



I PLUMBERS LOCAL 15

October * November * December 2014

Date & Time	Event	Place
Oct 2 nd , Nov 6 th , Dec 4 th 5:00 E-Board/7:00 Membership	Union Meeting	Local 15 Union Hall
Sat., Dec 13 th , 2014 – Noon – 3:00	Annual kids Christmas Party	Local 15 Union Hall
Wednesday Dec 17 th , 5:00 pm	St. Cloud Holiday Meeting	St. Cloud Union Home

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Another summer has come and gone and we continue to have a pretty good year. We averaged over 128,000 hours worked per month from January through August. This is the highest average since 2008. With fall comes the typical construction slow down but there is still work being bid and set to start this year. We are hopeful that we should have a strong economy for quite a while.

The City of Minneapolis is taking applications for the comp card. We went a couple of years without the opportunity to take the city test but now that it is available to those of you that don't have it you need to get it. It may not necessarily get you a job, but without it you may miss out on a job. We have paper applications at the hall or you can print out your own from the city of Minneapolis web site.

Thank you to everyone that helped out with the picnic this year. I think Wabun Park worked out well, unfortunately we had a lighter than normal turn out this year but it happened to fall on one of the hottest days of the year. Once again our contractors donated dozens of gift cards and our retirees donated their time and scooters for the kids drawing. We are always open to suggestions on ways to improve it.

We have the Christmas party coming up Saturday December 13 from noon to 3pm., at the Union hall. Please plan on attending and bringing the kids or grandkids. Lunch and beverages are provided, the kids have a great time meeting Santa and getting lots of candy.

With fall here, hunting season is upon us so be safe out there and have a great time. Remember to email us any of your hunting pictures that we can post on our website. Finally, have a great Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. **Fraternally, Rick Eilers,**
Business Manager

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I submit this article, the employment outlook for Local #15 is still very good. We ended the summer "school boom" just a few short weeks ago sending some of you back to the bench, but I would like to offer some encouragement by letting you know that work in the metro area is still very promising. A quick glance at a downtown skyline filled with cranes is a sure sign of that. With that in mind, I feel that it is necessary to mention that of the 87 Journeyman Plumbers on the list today only 41

of them have a City Competency Card. That means that over half our unemployed members will not be able to access those jobs as they develop. Please do everything that you can to expand your employability, by getting your City Comp. Card, obtaining and maintaining certifications for Med Gas and RPZ's, and welding. If you do have a current weld certification(s) and need work please let us know, we continue to get opportunities here and many other areas. For those of you that may want to travel for work, North Dakota is still a busy place.

Local #15 has depleted our list of available Plumber Helpers and we still foresee possible opportunity for them either yet this year, or in the spring. So if you have a son or daughter, relative or acquaintance that might be interested in applying please have them contact the Hall. We are also in need of people interested in working in our Gas Distribution segment. Local #15 has had open calls for Pipe Fusers all season long. Have a safe and enjoyable fall, and I hope you all take some time to enjoy it!

Fraternally yours,
Scott Gale, Business Agent

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With fall approaching, we again are seeing and hearing all the political ads for the upcoming election. Many people say government is way too polarized. Too far left, or too far right, and because of this, our country isn't doing well because they won't find common ground. George Washington, near the end of his presidency, warned the politicians that having a party system will only undermine the intention of a free society by looking for power for themselves and seeking to eliminate the other at the cost to the general public. Why do I bring this up? Over the past couple of months, I've received a couple of calls about split scales. The members that called, or that I spoke with in person, thought that we shouldn't have taken the contract that we did, and split the scale. Why would we want to create an exception for some and not others? We are all plumbers, united in a common cause.

The thought that because our contract was settled the way it was, we are falling way behind the other trades in wages. Truth is we're not. You can look this information up yourself on the MNDOLI web site under the prevailing wage section. The only trades ahead of us are the Elevator constructors and Pipefitters. When was the last time you saw one of them do a house?

The elevator constructors have no non-union competition, which is why their wage is so high. Imagine if there were no non-union plumbers out there. We could get huge raises also. Truth is, they exist and we must do what we need to stay competitive. I don't care how skilled a work force may be, if the cost is too high, your contractor won't get the job. In other parts of the country, locals need to put huge market recovery grants on projects such as hospitals because they never protected themselves from the smaller markets. If we focused on only a small market, our local would be a lot smaller and eventually we also would have to find a way to stay competitive in those markets too. If we start to divide, we will fail, maybe not today or tomorrow, but it will happen. Think of those who have a long way to go in their career. The better we protect all markets now, the better the future looks. Let's stay united and strong as George Washington suggested, and not get into the "us or them" mind set, so that we can keep our good wages and benefits for all others who follow.

With that, good luck to all you hunters this fall and be safe out there.

Sincerely,
Joe Lane, Business Agent

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I want to start this newsletter by saying thank you to the members and other officers for the support I have received as your new business agent. I have been in this new job for approximately 7 weeks, and it has definitely been a learning experience. Along with the other agents, I have visited quite a few job sites. Spent some time in the southern metro, University of MN, and also up into the northern areas, including St. Cloud and Mille-Lacs. I have also been introduced to some of the contractors in those areas. In these travels, I've noticed new construction scattered around the Local 15 area and the concentrated work in the City of Mpls. The work is coming; it just didn't happen as soon as expected.

If you, as a member, see new work or something of interest on an existing job, please make a phone call to the hall. There is a lot of area to cover, and your eyes out there can help with the effort.

Summer came and went pretty fast as it always does in MN. I want to say thank you to everyone who volunteered and attended the Plumbers Local 15 annual picnic. The turnout was a little light this year, but as always it was a good time, a lot of conversation and many prizes were given away. A special thank you goes out to those that contributed prizes!

As your new business agent I look forward to the challenges and opportunity to serve Plumbers Local 15, and again, thank you!

In closing, the holidays are soon approaching; and I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Fraternally yours,
Scott Lichliter, Business Agent

News for Minneapolis Plumbers JAC

Our website www.training15.com has a new look along with built in conveniences. You can now register for continuing education classes online, make payments for classes that have a fee and fill out the journeyman flyer online.

City & State Review Classes: We are offering a review class for the state & city exams: October 15th & 16th will be Plumbing Code Review and October 22nd & 23rd 2014 will be Gas Code Review. Call the office to reserve a spot in the class at 612-374-5262.

Med Gas Certification: We will be offering a Med Gas Certification class starting in November. The classes will be on Monday & Thursday from Nov 10th to Dec 18th, 2014 except for union meeting night in December. The cost is \$180.00 and must be paid no later than October 31, 2014.

ASSE Backflow Classes are ongoing every Tuesday and Thursdays except Union meeting nights. This is a 7 night class. A schedule of classes is posted on our website. Class size is limited to 20. This class is mandatory for those already RPZ certified and want to continue with their certification.

Continuing Education: Classes are offered every Thursday. We are also offering a Saturday Class October 18th, 8:00-12 noon is Plumbing Codes & 1:00pm – 5:00 pm is Water Pipe Supply & Distribution. You can register for 1 or both. Register online or call the office.

Remember it is the responsibility of the Journeyman to train the apprentices. Please do your best as they are this union's future.

Credit Union Deduction

\$15.00 will be deducted from your credit union account on 11/3, to cover deaths #7-9 Plumbers' Local 15 members and staff extend their deepest sympathies to the families of...

Philip Reiser	7/30 at the age of 85
Ken Barker	8/19 at the age of 81
Leland McConnell	9/20 at the age of 96
Leland was the oldest & longest initiated member of Local 15.	

Thank you to all the contractors who donated to our Annual Family Picnic

Area Mech., Associated Mech., Ben Franklin, Bob's Produce, BTCU, Centraire, Inc., Clifton Larson Allen, Columbia Pipe Supply, Commercial Plbg., Corporate Mech., Corval Group, Cummins/Cummins, Egan Co., Elander Mech., GR Mechanical Gateway Mech., Gilbert Mech., Gorham-Oien, Harris Mechanical, Horwitz/NSI, Klamm P&H., Legend Mech., LeVahn Brothers, Inc., Major Mechanical, Master Mech., Metropolitan Mech., MMCA, Nasseff Mechanical, Northland Mech., Pioneer Group, PHCC, Retirees Group, Shaddeg, Shank Constructors, Silver Tree P&H., Stewart , Steinkraus, Southside P&H., TEAM, Twelve Capital Management, Uptown Plbg, Wenzel/Plymouth, and Yale Mech.