



July \* August \* September \* 2017

Union meetings are the 1st Thursday of the month  
5:00 p.m. Executive Board / 7:00 p.m. General Membership meeting

### Plumbers Local 15 Family Picnic

Sunday August 27, 2017 from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. at Wabun Park  
4655 - 46th Ave S. Minneapolis, MN 55406

## PLUMBERS LOCAL 15 PICNIC AUGUST 27TH

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

Calvin Bigelow 4/19/17  
John Peterson 5/20/17  
Charles Kranz 5/22/17  
Richard Brannick 5/24/17  
Carlton Melander  
6/17/17

### CREDIT UNION DEDUCTION

On August 1st, 2017  
\$40.00 will be deducted  
from your Credit Union  
account to cover deaths  
#4-8

### Pipe Trades Services of Minnesota:

[www.ptsmn.org](http://www.ptsmn.org)  
(651)645-4540  
**Wellness Centers:**  
(651)348-8851 Metro  
(507)218-3095 Rochester

### NEWZ FROM AARP THE Active Attractive Retired Plumbers

Retired Brothers & Sisters,  
I hope this letter finds you all in good health, if so, I hope you can get out and enjoy a beautiful Minnesota summer, whether on a lake, a golf course or on your deck...enjoy every day all day long!

Our monthly meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month starting at 1:00 (happy hour starting anytime prior!)  
The venue is Elsie's located at 729 Marshall St. NE. in Minneapolis.

Our meeting dates this quarter are:  
July 18<sup>th</sup>  
Aug 15<sup>th</sup>  
Sept 19<sup>th</sup>

We meet in the back room just off the parking lot, in a very nice private room.  
Hope to see MANY of you there!

Remember to also check us out at:

[www.plumberslocal15.com](http://www.plumberslocal15.com)

 [facebook.com/Plumbers15](https://facebook.com/Plumbers15)

 [twitter.com/Plumbers15](https://twitter.com/Plumbers15)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It's been a busy start to the summer and the labor shortage makes it a challenge for our members and our contractors. We have accepted 60 apprentices into our program this year and we continue to organize the non-union plumbers.

I received an email from one of our members that had me thinking that I need to do a better job on why we continue the rebate program and what we are doing to organize. As the Business Manager, I have met with most of the Business Managers and all the straight-line Plumbing Managers throughout the United Association. What we have here is not by accident it's by evolving, being diligent and fixing what is broken. The Rebate Program that was voted in and accepted by our members was one of the pieces that was put in place to retain the housing market. I know not everyone sees the value in this market but I can assure you if this market goes then our bread and butter industry of Multi-Family housing would be next along with the light commercial. Very few locals do housing even the multi-family. We don't have the refineries and power plants. Housing and commercial is what we do! Prior to the rebate we were forced in to the U.A. Schedule "A" which lowered the rate of pay for our plumbers in the single-family housing market. All this would have done is make it harder to organize and our members that work in that market would abandon it for the higher paying commercial market. I believe it's an investment and it has returned huge dividends. Since January 2013 we have worked 1,059,250 hours in SINGLE-FAMILY new home and RESIDENTIAL SERVICE. Rounding to \$65.00 per hour wage and benefit package that equates to \$68,851,250 directly to our members working in those markets.

As far as organizing the following numbers came from Lead organizer Joe Moenck's report at the MN Pipe Trades Convention last week. "2016 was a great year for organizing and 2017 is looking to be no different. Our team house called 213 non-union piping tradesmen, did 409 non-union contractor visits and met with over 2000 non-union workers on jobsites last year. We organized 123 new members, reinitiated 27 members, and signed 3 new contractors". I am a strong proponent of organizing. The non-union are doing the work and many of them are very good at it. We want those people working with us not against us.

Finally, just because we're busy we can't give up work that falls under the jurisdiction of Local 15. I know our foreman are pushed to the limit but we must be diligent and make sure we do the work that is ours.

Sincerely,  
**Rick Eilers**  
Business Manager

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank all of you for the hard work and professionalism you bring to the job every day. I also want to say thanks for supporting the vision and initiatives of Local 15. As busy and as healthy as our construction economy is right now, it is not by luck or lack of choices for our customers and contractors that Local 15 is controlling the market share in this jurisdiction. Many other areas throughout the country are also experiencing growth and construction booms, but few of them have all the sectors of their market, or the Plumbing opportunities for their members as we do here in the Twin Cities area. This is due to many factors working simultaneously, such as Licensing, excellent Training, State and Local Government involvement, Market Recovery Programs, fair Collective Bargaining Agreements with healthy Fringe Benefit Funds, Organizing, and a strong membership base. With your support and involvement in our union, we can all look forward to continuing on this path to a great future in this industry, and the ability to weather the next storm that may blow our way.

I hope you all have a great summer, and a safe day on the job.

Fraternally yours,  
**Scott Gale, Business Agent**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This summer is certainly starting out as a busy one. With that, there can sometimes be a tendency to take liberties with the work day starting times, breaks, lunches and quitting times. In recent weeks, there has been a bit of an uptick in phone calls and site visits to resolve questions and issues on this. The first thing to remember is that by the UA Standard of Excellence, which is Article 28 of our contract, is we take responsibility for ourselves. The first two points say "Meet their responsibilities to the employer and their fellow workers by arriving on the job, ready to work, every day on time." And second "Adhere to the contractual starting and quitting times, including lunch and break periods." I believe there is a reason that these are the first two points of the standard. Just because there is an abundance of work doesn't mean we should try to take advantage

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**NOTE:** At our August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting Jim Hynes, Administrator of your H&W, and Pension funds, will be in attendance to answer all your related questions (and maybe unrelated ones also)!

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

- July:**  
25<sup>th</sup> Larry Savage 70
- August:**  
8<sup>th</sup> Herman Kubow 85  
10<sup>th</sup> Darwin Peterson 70  
25<sup>th</sup> Tom Daugherty 75  
28<sup>th</sup> Jim Bakker 70
- September:**  
1<sup>st</sup> Denny Moore 80  
6<sup>th</sup> Steve Carlson 70  
8<sup>th</sup> Jack Johannes 70  
30<sup>th</sup> Larry Brastad 70

Happy Birthday Brothers and to all celebrating birthday this quarter.

**Some dates to put in your memory blank**  
**August 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday**  
**Annual Picnic-**  
**Wabun Park**  
**September 14 Annual**  
**Plumbers/Fitter Dinner.**

PS: If you have comments or want to add to this column, Please Email me at: [tculshaw@comcast.net](mailto:tculshaw@comcast.net)  
Cheers, beers, and sunshine !!!!

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

Remember that you have a valuable tool available to help assist you in managing your Defined Contribution Pension investments.

**FOUNDATIONS RETIREMENT CONSULTING**  
Call for an appointment if you have not already done so.  
John and Steve Ehlers  
952-697-3707  
[john.ehlers@lpl.com](mailto:john.ehlers@lpl.com)  
1660 South Highway 100,  
Suite 500, St. Louis Park,  
MN 55416

of it. We often pride ourselves on being better than our competitors so let us try to give 8 for 8.

Hopefully you all will be able to enjoy our summer months. Please be safe on the water and on your vacations and remember to come out to the picnic in August.

**Respectfully,**  
**Joe Lane, Business Agent**

Hello Brothers and Sisters,  
Construction is booming this summer season! It seems no matter where you go, there are bridges being built, roads being improved, and new buildings and houses are popping up everywhere. With the large workload often comes overtime. If you are working overtime, or have questions about hours and pay, please call the hall.

The areas I cover are the St. Cloud counties, and our three southern counties in the metro area- Scott, McCleod and Carver along with anything south of 394/Hwy 12. One of my newest duties is the gas distribution projects. Plumbers local 15 gas distribution jurisdiction is the entire state of Minnesota. Starting last fall, I have made distribution site visits part of my routine. So far this season, I have visited approximately thirty of these sites. Just a reminder, any fusing of plastic pipe and welding of steel pipe (including welder's helpers) is the work of the United Association and Plumbers local 15.

In closing I would like to wish everyone a great summer season..be safe out there!

**Respectfully, Scott Lichliter**  
**Business Agent**

**News from the Apprenticeship Office:**  
Continuing Ed. Classes: Classes will resume again August 24th. A full day Saturday class will be offered on 9/23 with 2 (4) hour classes. We are also offering 2 Tuesday evening classes on 9/19 & 10/10/17. Two code classes are scheduled this fall in St Cloud on 9/13 & 9/20/17. Go to our online calendar at [training15.com](http://training15.com) for additional information on classes being offered.

**ASSE Renewal:** The Minneapolis. Plumbers JAC will be offering a 3 night renewal class for members who are already ASSE rebuilder certified on 10/10, 10/12 & 10/17/17. ASSE's cost is \$75.00. Class size is limited to 20. Registration is closed 1 month prior to class starting.

**ASSE Full Certification:** A 60 hour class is scheduled in August. Dates are 8/8, 8/10, 8/15, 8/17, 8/22, 8/24, 8/29, 8/31, 9/5, 9/12, 9/14, 9/19, 9/21, 9/26 & 9/28/17. Please call the office to get registered no later than 7/14/17. Class size limited to 20. ASSE's cost is \$190.00.

**Med Gas Certification:** The Minneapolis Plumbers JAC will be offering a full Med Gas Certification this fall. This is a 10 night class, dates are 10/3, 10/10, 10/12, 10/17, 10/19, 10/24, 10/26, 11/7, 11/9 & 11/14

from 5:00 - 9:00 pm. Call the office to get registered, limit 20. NITC's cost is \$180.00. Registration ends 9/15/17.

**Med Gas Recertification Class:** For members who need to renew their installer certification or take a continuing ed. class for their state license, a class will be offered on 9/14 with the installer test on 9/21/17. Call the office to register, class size limited to 20. NITC's cost is \$120.00. Class is closed for registration on 8/14/17.

**New Apprentices:** Our new apprentices are new to plumbing too! Your knowledge, patience & expertise is invaluable when it comes to their training in the field. Thank you for your commitment with the training of these future plumbers.

**Brothers and sisters, please be reminded of the following:**

**Sec.153 from the Constitution of the United Association**

Each applicant before becoming a member shall take the following pledge or oath of obligation.

I,(state name), in the presence of this Local Union, do truly promise and pledge my word of honor that I am familiar with the provisions and requirements of the Constitution and By-Laws of the United Association and that I will not perform any act in any way prejudicial to the best interest of the United Association, but will at all times endeavor to promote its prosperity and usefulness. I hereby agree to remain loyal and true to the principals and policies and to be governed by the Constitution and By-Laws and Ritual of the United Association and the Local Union in any and all matters now or that may hereafter be included therein. I further pledge that I will faithfully attend all meetings of the Local Union unless prevented by sickness or other causes beyond my control. I will at all times assist members of the United Association to the extent of my ability, defend them when unjustly treated or slandered, and cultivate for each and every member the warmest friendship and brotherly love. I will assist unfortunate or distressed members to procure employment. I do further promise and swear that I am not a member of any organization advocating the overthrow by force and violence of the Government of the United States or of Canada. I take this obligation voluntarily, without any mental reservation, and bind myself until death under the penalty of scorn due to moral perjury and violated honor as one unworthy of trust or assistance.

**Have a safe and Happy Independence Day!**

