



October, November, December 2018
Union Meetings are the 1st Thursday of the month 5:00 pm Executive Board Meeting 7:00 pm General Membership Meeting
November 6th Election Day!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank all of you who helped out at the Plumbers Picnic this year. We had a great day for a picnic, with the weather cooperating and a good turnout by our members and their families. I also want to thank our Contractors and their Associations (M.M.C.A. & P.H.C.C. metro) for their donations for the drawings. I saw a lot of happy children walk out of there with bikes, scooters, gift cards and other prizes.

Brothers and Sisters, the state of our Union is strong. Work has been plentiful in our area along with many other parts of the country remaining strong as well. Hours worked by Local 15 members have continued to increase rising to 2.4 million hours worked for the plan year (May 2017 – April 2018), as compared to just 5 short years ago with just under 1.5 million hours worked during the plan year (May 2012 – April 2013). Local 15 has been growing; our total membership number has risen to 1,922 as of the end of August compared to 1,627 at the end of April 2013. It is through the collective efforts of Organizing, our Market Recovery program, the Residential Rebate program, larger Apprentice classes, our skilled Journeyman workforce, and good relationships with our contractors that we have been able to grow and maintain a strong market share instead of seeing our competition capitalize on the opportunities in our industry.

The full-time officers and I recently attended the U.A. Business Manager/ Agent Seminar and the news there was exciting. The United Association has grown to over 350,000 members across the United States and Canada. Organizing and growth is priority. This is the foundation our unions were built on, and the principal that grew the Labor Movement through 1940's, 50's, & 60's. Along with Organizing, we need to engage and equip our Apprentices and our younger members to meet this challenge for the future. The U.A. encouraged all Local Unions to have an Apprentice in attendance at this conference, and they put together a format to allow these Apprentices to see the bigger picture, and to give them an opportunity to ask questions and interact with the General Officers. Local 15 brought fourth year Apprentice Scott Espy. I was very proud of Scott for his professionalism, and his enthusiastic participation in the program. I know that we have many other bright and talented young members in Local 15 and my hope is that we all embrace this, and that we all do what we can to educate and encourage them to be the best they can in their careers, to understand and participate in our Local Unions meetings and functions, to become our future Instructors and teachers, and to be the future leaders of Local 15 and the United Association.

I hope to see you at one of our upcoming meetings, and I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and a great Christmas season!

Fraternally yours,  
Scott Gale, Business Manager

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With the summer busy season ending, there has been a little bit of a slowdown. There continues to be some calls coming in but not as many as a few months ago. I know I will sound like a broken record, but I can't express enough the City Competency card. When a request comes in from a contractor, I have to refer to the work list of certifications you have. Even though these contractors will have work in and out of Minneapolis, if their ask is for Comp Cards, that is how I have to try to fill.

And a couple more reminders on referrals: first, make sure your phone numbers are current and that your mailboxes are set up and the mailbox isn't full. Second, Article 9 Section 5 of our employment procedures states that "Any member changing employers, or anyone referred to a shop shall be required to have an introductory slip from the office of Local #15." This is the members' responsibility to get the referral slip. You don't need to come in person, just a phone call to the hall and we will send it directly to the contractor. Failure to have a referral is a fineable offence of \$200. We are not interested in collecting fines from our members so please keep us up to date on your employment status.

With that I would like to ask that everyone have a safe hunting season and to be sure the ice is safe before heading on to the lakes come winter. Have a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With Best Regards,  
Joe Lane, Business Agent

**Plumbers Annual Christmas Party**

**December 8th 12:00– 3:00 PM**

**Remember to bring your kids!!!**

**St Cloud Area Holiday Meeting**

**November 26th 5:00 PM**

Hello Brothers and Sisters, I'm going to make this article about participation, by inviting our brothers and sisters to make a stronger effort to attend our monthly union meetings. The information shared at our meetings is important for our members to hear. The executive board will give a report for the month which includes where our money is being spent. The finance committee and the JJATC will also give reports at regular monthly meetings. Our business manager and the business agents will give reports of their monthly duties and activities. During these reports information will be given on the pension boards, credit union and Pipe Trades Services (Health and Welfare). Also included are the monthly rebate numbers along with the man power status. During these reports the opportunity for questions and answers by the membership is welcomed and encouraged. You have all heard this before, there are no dumb questions-please ask, don't guess. Many topics that pertain to our local union and the UA are discussed at the break table and on social media. If you want an answer to a question or need an explanation of our union's issues, please call the hall. Our average attendance for this year is only 58, we can do better than that! Let's really try to boost the number at our meetings. Monthly meetings are the first Thursday of every month. 7pm at 708 South 10<sup>th</sup> St. in Minneapolis.

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

David Ebert age 75

Stanley Larson age 93

Loren Weed age 88

Thomas McCann age 92

**CREDIT UNION DEDUCTION**

On October 1st \$32.00 will be deducted from your Credit Union Account to cover deaths #10-12

Please, make sure that you keep your beneficiaries up to date.

It's easy, just call the hall!

**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**

OMG....where did the summer go ????

I guess, for those of you who don't golf, or fish on open water, your season is quickly approaching , So, gas up the snowmobiles and gas augers, and have at it !!!

Have fun, it is always a day of retirement, so enjoy it !!!

Our monthly meetings this quarter are:

October 16<sup>th</sup>

November 20<sup>th</sup>

December 11<sup>th</sup>

(invite only !!)

If you have questions about the " invite only ", you may call or e-mail me...TC

One other item is for our gas distribution members- when you reach the end of the distribution work season, please call the hall so we can make the adjustment to non-working dues. When you return to work in the spring, please inform the hall you are back to work. Thank you.

I would like to wish you all a great Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season!

Respectfully yours,  
Scott Lichliter, Business Agent

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank you all for electing me and giving me this chance, know that I will work to the best of my ability to represent all our members and protect the jurisdiction of Plumbers Local 15. With that said, I would like to bring up protecting our jurisdiction by not giving away our work. If we give away work during busy times you can bet that a portion or all of it that has been given away will not be there to support our families in future, slower times. I know that we all get pinched for time on jobs, but that is no excuse to let other trades perform our work, either is your contractor hiring or “subbing” it out. When we see other trades show up to our jobs, or better before they show up and start core drilling, backing, sinks being installed when they show up with the counter tops, fire caulking etc. we need to call the hall so that we can protect our work. We will keep all calls confidential.

Coming from the organizing side I have seen firsthand what collectively bargaining for wages and benefits does for us and believe that we need to keep control of our markets and grow the share of work we do in all our markets, from single family residential, service, light commercial, industrial and everything in between. In order to accomplish this, we need to remember our roots. Our founders were people that knew that in order to grow an infant organization they had to get out and talk to the people that weren’t members. I would like to challenge each of our members to talk to the nonmember that lives down the street, plays on the same softball team or is pumping gas next to you to strike up a conversation with them about what being union means to you and how everything is working out for you. I have spoken to many unrepresented plumbers over the years and know that it can mean more to hear from someone that works in the field than someone that is getting paid to talk to them, whether that is an organizer or an officer of the union. If you have any questions on how to start a conversation with a nonmember plumber, please feel free to call the hall and we can help. I would also like to thank all of the members that continually go out of their way to speak to unrepresented workers. Remember that the plumber in the truck next to you at a stop light is a potential member!

I hope that every member has a safe and productive fall. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Yours in brotherhood,  
Tom Pakkala, Business Agent



Endorsed Candidates 2018 Election

Cycle  
**Federal Offices:**  
**United States Senate**  
Amy Klobuchar  
Tina Smith

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
C.D.1– Dan Feehan  
C.D.3– Dean Phillips  
C.D.6– Tom Emmer  
C.D.7– Colin Peterson  
C.D.7– Joe Radinovich

**MN Governor/ Lt. Governor**  
Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan

**MN Secretary of State**  
Steve Simon

**MN Attorney General**  
Keith Ellison

**MN Auditor**  
Julie Blaha

**Minnesota Senate**  
S.D.13– Joe Perske

**MN House of Representatives**  
2A– Matt Grossell (GOP)  
3A– Rob Ecklund (DFL)  
3B– Mary Murphy (DFL)  
4A– Ben Lien (DFL)  
4B– Paul Marquardt (DFL)  
5A– Matt Bliss (GOP)  
6A– Julie Sandstede (DFL)  
6B– David Lislegard (DFL)  
10B– Dale Lueck (GOP)  
11B– Jason Rarick (GOP)  
18A– Dean Urdahl (GOP)  
28B– Greg Davids (GOP)  
31A– Kurt Daudt (GOP)  
32B– Jeff Peterson (DFL)  
36B– Melissa Hortman (DFL)  
40A– Michael Nelson (DFL)  
49B– Steve Elkins (DFL)  
53B– Kelly Fenton (GOP)  
55B– Tony Albright (GOP)  
58B– Pat Garofalo (GOP)  
59A– Fue Lee (DFL)  
59B– Ray Dehn (DFL)  
61B– Jamie Long (DFL)  
64B– Dave Pinto (DFL)  
67A– Tim Mahoney (DFL)  
67B– Jay Xiong (DFL)

Additional Endorsements of the AFLCIO can be found at  
MNAFLCIO.ORG

Recently, another life-time member passed away, and the logo for Local #15 was not part of the obituary.

If you get nothing else out of this newsletter, please inform your loved ones of the Local 15 logo available at the Star-Trib at no cost to your family.

It is the best way to inform the membership of the passing.  
PLEASE, PLEASE NOTE !!!

Thank you to the volunteers, who stepped up at the annual picnic: Dan Bobb...Tom Daugherty...Ken Friendshuh...Gary Lichliter...Les Ripka  
Dick Swenson...John Sydloski...Tom Sydloski...Ernesto Tapiz...Curt Vreeman  
Plus several guys who are NOT retired..  
THANK YOU ONE AND ALL !!!!

SOME Milestone Birthdays being celebrated this quarter:

OCTOBER:

4<sup>th</sup>-David Krepis-60  
13<sup>th</sup>-Dave Vomela-70  
21<sup>st</sup>-Joel Ballot-70  
25<sup>th</sup>-Bill Schiferli-70  
26<sup>th</sup>-Jim Kotzer-70  
28<sup>th</sup>-Gerald Welter-95

NOVEMBER

6<sup>th</sup>-Norm Hasselius-70

DECEMBER

14<sup>th</sup>-Gene Spande-80  
15<sup>th</sup>-Jack Hettwer-65  
16<sup>th</sup>-Marshall Borom-65  
16<sup>th</sup>-Gerald Olstad-90  
18<sup>th</sup>-Gene Fourniea-95  
26<sup>th</sup>-Pat Joyce-70  
28<sup>th</sup>-Ernesto Tapiz-70

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS CELEBRATING THIS QUARTER.

Fraternally,  
Tom Culshaw, Tom Wood-fill, Ken Friendshuh, and Tom Daugherty  
Local #15 Retired officers

**Congratulations to member Steve Sydloski for drawing a MN Elk Tag for the October season and GOOD LUCK!**

**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)**

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