by, we look back on another year of growth in the construction industry and for Local 15's members. In 2015 we will continue to work to put as much distance as we can between us and those punishingly slow times we all felt through the "Great Recession".

From one union member to another, I would like to take a moment to reflect on some of the benefits we share in by being part of this organization. Our benefits not only include pension and retirement funds, and health insurance, but a Service Association that pioneers things like Family Health and Wellness Centers that provide quality health care, Chiropractic care, health coaching, tobacco cessation, weight management, prescription refills and more. Along with these important benefits, as Plumbers and members of Local 15, we also enjoy the opportunity to further our training and expand our skill sets. In addition, we have access to the required training classes to maintain licensure with the State of Minnesota. The benefit of education and training is easily overlooked, and many times undervalued. The only thing that any Trade Union has to sell its contractors and employers is a skilled and productive workforce. To compete in any market, and to strengthen the bargaining power of our Local Union, we must understand what it is we are providing, and embrace the opportunity to advance ourselves beyond our competition. To put it simply, no different than with your or my families' budgets, it's all about the dollar. As long as we can make our employers "dollars" we can continue to bargain for "dollars".

Thank you for all your effort and support in the past year, and for doing what you can to advance Local 15 and our employers. I look forward to a great year in 2015!

Fraternally yours,
Scott Gale, Business Agent

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank all our members for a successful 2014. Hours are still going up and the work load is still growing. Since we have plenty of work starting or beginning soon, now would be the time to remind everyone that city comp cards are still needed in Minneapolis and St. Paul. As the projects downtown ramp up, we need to be able to provide the plumbers. The applications for apprentices are coming up on the first two weeks of March. If you know of someone who is interested, please be sure to let them know. If they have any questions, have them call to get more information. The more applicants we receive the better pool of labor we have to draw from. Also, if you happen to be working with a helper, remind them also to come down and apply.

Hopefully 2015 will continue to be productive like 2014 was and I would like to wish you a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Joe Lane, Business Agent

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I hope everyone is having a safe and happy holiday season. I would like to thank all that helped with the kids Christmas party. The turnout was a little light, but the kids (and parents and grandparents) that came had a good time with Santa and the face painters. The elf making the balloon animals entertained the kids as well.

Work seems to be picking up in the metro area, and although work is light in the St Cloud area, a few projects are starting in Central Minnesota. In my travels, I'm noticing more new projects popping up. In the City of Minneapolis, there are plenty of tower cranes to be seen. This is a good sign for the building trades! With all the work coming up in the downtown area, it would be a good idea for those members' that do not have a city license, to acquire that city competency card. Like in my last newsletters and in my monthly union meeting reports, I'm going to ask for help in locating new and existing jobs sites. If you see a new jobs starting or know of an existing project, give us a call so we can pay them a visit. We use the internet to locate construction work, but it doesn't list them all. Any help we can get from our members will be appreciated.

In closing, I would just like to wish everyone and their families a Happy New Year. Have a fun and safe winter season...the daylight hours are getting longer!

Fraternally yours,

Scott Lichliter, Business Agent

Credit Union Deduction

\$25.00 will be deducted from your credit union account on February 2nd, 2015, to cover deaths #10-14.

Plumbers' Local 15 members and staff extend their deepest sympathies to the families of...

Emanuel Billstrom	11/24 at the age of 82	Mark Purcell	12/20 at the age of 82
Emil Poscher	11/3 at the age of 83	Reid Ferguson	12/21 at the age of 21
James Hauk	12/10 at the age of 79		

Due to the UA per capita increase, your monthly dues amount will increase starting with your January dues.

As of January 1, 2015 we will be able to accept American Express credit card along with Visa, Master Card.

News from the Apprenticeship Office

Continuing Ed classes are every Thursday from 5 – 9 pm except on Union Meeting nights they are from 2 – 6 pm. We are also offering 2 Saturday classes on February 21, 2015. Water Pipe Supply & Distribution is from 8 am - 12 noon & Drain Waste & Vent from 1 – 5 pm at the union hall. We will also be offering 2 Saturday classes in St Cloud from 9 am – 1 pm. Saturday, February 21, Drain, Waste & Vent and February 28, Plumbing Code & Related Updates. You must register for all continuing ed. classes by calling the office at 612-374-5262 or online at www.training15.com. A schedule of upcoming classes and online payment options are also on our webpage.

RPZ: If you are currently RPZ certified and want to keep your certification with the state you must now attend a 7 night class to bring you up to the new ASSE standards. We are offering this class continuously on Tuesday & Thursday evenings except union meeting nights and holidays. Each class is limited to the first 20 members that pay the fee of \$175.00. The fee must be paid 35 days prior to the tester exam. The schedule for upcoming classes is available online. We currently have many members that are RPZ certified however we have had a limited response to this class so far. Because of the class size limitation many members may not be able to attend the classes offered and will no longer be RPZ certified or will have to pay additional fees elsewhere. Journeyman plumbers must obtain this prior to the end of 2015. This class will count as 4 code and 4 technical credits for your continuing ed. for your plumber's license.

Med Gas testing is offered about every 2 – 3 months for your convenience. The med gas class is a technical class for those not med gas certified or those that are not currently registered with the state. It can be used as code or technical credits for those who are med gas registered with the state.

Applications for the apprenticeship program are available March 2 – 13, 2015, Monday – Friday between 8:00 am – 3:30 pm.

City Test: The City of Minneapolis Competency Test is once again available. Go to <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us> for additional information and application.

Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications will be available at the end of February.

Please call the Hall to get your name on the mailing list.

Some applications are available on the web for download, log on to the websites below for more information.

www.mnpipetrades.org / uanet.org / www.mnaflcio.gov

Union plus Scholarship (deadline January 31, 2015)