

Plumbers Local 15 Newsletter – January * February * March 2014
Union Meetings - First Thursday of every month
January 2nd, February 6th, March 6th - 5:00 p.m. - Executive Board - 7:00 p.m. Membership

Upcoming Events

<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Place</u>
Saturday April 5 th	Water's Off	Radisson Hotel – Roseville
Saturday April 26 th	Pipe Trade Service MN/Health Fare	Mpls Convention Center

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Well another year has come and gone and hopefully the holidays were good to you and your family. Our Christmas party was a great success this year. I want to thank the retirees again for coming early and filling balloons and more than 200 bags of candy for the kids.

Our hours continue to grow and in fact 2013 was our strongest year since 2008 and more than a 22% increase over 2012. The outlook for 2014 continues to look strong. I know there are a lot of members wondering about getting hired on for the Vikings Stadium but that looks like it is probably January of 2015 before manpower peaks somewhere around 50 plumbers. Competency cards are required to work in the City of Minneapolis but as of now the city has not made any more provisions to give the test. We are hoping they will have the provisions to give the test by spring. Once we have more information we will post it on plumberslocal15.com.

We will be taking apprentices again this year if you know of anyone interested have them contact Jack Hettwer at 612-374-5262. They have to have a high school diploma or a GED and be 18 years old. Applications are taken the first 2 weeks of March.

I am happy to announce that as of January 1, 2014 we are going back to the reduced dues structure of 1.85 times the gross hourly rate nearest \$0.50 plus UA per capita as spelled out in our bylaws.

Sincerely, Rick Eilers – Business Manager

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope that 2013 was a good year for you and your families, and that 2014 will bring you opportunity, and prosperity. We have had good news this year for our members working in the public sector, after having wages frozen for the past few years we have been able to negotiate increases that started in contracts effective in 2013. The best news was for our permanent members working for Minneapolis Public Schools, who had fallen significantly far behind the wage rates for our plumbers working in the private sector, and will now be caught back up with the industry.

Also good news, hours worked by Local #15's St. Cloud area members have been increasing. With the monthly average hours worked for the first half of fiscal year 2013-2014, surpassing the monthly average hours worked for the past ten years.

We are looking at another strong year again in 2014 for our members working in the Gas Distribution/Pipeline field. Along with the increase in work we saw for this industry, we also gained a new contractor working Distribution in the State of Minnesota. Welcome - MP Technologies and their employee's!

With hours being up in all area's for Local #15 members it has helped your funds significantly. With costs continuously rising in the Health Care industry, and the impacts from the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the Health and Welfare Fund has remained in good shape. We will have recommendations regarding contributions to Health and Welfare prior to the April Union meeting when the membership will be voting on the allocation of the increase coming for May 1st, 2014.

A few closing reminders. If you or your family has not yet visited one of PipeTrades Services Minnesota's Health and Wellness Centers, please make an effort to do so in 2014. The successes, and the positive feedback from our members that have used them has been outstanding. Local 15's website continues to expand. You can find meeting dates, along with upcoming continuing education and Journeyman training class dates and information in the calendar on the home page. We also now have pictures and pricing for Local #15 clothing on the merchandise page of our website. Check it out! Stay safe, stay warm, and enjoy the moments you get to pursue hobbies and interests.

Sincerely - Scott Gale, Business Agent

January 2014

I hope each of you had a very Merry Christmas. As we all know 2013 has been a recovery year for all of us at Local #15. From where we were to where we are now has not come easy. Yes the economy is back on track and recovering just as we are. But we are recovering faster, much faster than most unions in the construction industry. When we were in the hole there was a lot of pressure for us to cut our residential new home and residential service member's pay. Some said we could not compete with the non-union in the housing market. That the housing market was lost and we should just accept it and move on! Just let it go completely! Many thought we should focus on the commercial construction market only. I cannot believe that people would say, or think that, but they did. That's pretty much normal thinking in periods of dark times, when problems seem insurmountable. Everyone and every business has a dark period in life...ours were the past 5 years. When you go through a period like we did you have to think outside the box.

We couldn't look at a long term problem with short term thinking and that's what we were doing to solve our problems. When \$.68 of every construction dollar is spent in the residential markets you just cannot let that market go! It's the start of the end for us as union members. The residential markets are the gateway for the non-union to gain strength and access into other markets such as our light commercial, commercial and then our industrial markets. We must have the resolve to remain competitive with our residential contractors, keeping the non-union weak and on the defensive. Just stop and think how many industries are based on residential construction - lumber, concrete, roofing, windows, siding, carpeting, kitchen appliances, furnaces and air conditioners just to name a few. Then we have the plumbing manufactures of water heaters, water softeners, plumbing fixtures, toilets, sinks and faucets. The list just goes on and on for companies and tradesman that are affected with the ups and down of the housing market. We are pretty much the only union that has members working in the new home construction and residential service markets. Unfortunately the other few that do, if any at all, work at a reduced residential pay rate. We are the only union in the Twin Cities where we are all paid equally, no matter what markets we may choose to work in. **And why? "Long term thinking"**

Happy New Year and Thank you!

Tom Martin, Business Agent

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome 2014! One year ago, in my first newsletter, I made mention that I felt 2013 would be a good year. As it turned out, it was. Hours were up, membership grew and construction ramped up. Better news is, the amount of work coming up in 2014. The new Viking Stadium has had its ground breaking and the first tower cranes go up in January. The bulk of the work force won't be needed till late spring / early summer, but it's good to know that it's starting. The city council approved the Ryan project next to the stadium. That will be a huge project with office, retail, housing, parking, and green space totaling over 1.2 million square feet, provided it clears some last minute legal objections. And of course, apartment construction isn't slowing down.

Some resent job issues I've been encountering has been work jurisdiction. In the past month I've dealt with several research and development jobs. According to our trade line agreement, ALL piping and equipment in scientific, medical, veterinarian, pharmaceutical, food product, or experimental facility is the work of the plumber, with the exception of quality control or research and development of a "Specific Product". I know that sometimes you don't know what type of facility you are dealing with. Like always, call. We are more than happy to come out and get a solution resolved for you. Please give us as much notice as possible. Don't wait until the last moment.

Best wishes to you for the New Year and hopefully we continue to have a positive outlook for 2014.

Sincerely - Joe Lane, Business Agent

JAC - Continuing Education

Continuing Education is now mandatory for all master and journeyman plumbers. Master plumbers started during their 2013 -14 licensing cycle with journeyman starting 2014 – 15. You must get 12 hours of code related and 4 hour technical credits during your cycle to renew your license. With the demand for classes the Minneapolis Plumbers J.J.A.T.C. will be offering classes every Thursday and plans to offer a few 8 hour classes on Saturdays at the Plumber's Local #15 Union Hall. This will start on January 16, 2014. Please refer to www.training15.com or www.plumberslocal15.com for the first 4 classes offered. The websites will be updated as additional classes become approved.

You must register for these classes by calling the Training Center at 612-374-5262. Contractor members and members who's employer does not pay into the training fund pay a \$50.00 fee that needs to be sent to the J.J.A.T.C 's office prior to class. For ease of payment we now offer credit/debit card options.

Dues rates effective January 2014

Minneapolis Journeyperson	Working	Non-Working (80 hours or less)	St. Cloud Journeyperson	Working	Non-working
	\$137.00	\$55.00		\$129.00	\$51.50
Apprentices					
Apprentices Indentured BEFORE January 2013	Working	Non-Working (80 hours or less)	St. Cloud	Working	Non-Working
45%	\$87.00	\$35.00	45%	\$82.50	\$33.00
55%	\$97.50	\$39.00	55%	\$93.00	\$37.00
65%	\$109.00	\$43.50	65%	\$104.00	\$41.50
75%	\$117.00	\$47.00	75%	\$111.50	\$44.50
85%	\$123.00	\$49.00	85%	\$117.00	\$47.00
Apprentices Indentured AFTER January 2013	Working	Non-Working (80 hours or less)	Gas Distribution Fusers & Welder Helpers		
40%	\$69.00	\$27.50	Working	Non-Working	
50%	\$80.50	\$32.00	\$49.00	\$25.00	
60%	\$92.50	\$37.00	Welders		
70%	\$106.50	\$42.50	Working	Non-Working	
80%	\$114.50	\$46.00	\$103.00	\$41.00	

Credit Union Deduction

\$25.00 will be deducted from your credit union account on February 1, 2014 for deaths #11-15
Plumbers' Local 15 members and staff extend their deepest sympathies to the families of...

Member name	Date & age of death
Earle Erickson	Oct 6 @ age 82
Harvey Malmborg	Oct 16 @ age 89
Patrick Murray	Oct 16 @ age 45
Wallace Scott	Oct 29 @ age 89
Gerald Leaf	Nov 11 @ age 80

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.mnafclicio.gov