



January \* February \* March \* 2017

Union meetings 1st Thursday of every month  
5:00 p.m. E-Board / 7:00 p.m. General Membership

**Waters Off 2017** - Saturday March 25th  
\*\*See Sidebar for more information

## HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL OF US AT LOCAL 15 !

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

Howard Dalzell 9/29/16  
Scott Denzer 10/16/16  
Brett Paulson 10/15/16  
Ernest Smith 11/7/16

### CREDIT UNION DEDUCTION

January 2nd, 2017 \$32.00 will be deducted from your account to cover deaths # 18-21

### TAX STATEMENTS

Your Tax statements for dues and death assessments paid in 2016 will be mailed the 2nd week of February. We will not have the hours from Pipe Trades Services until then to complete the statements, so please be patient.

### WATERS OFF 2017

Waters Off will be Saturday March 25th this year. We will meet at the Roseville Radisson again this year for Breakfast at 7:00 am. Please call the hall for more information and to volunteer

### NEW U.A. CARDS

While you are examining your new U.A. membership card, please check for any errors and contact us if you have any corrections. You will also notice some minor differences from the previous card. The new cards have a QR scan code on the back, and no longer have a place for dues stamps. So for those of you self paying dues, you will not need to mail in your card with your payment.

### Pipe Trades Services of Minnesota:

www.ptsmn.org  
(651)645-4540  
**Wellness Centers:**  
(651)348-8851 metro  
(507)218-3095 Rochester

### Congratulations Pam!

Local 15 office Professional Pam Wrolstad is retiring in February after 42 years of dedicated service. Pam has been the go to person in this office for the past 7 Business Managers and many more Business Agents. Her knowledge, professionalism and friendship will be greatly missed by all of us. We will have an open house on Friday February 3rd from 10AM-3PM with cake and coffee for those of you that would like to stop by and wish Pam a happy retirement.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to start out by thanking everyone who attended our Christmas party for the kids. I hope all that attended had a fun afternoon with their children and grandchildren. Thank you again to the retirees that came in early to help with set up and preparation. Your help is always appreciated.

As you have seen from pension statements, our local pension funding status has dropped slightly. The pension is still in the "Green" but we are going to have to take a look at some different options to keep the pension well-funded for the long term. The Trustees have always been proactive rather than reactive, and this is one of the reasons we continue to have a sound pension plan. The Trustees have been looking at multiple options including retirement ages, pension credit value, and assumed rate of returns. We may have to make changes to one or all of those options. Like I said, our Local pension is healthy but to keep the funds in good shape now, will only make it better in the future.

Coming up soon, the JATC will start accepting applications for apprenticeship. Applications will be available February 27<sup>th</sup> – March 10<sup>th</sup> at our training center located at 818 Dunwoody Boulevard. If you have any questions, please call.

I would like to wish everyone a happy 2017.  
Have a good and safe winter.

**Respectfully, Rick Eilers**  
**Business Manager**

### Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you all had a good Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Looking back at 2016, Local 15 was very busy. Most of our members were able to stay working throughout the year, and in addition Local 15 started another large group of Apprentices, organized new members, placed a number of Helpers with our Contractors, and had several

Travelers come into our jurisdiction to help fill the need for Plumbers that the season brought us. Brothers and Sisters, what a great year end statement to be able to make about our union! And as 2017 unfolds the coming year looks very promising as well.

Another positive note for 2016 was the opening of the new Pipe Trades Services MN office and Wellness Center (with a new state of the art VSP vision clinic) in White Bear Lake, and the addition of a Rochester Wellness Center. The Labor Health Fair this year will be held on April 8th at US Bank Stadium. Come out and meet some of our vendors, learn how to improve your health and the lives of your family, and also check out the new home of the Minnesota Vikings.

**Gas Distribution Members** - Please remember to call the hall when you are laid-off for the season so we can get you on non-working status for your dues.

2017 Mileage rate change: The I.R.S. mileage rate change effective January 1, 2017 for business miles driven dropped from 54 cents/mile to 53.5 cents/mile.

Have a great winter, and I hope to see many of you at Waters Off in March.

**Fraternaly yours, Scott Gale**  
**Business Agent**

### Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With 2016 finishing, it is nice to say that our hours are still going up. It appears that all of our markets continue to grow and 2017 looks to be more of the same. As we look to our future, it would be appropriate to mention that applications for the apprenticeship will be coming up again soon. If you know of anyone looking to get into a new career, you may want to send them our way.

Part of your earnings are deposited with the Building Trades Federal Credit Union. I represent Local 15 serving on the Supervisory Committee at the bank. There has been a bit of discussion about the bank and some of the services that are provided. I want the Building Trades Credit Union to represent us the best way possible. If you have any feedback you can give me, positive or negative, I would like to hear about it. If I don't hear from anyone, I would have to believe that things there are fine. Because of some of the feedback I have already received, I know that some of you have had some issues so please let me know.

(continued on next page)



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

**HAPPY NEW  
YEAR TO ALL  
!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Our annual Christmas party for the ACTIVE Retired members held on December 6<sup>th</sup>, was a huge success with over 60 members and spouses attending.

GOOD food, GOOD drink, GOOD conversation, and VERY GOOD people !!! Thank you to all active members who keep this organization afloat. So....to the new ( or not so new ) retirees, please consider attending some meetings in the coming year.

The "meetings" are about 10% meeting, and 90% social.

Meetings are every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at Elsie's located at 729 Marshall St. NE. Starting at 1:00 pm Social hour starts whenever you get there !!

Meeting dates for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2017 are:  
JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>  
FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>  
MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>

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

**January**  
6<sup>th</sup> - John Strand-80  
15<sup>th</sup> -Rex Scott-85

**February**  
6<sup>th</sup> -David Pearson-80  
21<sup>st</sup> -Ed Ripka-70  
22<sup>nd</sup> -Jim Epperson-95

**March**  
9<sup>th</sup> -Al Morrow-75  
19<sup>th</sup> -Clarence Nalawaya-75  
26<sup>th</sup> -Jack Spetz-70

Questions or concerns about this article,  
E mail me at  
[tculshaw@comcast.net](mailto:tculshaw@comcast.net)

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

I would like to wish everyone the best for 2017 and remind everyone to be safe one the job, at home and on the ice.

**Sincerely, Joe lane  
Business Agent**

**Hello Brothers and Sisters,**

Winter has arrived! As with most winter seasons, new job start-ups have slowed down. Some projects that were started in the fall have shut down for winter. We all know this happens almost every year. There are still plenty of active projects in the Minneapolis and St. Cloud counties as well. Looking ahead, 2017 looks like another great year for the construction industry.

A subject I would like to touch on is working outside local 15's jurisdiction. If you "travel" to another local's area, YOU MUST check into that areas union hall. It is not your contractor's responsibility, it is yours. It's not only a courtesy, there is paper work for you to sign so your benefits get back to your home locals fringe office. If these reciprocity papers aren't signed, the fringe office for the local union whose area you are working in will send the money back to the contractor. You could lose benefit money. If you have any question as to the location, or local's area you may be working in, please call local 15's hall. Also, if you have a traveler on your crew here in local 15's area, please remind them to check in with us.

In closing, I want to thank all those who were able to attend the kids Christmas/holiday party, and also all the members who were at the St. Cloud meeting and dinner. We had 43 brothers and sisters at our St. Cloud Holiday/Christmas get together-Great turnout!! Have a very safe winter season.

**Respectfully yours, Scott Lichliter  
Business Agent**

**News from the Apprenticeship Office:**

**GREAT NEWS! You can now easily view your continuing ed. classes that you have attended directly with the state.**

**Go to [www.training15.com](http://www.training15.com) under check your CE credits here. After putting in your information, click on view details & enter the last 4 digits of your social security number.**

**Backflow Prevention:** Anyone who has not updated their RPZ license to the ASSE standard will no longer be able to & must now take a full 60 hour certification class. The next available class will be this summer/fall. Please contact the office to register for this class. If there is a need for a class prior to this we will then be able to notify you.

**For those that are now updated to the ASSE standards:** You will need to take a 12 hour class prior to the expiration of your ASSE card. IAPMO is sending out renewal class notices to anyone with this certificate. However, our renewal classes through ASSE will begin in March/April. This class will give you 4 technical credits. The current fee ASSE charges is \$75.00.

**Med Gas:** Continuing ed. is required for your current med gas card & must be completed prior to the expiration of your state med gas card. This class is being offered on 2/9/17 at 5 pm in Minneapolis & 1/26/17 in St Cloud. The installer exam is scheduled for 2/16/17 at 5 pm for members who need to update their installer license. NITC charges \$120.00 for the 40 question test & book.

**St Louis Park Gas Competency Card:** If you hold a Minneapolis, St Paul or Bloomington gas competency card you can also get your St Louis Park competency card through reciprocity. St Louis Park requires 6 hours of continuing ed. every 3 years prior to renewing your competency card with them. We will be offering classes going forward that not only will fulfill the St Louis Park continuing ed. requirements but will also give you 4 hours technical credits that can be applied to your state plumbing license. These classes would also benefit anyone interest in taking their Minneapolis/St Paul competency exam.

**St Cloud Classes:** The Apprenticeship Committee is offering 2 classes this winter. January 26, 2017 is Medical Gas NFPA 99 & Water Heaters & Piping Distribution, a code class, on 2/9/2017.

**Call the office or register online at [training15.com](http://training15.com). Both classes will be held at Rasmussen College from 3:45 – 7:45 pm.**

**\*There is no smoking allowed on their grounds.**

**APPRENTICE APPLICATIONS**

We will be taking applications for the apprenticeship program February 27th through March 10th, 2017 from 8:00 am – 3:30 pm M – F. Please let others know that may be interested in applying.

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

Scholarship applications will be available at the end of February. Please call the Hall to get on the mailing list. 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 is January 31, 2017)

**Local 15 will be Hosting the 2017  
Minnesota Pipe Trades Convention  
To be Held at Mystic Lake Casino**

**Nominations for Delegates to the Convention will be accepted at the February Union Meeting on Thursday February 2nd, 2017**

Voting will take place at the March 2nd, 2017 Union Meeting. In the case of a tie, a runoff election will take place at the April 6th, 2017 Union Meeting.

**\*Delegates must be a member in good standing for a minimum period of one (1) year prior to nominations.**