



January February March 2016
Union meetings 1 st Thursday of every month 5:00 p.m. E-Board / 7:00 general membership
Waters Off – Saturday March 19 th , 2016
Tax Statements will be mailed the 2 nd week of February

Special Order of Business

**The United Association will hold its 39th Convention in San Diego, CA from August 1,
– August 5th, 2016. Nominations and Election will be held at
Plumbers Local 15 Union Hall 708 South 10th Street Minneapolis, MN**

Nominations - Thursday February 4th 2016 at 7:30

Election Day - Thursday, March 3rd 2016 from 10:00 am – 8:00 pm

Runoff vote (in case of tie) - Thursday April 7th, 2016 at 7:30

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we look back on 2015 it's been a good year for Local 15. We continue to grow in hours and in membership. We have had some slow down but that is typical for construction in the winter months. Our average monthly hours worked for 2015 are the highest we have had since 2007 and since inception of the rebate program our residential housing hours have increased nearly 400%. To all our journeyman and foreman be sure to work with our apprentices and teach them. They are cheaper not because they don't work as hard but because they don't have the knowledge that you have. In the end it is our training and skills that separate us from the non-union. Also to the apprentices you need to become involved with your union. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month, I understand that some of you have school on that night but for the others I encourage you to attend. It's a good way to meet other members and stay informed.

Reminder that apprentice applications will be accepted the first 2 weeks of March (Feb 29th - March 11th), at Dunwoody.

As we move into 2016 I want to wish everyone a safe, happy and prosperous New Year.

**Fraternally, Rick Eilers,
Business Manager**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope all of you and your families had a great holiday season, and I would like to wish you a Happy New Year! With the new year also comes a fresh and new website for Pipe Trades Services of Minnesota Family Health and Wellness Centers <http://ptsmnhealth.org/>. This new website brings you more information found within an easy to navigate page including a listing of the services provided, locations and hours, a current listing and profile of the Doctors and staff, and many other resources relating to you and your families health and wellness. We are continuously working to help improve you and your family's lives, so please check them out when you get a chance.

We have had a pretty mild fall and start to our winter which has helped keep construction projects moving at a good pace. Looking back through the year, employment in 2015 for Local 15 has very good. Hours overall have been up from previous years, and the average hours worked on a monthly basis by our members have also increased in 2015. Feedback from our contractors, and also data from a Construction Industry Assessment report from the Minnesota AGC indicates that in 2016 building activity should remain steady. Much of last year's work had been within Minneapolis and St Paul, providing opportunity for those with City Competency cards. This year will likely be the same. If you have recently finished your Apprenticeship, or have not yet got your Minneapolis Comp. card, I urge you to do so. It will not guarantee you work in the future, but without it your opportunities are drastically reduced. Please be safe out there, and take advantage of educational and training opportunities to be the best you can.

Fraternally yours, Scott Gale, Business Agent

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Back in the summer of 2013 newsletter, I wrote about the By-Laws of supplying your own tools. I haven't been hearing much on that lately, but as a reminder, remember that it is your contractors responsibility to supply and transport tools and equipment. With this, we as employees have the responsibility for proper care of all tools and equipment supplied to us. By contract, if it has been determined that the loss or damage of tools and equipment is the result of negligence and the union has been properly notified, you could be held responsible to compensate the loss. We all know that tools and equipment wear and break during normal use, but neglect and outright abuse won't be tolerated. The contractor has to properly mark all equipment and tools and supply a secure and safe place for storage. Any loss or damage must be reported immediately to your employer. All this brings it back to the point that we don't supply our own tools or equipment. If you brought

a bunch of tools to a job and they get stolen, you'll be on your own. Leave tools to the contractors. Any concerns, please call us at the hall.
Hope everyone has a nice winter and please be careful on the ice or on your snowmobiles.

Sincerely, Joe Lane, Business Agent
Hello Brothers and Sisters,

One of the questions that are asked from time to time is an explanation of what shift work is, and what the rate of pay is. Shift work may be performed at the option of the employer, however when shift work is performed, it must continue for a period of not less than 5 consecutive days. Employees working the second or third shift shall receive pay for the actual hours worked. The hourly rate for employees working on the second or third shift shall be 15% over and above the wage and fringe benefit package. Shift work starting times:

First Shift	7:00 am
Second Shift	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Third Shift	11:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

In excess of 8 hours on first shift will be time and one half for the first 2 hours, after the first two hours of overtime all hours worked will be at double time.
On a 2nd or 3rd shift all hours worked in excess of 8 hours will be at double time.
Past contracts have required a first shift before you can have a second shift and a second shift before you can have a third shift. That requirement no longer applies.
Reminder, shift work MUST continue for at least 5 consecutive days.
All members interested in local 15 apparel, check out the plumbers local 15 website at www.plumberslocal15.com. Clothing will be under members gear. Have a look at the new t-shirt design!
I would like to thank all those who helped with the kids Christmas party, it was very much appreciated.
To all members and their families, be safe out there this winter season. (Not much of a winter so far...)

Fraternally yours,
Scott Lichliter, Business Agent

News from the Apprenticeship Office
Continuing Education:

Classes are offered every Thursday evening from 5 – 9 pm, except union meeting nights from 2 – 6 pm, at the union hall. You can register online at www.training15.com or by calling 612-374-5262. All plumbers need 12 hours of code & 4 hours of technical during their current 2 year cycle. This applies to master plumbers for 2015 – 16 & journeyman from 2016 – 17. You can register & view the calendar of classes offered at www.training15.com. New classes will start to replace some of our existing classes as they become available throughout the year.

St Cloud Continuing Ed Classes: The Apprenticeship Committee is offering 2 classes, 2015 Plumbing Code, 4 code credits, on 3/25 & Protecting Potable Water, 4 technical credits, on 4/8/16 from 3:45 – 7:45 pm at the Rasmussen College.

Med Gas Continuing Education: A 4 hour class is available on January 14 & will also be offered again in April. All members registered with the state must

complete this during their current cycle. Check your State Med Gas issued card to see when it expires.

Med Gas & ASSE Backflow Full Certification classes will be available later this summer.
ASSE Recertification Classes are available continuously on Tuesday & Thursdays, except union meeting nights. This is a 7 night class. ASSE charges \$190.00 for the test. You must attend all classes.

Apprenticeship Applications: The Committee will be taking applications for the apprenticeship program February 29, - March 11, 2016, M – F, 8:00 – 3:30. Please help us get the word out to anyone you may who would be interested in a career as a plumber. Applicants must apply in person.

NEWZ FROM THE
AARP - Active Attractive Retired Plumbers

Dear Retired Brothers and Sisters,
Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas season, and wishing all a very Happy New Year.

Our monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday each month at Elsie's Bar/Restaurant
Located at 729 Marshall St. NE in Minneapolis. We order off the regular menu at 1:00, conduct a portion of the meeting while the food is being prepared, then eat, drink, and finish the meeting.

We collect a \$3.00 dues fee per meeting. The meeting dates for the first quarter of 2016 are: January 19th, February 16th & March 15th. Please consider attending a meeting soon, new members are encouraged and always welcome!
HOPE TO SEE A LOT OF NEW FACES IN THE COMING YEAR!!!
Thank you to the following for helping at the Childrens Christmas party at the hall on Dec 12th Tom Daugherty, Bob Hansen, Roger Peterson, Les Ripka, John Sydloski & Curt Vreeman.

Some <u>MILESTONE</u> birthdays being celebrated this quarter:					
<u>January 2016</u>		<u>Age</u>	<u>March 2016</u>		<u>Age</u>
3 rd	Jerry Haeg	80	12 th	Gino Hebzynski	75
18 th	Arlow Skjegstad	95	20 th	Bob Okerstrom	75
18 th	Jim Hastert	80	20 th	Merle Maish	80
26 th	Greg Stone	70	25 th	Pete Welter	70
<u>February 2016</u>		<u>Age</u>	29 th	Jack Whiteford	80
17 th	Elmer Roos	85	31 st	Ed Foertsch	80
24 th	John Polfliet	70	31 st	Leo Kautz	85

If anyone would like to add to this article, please e-mail me at tculshaw@comcast.net
Fraternally, Local #15 retired officers, Tom Culshaw, Tom Woodfill, Ken Friendshuh, and Tom Daugherty

Credit Union Deduction
February 1st, 2016 \$40.00 will be deducted from your account to cover deaths # 10-14
Plumbers' Local 15 members and staff extend their deepest sympathies to the *families of...*

Paul Sterbuck age 80 on Oct 12 th
Manfred Nieder age 81 on Oct 24 th
Peter Chrzanak age 69 on Nov 3 rd
Dale Fowser age 71 on Nov 9 th
Richard Smebak age 70 on Dec 25 th