



January * February * March 2018

Union meetings are the 1st Thursday of the month

5:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. General Membership Meeting

WATERS OFF 2018 - Saturday April 7th

MN Pipe Trades Convention Delegate Nominations:

February 1st Meeting - See page 2

Local 15 extends our deepest sympathies to the families of:

Floyd Wall age 93

Norris Hanson age 95

Gerald P Anderson age 83

Dennis Jung age 65

CREDIT UNION DEDUCTION

On Feb 1st, \$32.00 will be deducted from your Credit Union account to cover deaths #13-16

Pipe Trades Services of Minnesota:

www.ptsmn.org
(651)645-4540

Wellness Centers:

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

AARP

(THE Active Attractive Retired Plumbers) Retired Brothers & Sisters,

Happy New Year to all our retired brothers and sisters...hope 2017 was good to you!

Our annual Christmas party for our active retiree's on December 12th was a huge success, with nearly 60 people attending. Again the food and drink was excellent, as were the stories, conversations and people...a wonderful time for all!

Thank you to the following brothers for helping at the children's Christmas party at the Union hall on December 9th,

Tom Daugherty,
Dan Bobb,
John Sydloski,
Tom Sydloski,
Les Ripka, and
Roger Peterson.

Our meetings for the first quarter of 2018 are as follows:

Remember to also check us out at:

www.plumberslocal15.com

 facebook.com/Plumbers15

 twitter.com/Plumbers15

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It's been a busy year and 2018 looks to be just as good. For the fiscal year 2016-2017 Local 15 members worked 1,965,977 hours. That's almost back to pre-recession hours. The last time we worked 2,000,000 hours in one year was 10 years ago. We all know how fast things can change but so far next year looks very promising.

Thank you to Tom Culshaw and the retirees for donating their time to come in early to fill bags of candy and help set up for the Christmas party. The retirees filled nearly 200 bags of candy to give away to the kids. We had a great time and hopefully it will continue to grow and get even better. On another note, Jack Lawrence has put together an Entertainment committee to look at ways to improve and promote the Picnic and Christmas party. They were also wondering if there is any interest in having a holiday dinner and dance. This is something that Local 15 used to do, but hasn't for many years.

Just a reminder if you want to get on the electronic mailing list please send us your email address and we will add you to the list for the newsletter and any other important information that we need to get out to our members.

I want to say thank you to all our members that volunteered their time for the Veterans Homeless shelter in Anoka. This was a big undertaking but thanks to all the volunteers donating several hundred hours there are 30 veterans that are no longer sleeping outside. I want to thank my brother Gary Eilers, a retired 46-year member of Local 15, for taking the lead on this project.

Finally, I want to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and good luck ice fishing.

Sincerely,

Rick Eilers, Business Manager

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Generally speaking, it has been a great year for construction and the members of Local 15. This is a good time of the year to reflect, and to take a look back over the past 12 months to gain a deeper appreciation for the impact this healthy construction economy has had. Not only for your family's pocket book, but also for your fringe benefit funds. I am only stating the obvious when I point out that hours worked are up. Meaning contributions to our Health and Welfare plans are up, Pensions, Training Funds, and the other ancillary funds that are so important for maintaining the strength of Local 15 and the United Association in our territorial

jurisdiction. This is great stuff! Having a few good years back to back like this helps our plans stay well funded, and hopefully gives you a little extra assurance that your retirement will be sound and well worth the years of hard work you put in.

I would like to thank our retirees that helped with the Christmas party, and all of you who volunteered and helped out with the Eagles Healing Nest project up in Anoka. Whether it's for a social event for the Local, or a project out in the community, volunteerism is an important part of this brother/sisterhood. It helps strengthen the bond among us as Union brothers and sisters, and connects us to our communities that we also rely on to use us in the construction and service of their homes and buildings.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas, and hope that you have a great New Year!

Fraternally yours,

Scott Gale, Business Agent

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome in 2018. I believe that the outlook continues to look promising. Our hours in 2017 rose again for the 6th straight year and 2018 shouldn't be any different. All parts of our industry still continue to grow. New homes, apartments, restaurants, warehouses, medical facilities and schools are still on the books. For example, this November, Minnesotans passed high numbers of school referendums including districts like Anoka passing a 249 million dollar levy. A couple billion dollars in schools around the area means a lot of work for our members.

A couple of times in the newsletters, I've made mention about "Banking Hours". I just want to make it clear what this may be since some of our members are not quite sure what this includes. First of all, your work day is 8 hours. Anything more is over time or double time depending on the circumstances. The exception is an allowance for 4 day – 10 hour work week. Working 4 -8 ½ days and leaving early Friday is an example of banking hours. Another example would be storing up hours over a period of time that should have been paid at overtime or double time rate but instead being used to get a paid day or two off. You are violating working rules doing this and your employer is violating the law as well. Local 15 has made it clear to the contractors that this practice is going to stop.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Years and want to finish up by expressing caution on the lakes and snowmobile trails this winter and please stay safe on your job sites.

Best Regards,

Joe Lane, Business Agent

January 16th

February 20th

March 20th

The 3rd Tuesday of
each month.

All meetings are at
Elsie's ([729 Marshall
St. NE](#)) and commence
at 1:00, with cocktails
(if desired) any time
prior to the start of
the meeting.

It would be nice to see
some new faces again this
year. I know there are
465 of you out there, so
please plan on attending
as many
meetings as you can. The
meetings are very casual,
and much more social
then "meeting".

Get well wishes go out to
the following brothers
who are dealing with
various health issues:
Dick Welshons, and
Tom Woodfill.

If you know these guys,
give them a call, I know
they would love to hear
from you! GET WELL
SOON!

Some MILESTONE
birthdays being
celebrated this quarter:

JANUARY:

6th Doug Lidstone 65
17th Wayne Bancroft 60
21st Sam Blackburn 65
22nd Michael Adelman 65

FEBRUARY:

15th Joe Forster 70
16th Tom Sydloski 75
17th Bob Hollenback 80
24th Bill Sederstrom 75
24th Glenn Erickson 70

MARCH:

7th Bob Bergeron 80
19th Todd Packer 65
20th Allen Anderson 70
24th Richard Wallace 70
30th Tim Pease 75

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL
celebrating a birthday this
quarter!

FRATERNALLY, LOCAL #15 RETIRED OFFICERS:

Tom Culshaw,
Ken Friendshuh,
Tom Daugherty, and
Tom Woodfill

PS...will see everyone
on the 16th of January



Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I'm going to start this article by saying Merry
Christmas and Happy Holidays to you all!

Although we are in our typical early winter work
slowdown, the outlook for the 2018
construction season is very good. There are still
multiple tower cranes in downtown Minneapolis
and St. Paul, with more projects being planned
and bid for the downtown areas. There are also
plenty of projects progressing in the outer
suburbs and communities, with more coming in
2018.

The St. Cloud areas also have more projects and
work coming in 2018. Tech High School is in the
bidding stages; Blattner Energy is going to put
on another addition in Avon. St. Cloud State
University has Eastman Hall and other work
coming up. Jennie-O has a large new building
going in Melrose, and Glenwood Hospital is
planning more improvements; just to name a
few.

I want to thank all the local members who
volunteered their time at the Eagles Nest
Homeless Vets facility in Anoka. Many building
trades members volunteered their time, and
union contractors donated tools and materials
to convert one of the buildings at the old Anoka
State Hospital into a shelter for homeless
veterans. Again, thank you to our members and
also our contractors who donated their time and
materials to this great cause.

In closing, everyone have a great holiday and
Christmas season, and as always , please be safe
out there.

Respectfully Yours,
Scott Lichliter, Business Agent

News From The Apprenticeship Office:

Get Connected! Download our app,
Local15Training, at the Google or App Store.
You can register for class, check your continuing
ed. credits, make secure online payments for
tuition or classes & so much more!

The Minneapolis Plumbers Apprenticeship Committee is offering the following classes:

Continuing Ed: Minneapolis classes start right
back up every Thursday starting January 4, 2018.
We also have Tuesday classes on January 16,
February 13 & March 18/18 from 5 – 9 pm. A 2
session Saturday class will be offered on April
14th from 8:00 am – 12 noon & 1:00 -5:00 pm.

St Cloud Continuing Ed: On March 21st & 28th
the Committee will be offering 2 classes, 1 code
& 1 technical class from 3:45 - 7:45 pm at the
Rasmussen College. Please call to reserve a
place in these classes.

City Test Prep Class: This is a 3 night
review/prep class for those interested in
obtaining their Minneapolis/St Paul comp card
on March 19, 20 & 22, 2018. Call the office to
register at 612-374-5262.

ASSE Renewal: Classes for your backflow
renewal are being offered. This class is a 3 night
class that will give you 4 technical credits.
Classes are January 23, 25, 30,
February 20, 22 & 27 & March 20, 22 & 27.

**ASSE charges \$75.00 that must be paid 35 days
prior to the start of class.**

Med Gas Renewal: The next class is scheduled
for March 15th with the installer exam on the
22nd. **NITC charges \$120.00 which must be paid
35 days prior to the test date.**

**Full Certification Classes for Med Gas & RPZ
Rebuilder:** If you are interested in one or both
of these certifications please call the office at
612-374-5262. If we have a minimum of 15
interested members we will put a class on prior
to next summer's planned classes. **Cost is
\$180.00 & \$190.00 respectively & must be
received 30 days prior to class starting.**

Apprentice Applications: If you know of anyone
interested in becoming a plumber please let
them know applications will be available
February 26th – March 9th M – F, 8:00 am – 3:30
pm. They can always call the office with
questions prior too.

Minnesota State Pipe Trades Convention

The Minnesota State Pipe Trades Convention
will be held in St. Paul, Minnesota for 2018 at
the Intercontinental Hotel.

Convention Dates are: June 13th - 15th.

Local 15 will have 2 Delegates elected from the
body, along with our Business Manager and
Agents to represent us at the convention.

Nominations for Delegates will be at the
February 1st Union Meeting.

Election of Delegates will be at the March 1st
Union Meeting.

**In the case of a tie, the run-off election will be
held at the April 5th Union Meeting.**

Waters Off 2018

Waters Off 2018 will be on Saturday April 7th at
the Radisson Hotel in Roseville, MN.

Volunteers will be needed once again to help
make this another successful event. This is our
biggest opportunity to help our communities,
and also bring some "good press" for Local #15,
and Unions in general. If you are able to help
again this year, or are wanting to participate for
the first time, please give any of us a call at the
Hall - (612)333-8601 and we will answer your
questions and help get you signed up.

**Thanks to all of you that have participated in
Waters Off in the past!**

From all of us at Local 15:

**May your New Years Eve ring with cheer!
Making the start of a blessed New Year!**