



July * August * September 2015

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

Sunday, August 23rd, 2015 Annual Family Picnic

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank the officers and E-Board for all their hard work on the contract. We spent many hours in negotiations and agreed to a 3 year contract at \$2.00 each year. The members approved the contract by a vote of 393 to accept and 147 to reject. Thank you to all the members that showed up for the vote.

I would like to welcome both the new officers of Local 15 and those that got re-elected in our general election. We only had 178 vote in our elections which I can only assume means that everyone is happy and work is good.

We brought in 50 new apprentices this year. Much of the knowledge they will get will come from the foreman and journeyman that they are working with. I know the jobs are pushed hard but take a little time with the apprentice when you can to help train them.

I attended the Minnesota Pipe Trades conference in June and we had many of the UA officers attend to update us on where they see the future of the UA. General President Bill Hite will be retiring at the end of his term next year and he along with the Minnesota Pipe Trades has endorsed General Secretary Treasurer Mark McManus to be the next General President. Mark is from a straight line plumbing local, which is a rarity to have a plumber as the General President. Brother McManus is a very bright man and will do a great job as General President. We also endorsed our current UA International Rep. Greg Sayles for another term.

Finally, work safe and have a great summer.

Sincerely, Rick Eilers
Business Manager

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to start out by expressing my gratitude for the vote of support in this last election. It's both an honor and a pleasure, to be able to continue working as a Business Agent for Local 15 and all of our members. We have a strong and well rounded team of people serving as officers for our Local, and with that and all of your help, I know this organization will continue to grow and move forward. I would also like to congratulate our newly elected and returning officers to Local 15. Welcome Aboard!

There has been a bit of shuffling around for some of you as summer has started out, but work has fortunately been plentiful. Please remember to keep us updated with your current phone number and address, especially since a lot of us have eliminated land lines and moved to cell phones only. I would like to plug our web page again also, www.plumberslocal15.com. We are always looking to hear from our members to post any pictures or stories you might have. Even more importantly, we

post links and occasional job postings brought to our attention on the members page. Thank you again, and have a great summer!

Fraternaly yours,
Scott Gale, Business Agent

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is nice that summer is back. Thankfully last winter was mild and didn't seem to slow much down. In reviewing hours from 2012 to now, there is quite the difference from three years ago. In June of 2012, Local 15 had approximately 87,000 hours. Last month we worked over 141,000 hours. With the new first year apprentices starting and continued organizing efforts, these numbers are sure to keep climbing. When Local 15 utilizes programs, such as the rebate program, we can continue to keep the non-union in check. Of course there are still non-union out there, but they can't get momentum to build up like they did at the start of the recession. After passing our last contract, some of the non-union contractors had to give a two dollar an hour raise to try and hold on to their employees. Because Local 15 believes in controlling all markets and not just certain ones, we continue to grow and gain market share and in doing so, increase payments into our pension plans and medical plan.

Most of our members I've met with since our contract settlement seem to be happy with what we settled for. When you look at the rest of the work market, receiving over 3% a year for three years is way above the national norm. Recent news reports have been stating that even though jobs and productivity is increasing, wages are remaining stagnant. Thank you Brothers and Sisters for supporting the contract.

Finally I would like to take the time to thank all of you for the continued support of representing you as a Business Agent. I will continue to work for you the best I can and I'm always open to talk to you about anything I can try to help with. With that, I hope you have a great summer.

Sincerely,
Joe Lane, Business Agent
Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Summer is here, and it's starting out to be a great one! The weather is beautiful and there is a lot of work out there. What a great improvement from the recent past. The plumbing trade has work in all areas, from single family homes, to large commercial projects. There are also a lot of school additions, remodels and improvements in progress. With all the work going on, and as busy as the shops are, always remember to work smart and work safe.

In the last newsletter I wrote about prevailing wage and how it affects minimum pay for the building trades in Minnesota counties. Prevailing wage reports are due to the department of labor by the end of May. These reports are filled out and sent in by contractors and local unions. We (local 15) spent roughly two weeks working on prevailing wage reports. Some of the counties came up a little light with reports, and a few didn't have any work to report. Please try to remember when you are on a job, especially outside the Minneapolis and St. Cloud metro areas to call the hall and let us know where you are so we can visit the project. The more reports for prevailing wage the better for all of us. Make sure you save the date for the local 15 summer picnic! It's always a great time for members and their families. We enjoy good food, games, rides and prizes. It's also a chance to "catch up" with friends and fellow members. Sunday August 23rd Wabun Park...see you there!

In closing, I would like to say thank you for the support I received in the election of officers. It is appreciated very much. I am committed to do my best to work for our members and plumbers local 15. Thank you
Have a great and enjoyable summer season.

Fraternally yours,
Scott Lichliter, Business Agent

Credit Union Deduction

On August 3rd, \$8.00 will be deducted from your account to cover death #7

Please note the death assessment fee has been increased from \$5.00 to \$8.00
Plumbers' Local 15 members and staff extend their deepest sympathies to the families of...

John Blaylock on May 17th @ age 97

4th of July Observed on July 3rd

The Fourth of July holiday will be observed on Friday, July 3rd. According to the Working Agreement for Local 15 (which includes the Metro and St. Cloud areas). Independence Day or July 4th, is a federal holiday. Since July 4th falls on a Saturday, Friday July 3rd will be observed as the official holiday as set by the Federal Government. Any work performed on Friday July 3rd, or Saturday July 4th, 2015 will be at double time rates.

Labor Day Holiday-Monday Sept 7th, 2015

Labor Day shall be a paid holiday for Plumbers working under the Metro area contract. The employee shall be paid at the regular rate of pay. If the employee is laid off within ten (10) working days prior to the day observed as the holiday, the employer will pay said holiday to the former employee if still unemployed.

JAC News

Continuing Education: Classes will resume every Thursday beginning August 13, 2015. Scheduled classes are posted on our online calendar at

www.training15.com. **We will be offering 2 evening classes in St Cloud this fall.** Drain, Waste & Vent on September 10th & Plumbing Code & Related Updates on the 17th from 3:45 – 7:45 pm at the Rasmussen College. The college closed promptly at 8:00 pm. **A Saturday class** is being offered in Minneapolis on September 19th, Protecting Potable Water from 8 am – 12:00 pm & Water Pipe Supply & Distribution from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Each class will give you 4 continuing ed. credits. Lunch will be provided. You must register for all classes either online or by phone.

Backflow (ASSE) Certification class: This class is for members that are not already RPZ certified or those that have let their license lapse. This is a 15 night class, Tuesdays & Thursdays, starting August 18th. The fee that ASSE charges is \$175.00 & would need to be paid no later than August 1st. Class size is limited. Payment can be made online, by phone or mail.

Backflow Recertification (ASSE): For those already certified & currently registered with the state, ongoing classes are available. A complete schedule is available online. **A Saturday class** will be offered beginning October 17, 31, 11/4 (Wednesday), November 14, 2015. The fee ASSE charges is \$175.00.

Journeyman Flyer: The flyer is available online to print out & mail in or to register for classes online for your convenience. Please mark all classes you are interested in taking throughout the year. Classes offered are determined by demand. Some classes will be held early in September so be sure to fill yours out as soon as possible. Information from previous flyers is not carried forward so it's important to look over the classes and register each year.

Med Gas Braze: NITC has raised the price for a braze continuity from \$27.15 to \$30.00 & a vertical upflow from \$48.65 to \$50.00 effective July 1, 2015.

Med Gas Full Certification: A Med Gas Certification class for those interested in becoming Med Gas certified will be held on Mon/Thurs evenings begin on October 19. This is a 10 night class. The cost NITC charges & the code book is \$180.00. You must be registered no later than September 25th.

Med Gas Recertification: The next class available to renew your installer license will be the class for continuing education on October 8 with the exam on the 15th. The cost NITC charges for the exam & the code book is \$120.00. You must be registered no later than September 22nd.

Attention: Retirees

Local 15's retirees group meets the 3rd, Tuesday of every month at Elsie's Bowling Alley/Restaurant in Minneapolis. Social hour at Noon with meeting starting at 1:00. At the retirees July 21st, 2015 meeting. Jim Hynes, Executive Administrator of the Pipe Trades Services of MN will be at the meeting to answer any questions you may have regarding the Health and Welfare fund.