



PCA NOVEMBER 8 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Robust Turnout at PCA Membership Meeting at Harry Caray's on November 8 *Board Election; By-Laws Change Approved; Program on Fund Audits*

Highlights of the PCA's Annual Meeting on the evening of November 8, 2023, included the election of the 2024-25 Officers and Directors comprising the Board; approval of a modification to the PCA's By-Laws; an informative and interesting program focusing on how contractors can best navigate through the Fund Audit process; and an enjoyable opportunity to network and socialize with industry peers.

Board Election: The newly elected incoming PCA Board for the next two-year term effective January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025, will be comprised of Kelly Castrogiovanni (Terry Plumbing Co.) as President; Rick Kuhn (RJ Kuhn Plumbing & Heating) as First VP; John Baethke (Baethke Plumbing) as Second VP; Paul Aleck (Aleck Plumbing) as Treasurer; and Directors: David Ariano (Ravinia Plumbing-Heating-Sewer & Electric); Troy DeFranco (DeFranco Plumbing); Moe Giglio (Calumet City Plumbing); Mike Kerrigan (FJ Kerrigan Plumbing Co.); Tom Mascari (Mendel Plumbing, Heating & Electric); and Patrick Sullivan (Taylor Plumbing). Our thanks to this year's Nominating Committee, comprised of Brad Bruce (B Bruce Plumbing); Todd Leonard (CR Leonard Plumbing & Heating); Tom Mahoney (Little Tommy's Plumbing); John Pasquesi (Pasquesi Plumbing); and Chairman Jack Wagner (JL Wagner Plumbing & Piping). The nominations made matched the number of Officer and Director positions, with all names properly submitted by the deadline of November 3. Subsequently, the election of the next PCA Board was finalized by acclamation with all members in attendance affirming the full slate. *See page 4 of this issue with a listing and photos of the full incoming PCA Board.*



The program presenters with PCA's top officers: from left, Kelly Castrogiovanni; Wes Covert; Christina Wernick; and Brian Kennedy.



From Taylor Plumbing: Charlie Anderson (left) and newly elected PCA Board Patrick Sullivan.



Wes Covert (left) and Christina Wernick of Laner-Muchin co-presented the meeting program on Trust Fund Audits.

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By-Laws Change

A change to the PCA By-Laws was unanimously passed through a secret ballot vote of the contractor members, authorizing the PCA Board (if all vote affirmatively) to approve or reject CBA settlements and changes to the agreement on behalf of all employers covered under the union contract within its effective dates. However, the now-modified By-Laws still allow for the PCA Board to take such matters to the membership at its discretion or if approval (by the Board) is not 100%. Membership meetings to discuss CBA changes and other labor relations matters will continue as standard practice. The By-Laws will be provided to all PCA contractor members by request.

Program: Trust Fund Audits

Following the announcements and news updates reported at the Annual Membership Meeting of the PCA & Plumbing Council, the program got underway. "Employer Preparation – Remaining Ready Before, During & After Union Trust Fund Audits" as promised delivered an overview and refresher for PCA member contractors on how to best prepare for all stages of the regularly scheduled Fund office fringe benefit compliance audits that every signatory company endures every several years. The content was presented by PCA legal counsel (and Fund Co-Counsel) Wes Covert and his colleague from the Laner-Muchin law firm Christina Wernick (both are partners) from a contractor's perspective, with interesting and practical information along with cautionary tips and advice that made the program worthwhile and entertaining. Audience questions and comments provided even more useful perspectives and takeaways. A Q&A and open forum segment concluded the program.



From left: David Ariano (Ravinia Plumbing, Sewer, Heating & Electric) with Luke Castrogiovanni and Terry McCarthy (Terry Plumbing).



Members in attendance included (from left) John Muhlback and Joe Nickle (Nicon Industrial Plumbing); and James Kennedy (Unique Plumbing).



Members attending the PCA's 2023 Annual Meeting elected our 2024-25 Board; passed the By-Laws change; and caught up with peers.



Attorney Wes Covert (Laner-Muchin) co-presented the program.



From left: PCA's CPA Bill Gladstone (Gladstone Tax & Accounting); Matt Erickson (C.J. Erickson Plumbing Co.); Brian Kennedy (Gehrett Plumbing); and Kelly Castrogiovanni (Terry Plumbing Co.).

INDUSTRY NEWS

PCA's Health & Safety Manual: Updated & Uploaded & Ready for You to Use

An exclusive resource is the PCA's "Health & Safety Manual." It can be customized for your company with one simple entry at the start of the document. It's been updated by our workplace safety consultant, Roger Paveza (President & Founder of Vista Safety Consultants), and is available on PCA's website (www.pcaofchicago.com) or by contacting the office at 312-563-9526 or adriana@pcaofchicago.com. Only PCA contractors and associate members are able to utilize the Manual, so take advantage of yet *another* benefit of belonging to the PCA.

Code Book: Now Being Researched & Updated

The exclusive PCA codebook, covering over 300 municipalities in Northern Illinois available only to PCA-affiliated contractors only is now in the midst of its periodic update. Inspectors and village officials have received and are returning the surveys/code change forms covering plumbing, mechanical and electric. Our codebook can be accessed on our Association website at www.pcaofchicago.com by PCA member contractors who register and are provided authorization to utilize this resource.

Sexual Harassment Training Requires Annual Compliance for All Employees by 12/31/23

As the end 2023 approaches, the PCA reminds our members that employers must annually provide all employees with Illinois-compliant sexual harassment prevention training, which must be completed by December 31, 2023. As a PCA contractor, you can access Employee Resource Systems' (ERS) online training, which concludes with the issuance of a certificate. Visit the ERS website at: www.mylifeexpert.com for this comprehensive no-cost 15-minute online training program. Use the code: **pcaeap** to create or log into your profile.

Winter Social & PCA Board Installation: January 26 in Oak Brook

The 2024-25 Officers and Directors serving the *PCA of Greater Chicago* and the *Plumbing Council* in their dual Board roles will take their Oath of Office at our biennial "Winter Social" set for the evening of Friday, January 26, 2024, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson's in Oak Brook, Illinois. Invited to administer the Oath – as is our tradition – is Plumbers' Local 130 UA Business Manager James F. Coyne. The mailed newsletter packet containing this issue of "At Work" also has an insert invitation for all member contractors and active Associate members (with a spouse or guest) to attend this gala event. Our evening festivities will feature an opening cocktail reception; a sit-down dinner; parting comments from immediate past President Brian Kennedy (who will serve next as Plumbing Council Chairman); the swearing-in of the incoming Board by Mr. Coyne; an address by newly elected PCA President Kelly Castrogiovanni; and the closing reception featuring desserts and coffee. All affiliated contractors, members, and invited guests are sure to enjoy a memorable evening. Please use the enclosed invitation to register or contact Adriana at the PCA office at 312-563-9526 or adriana@pcaofchicago.com to RSVP by or before January 22.

Reminder: Observed Holiday Dates in CBA

Our Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between Plumbers' Local 130 and the PCA requires that Local 130 members scheduled to work on all Sundays and on specific holidays must receive double their standard pay rate for all hours worked that day. The legal holidays identified in our CBA for double time: New Year's Day; Memorial Day; Fourth of July; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day; and Christmas Day. A holiday that falls on a Saturday is observed that day. A holiday that falls on a Sunday is observed the next day (Monday). Upcoming legal holidays: Christmas Day: Monday, December 25, 2023 and New Year's Day: Monday, January 1, 2024

PCA's New Website is Up & Running: Re-Register for Access for Members Only

Our newly launched PCA website (www.pcaofchicago.com) means that a number of contractor & associate members who were previously registered need to re-register. Many of you received an email asking you to re-register, and yes – it was a legitimate request! The other option is that next time you log on, you will be asked to re-register to gain access as a one-time occurrence. Our Association's website will be featuring more updates in the coming weeks and months. Questions may be directed to PCA Member Services Coordinator Adriana Wells at adriana@pcaofchicago.com or 312-563-9526, ext. 1.



IN THE OFFICE

Welcome to Adriana Wells to Our PCA Staff

Joining the PCA staff in July 2023 as our full-time Member Services Coordinator is Adriana Wells. Working previously for the Berwyn Park District and before that for the North Riverside Park District as Office Manager for a total of four and half years means that Adriana came prepared to bring her skills, experience, and capabilities to the PCA in a variety of key areas to best serve our PCA contractor members, associates, industry colleagues, and consumers. An added benefit to our Association and the public is Adriana being bilingual (English & Spanish), plus she's already shown her strong enthusiasm and commitment to continue and grow the valuable programs, services, resources, and events that the PCA is known for. Adriana can be reached at the PCA office at adriana@pcaofchicago.com or 312-563-9526, ext.1.



PCA BOARD OF ELECTED FOR 2024-2025 TERM



On November 8, 2023 at the Annual Meeting held in Lombard IL, the contractor members of the *PCA of Greater Chicago* elected by acclamation the nominated slate of:

- President **Kelly Castrogiovanni** (Terry Plumbing Co.)
- 1st V.P. **Rick Kuhn** (R.J. Kuhn Plumbing, Heating & Cooling)
- 2nd V.P. **John Baethke** (Baethke Plumbing)
- Treasurer **Paul Aleck** (Aleck Plumbing)
- Director **David Ariano** (Ravinia Plumbing, Heating, Electric)
- Director **Troy DeFranco** (DeFranco Plumbing)
- Director **Moe Giglio** (Calumet City Plumbing)
- Director **Michael Kerrigan** (F.J. Kerrigan Plumbing Co.)
- Director **Tom Mascari** (Mendel Plumbing, Heating & Electric)
- Director **Patrick Sullivan** (Taylor Plumbing)

The two-year term will commence on January 1, 2024, and conclude on December 31, 2025. The installation of the Officers and Board will take place on January 26, 2024. Departing from the PCA Board upon the expiration of the current term with our sincere gratitude is our immediate past President Brian Kennedy (Gehrett Plumbing), who has accepted the appointment to serve as our Industry Fund Chairman – the Plumbing Council of Chicagoland – for the 2024-2025 term and past PCA President and immediate past Plumbing Council Chairman Matt Erickson (C.J. Erickson Plumbing Co.). Kennedy will continue as a PCA-appointed Local 130 Pension Trustee and Erickson will continue as a PCA-appointed J.A.C. Trustee and its Treasurer. Paul Aleck (Aleck Plumbing) has been elected a PCA Officer as Treasurer and will also serve at the same time as the appointed Plumbing Council of Chicagoland Vice-Chair. All PCA Board members simultaneously comprise the Plumbing Council Board.

Congratulations and our sincere appreciation to all of the newly elected and returning PCA and Plumbing Council Officers and Board of Directors. Each of these individuals serves in a volunteer capacity on the Boards and on various committees. The time and effort they donate to the PCA over and above their business, family, and personal obligations does not go unnoticed.



*Kelly Castrogiovanni
President*



*Rick Kuhn
First Vice President*



*John Baethke
Second Vice President*



*Paul Aleck
Treasurer
Plumbing Council Vice-Chair*



*David Ariano
Director*



*Troy DeFranco
Director*



*Moe Giglio
Director*



*Michael Kerrigan
Director*



*Tom Mascari
Director*



*Patrick Sullivan
Director*



*Brian Kennedy
Plumbing Council
Chairman*



*S.J. Peters
Executive Director
PCA & Plumbing
Council*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



My Next Chapter for the PCA and Plumbing Council

It's official: the contractor members at the Annual Meeting of the *PCA of Greater Chicago* on November 8 elected your next Board, which is now set to guide our Association and its Industry Fund (Plumbing Council) for the 2024-25 term. We will have an opportunity at our January 26 "Winter Social" to celebrate together as we congratulate and show our support for these incoming volunteer leaders. It's been a privilege to work with them all in various capacities. Be assured that you can confidently rely on their judgment, experience and commitment. My next role will be as your appointed Plumbing Council Chairman. My pledge is to keep doing my absolute best to represent and advocate for everyone in the PCA.

My two years as your PCA President flew by quickly, perhaps because it was an active and productive term. Like my predecessors, I vowed to attend every PCA and industry event imaginable. Recounting them all from the January 2022 "Winter Social" through the latest membership meeting made me realize all that took place. Our keynote speakers at our meetings ranged from welcoming Chicago Buildings Commissioner Matt Beudet to UA General President Marc McManus, as well as our Local 130 Business Manager James Coyne and our Trust Funds staff. We covered legislative matters; mental health and suicide concerns; benefit changes (re-introducing a 401 k); and recently, Trust Fund Audits, and more.

We joined forces with Local 130 and the WSA to revive and revitalize the "Chicagoland Plumbing Industry Hall of Fame;" collaborated on "Open House" events at our Local 130 campuses for both non-union plumbers and open shop contractors to help recruit and grow union market share; and accompanied a delegation of contractors and union leaders to Ann Arbor for the UA's annual Instructor Training program.

The PCA also appreciated our industry partners hosting our Continuing Education Classes – namely One Way Safety; Porter Pipe; and ILLCO. Our annual PCA tours included the Goose Island Brewery and the DuPage Water Commission. Plus, we held special events such as our "Crime Safety Summit" this past summer courtesy of the Riverside Police & Fire Departments, as well as a suicide prevention session prior to our membership meeting last May. The PHCC "CONNECT" conventions in Charlotte NC and Cleveland OH provided networking and business-oriented sessions; the UAC (Union Affiliated Contractors) offered a wide-ranging seminar on "Constructive Collective Bargaining;" the Illinois PHCC's Expo again delivered exceptional product shows with CE credit opportunities; and the PCA partnered with six other signatory contractors' associations just last month for an information-packed seminar on "Succession Planning."

As PCA President, I was in constant communication with the Association staff to be kept apprised of industry news and happenings, provide input, and engage in frequent discussions with our Board and Executive Director on key issues as they arose. As was the case for my predecessors and will be for PCA's incoming leadership, my two years reflected a collaborative atmosphere – with everyone selflessly devoting their time to advance our industry for all who belong to the PCA and have made plumbing their livelihood.

Let me conclude where it began. At the start of my term, I emphasized three priorities for the two years that lay ahead. First, to build on our cooperative and mutually beneficial partnership with Local 130 through open communication, integrity and our shared objective to keep the signatory-side of our trade the best it can be. Second, to address and hopefully make a difference in the tragic and unexplainable increase of death by suicide – particularly in the construction industry; and lastly to do my utmost to bring our divided associations back together as one – *because this fact remains as true as ever: none of us is as strong as all of us*. I may not have fully achieved these goals, but progress was made on all fronts, and I believe that we moved in one direction: forward.

While I may not be PCA President after January 1, I will never stop trying to contribute in all three of these crucial aims as your Plumbing Council Chairman. I will be 100% in your corner and I will be eager and available to offer a helping hand to incoming President Kelly Castrogiovanni, your Board, and all our PCA members. Thank you for your support and friendship.

Now, let us continue!



The torch is passed: PCA President-elect Kelly Castrogiovanni is congratulated by Brian Kennedy

PCA CE CLASS AT ILLCO

PCA CE Class at ILLCO Recap

Nearly 40 PCA contractors, inspectors, municipal officials and contractor employees attended the PCA's 4-hour state-approved Continuing Education class (CE) presented by Plumbers' Local 130 Director of Code & Standards Jim Majerowicz with IL PHCC Executive Director Bev Potts on October 18. Held at ILLCO in Aurora, IL, the late afternoon/evening event also included tours of the ILLCO facility, an informative program covering state and Chicago code, and questions and comments from the engaged audience. The Illinois Code Book as well as shirts from the Chapter's Auxiliary were also available for sale courtesy of the IL PHCC. The PCA gratefully acknowledges ILLCO for hosting our class – particularly Colin Kozar, Nathan Nelson, Randy Nicholson and Diana Poppe for their assistance in setting up and ensuring an ideal space to hold the event.



PCA's Member Services Coordinator Adriana Wells (left) with Local 130 Director of Codes & Standards Jim Majerowicz.



Instructor Jim Majerowicz led the 4-hour CE class.



Illinois PHCC Executive Director Bev Potts (left) with Auxiliary officer Becky Davis.



Colin Kozar (left) and Nathan Nelson (right) of ILLCO with PCA 1st VP Rick Kuhn (center) of RJ Kuhn.



Brian Kennedy (Gehrett Plumbing); Bob Abbott (Abbott Industries); Jim Majerowicz (Local 130); and Lori Abbott (Abbott Industries).



Attendees at PCA's CE class at ILLCO were welcomed by Executive Director S.J. Peters, shown here introducing and thanking instructor Jim Majerowicz of Local 130.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND LABOR RELATIONS CONFERENCE

MCAA & UA Conferences included PCA Participation

PCA representatives participated (September 25-28) in both the *MCAA Collective Bargaining Conference* (contractors and chapter execs only) and the joint *UA & MCAA Labor Relations Conference*. The separate back-to-back events addressed key information and best practices to continue and improve the relationships and collaboration among signatory contractors, the employer associations, all UA members earning their livelihoods through the companies covered by a CBA, and local and international union officials. Attending on behalf of the PCA were Plumbing Council Chairman and immediate past PCA President Matt Erickson (CJ Erickson Plumbing Co.); UAC Chairman and PCA member contractor Brian Rich and Steve Stimson (GA Rich & Sons); and PCA & Plumbing Council Executive Director S.J. Peters (who also served as a speaker and panelist for the Collective Bargaining Conference). Pictured below: Christina Wernick (Laner-Muchin) also served as a Session Presenter and Panelist during the Collective Bargaining Conference.



LOCAL 130 OPEN HOUSE AT 3 CAMPUSES

Local 130 “Open House” Welcomed Nearly 90 Potential New Plumber Members

The PCA thanks our contractor members for collaborating with Local 130 organizers and officials at the Chicago, Joliet and Volo JAC campuses on the afternoon and evening of September 21 to help recruit non-union plumbers to join the ranks of the organized in the plumbing industry in Northern Illinois. Aleck Plumbing; DeFranco Plumbing; Gehrett Plumbing; Omega Plumbing; Ravinia Plumbing-Heating-Sewer-Electric; Terry Plumbing Co. and others (and the PCA staff) all hosted tables to answer questions and provide information on the advantages and benefits of performing their skilled work for signatory contractors. If you’re interested and serious about speaking with potential new union plumbers available to be hired by your company, contact Local 130 Lead Organizer Pat Brooks at pbrooks@ualocal130.org or 312-421-1010, ext. 160.



SUCCESSION PLANNING SEMINAR

Succession Planning Seminar Presented for Signatory Contractors Fall Event was a Joint Effort by 7 Area Construction Employer Associations

Strong attendance combined with practical content, insightful discussions, and expert answers to numerous questions highlighted an information-packed half-day seminar held in Willowbrook, IL on November 16, 2023.

Jointly presented by seven signatory mechanical-electrical-plumbing employer associations, the Seminar – “*Succession Planning: Following the Leader*” – featured four educational sessions and two panel forums covering specific areas: Accounting by Paul Lally & Dave Friedman of Wipfli; Family Dynamics, Retaining Key Staff and Incentives by John Fisher of the Alera Group; Business Insurance by Kenny Keil of Federated Insurance; and Legal Considerations by attorney Jason Loebach of the Chitkowski Law Office. The event also featured a contractor panel comprised of nine employers deliberately selected to cover a wide range of situations, which was moderated by S.J. Peters of the PCA and Mary Sebek of the MCA. A second panel/forum facilitated by main show-runner Peters was made up of the five expert speakers who had led the earlier sessions focusing on their professional fields.

For the Association members who missed it, the entire event, which drew nearly 75 attendees, was video recorded and all the segments will be available soon for later viewing by signatory affiliated employers.

The half-day information-packed Seminar was co-planned by the PCA; the MCA; the three area NECA chapters (ECA Chicago; NECA Northeastern IL; and NECA Eastern IL); SMACNA Greater Chicago; and the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Board. Sponsors included Gladstone Tax & Accounting; Screen Safe; and ILLCO.



The contractors' panel was moderated by S.J. Peters (far right, at podium) and Mary Sebek (far left, at podium) with (from left): Paul Aleck (Aleck Plumbing); Corrie Krula (Hard Rock Concrete Cutters); Vince DiFiore (Candor Electric); Rob Novick (Kirby Sheet Metal); Tim Uher and Samantha Johnson (GT Mechanical); Pete Ortiz (Ortiz Contracting Group); Charlie Usher and Ed Usher (Ideal Heating).



Paul Aleck (right) of Aleck Plumbing & PCA who served as a contractor panelist speaks with a fellow Seminar attendee.



Contractor members are shown discussing industry issues and topics between sessions.



Kenny Keil (Federated) served as a Seminar session presenter, focusing on Business Insurance.



The session presenters all took part in the “experts panel” at the close of the Seminar. From left: Paul Lally and Dave Friedman (Wipfli); seminar co-planner & panel moderator Mary Sebek (MCA); Kenny Keil (Federated Insurance); seminar co-planner & panel moderator S.J. Peters (PCA); John Fisher (Alera Group); and Jason Loebach (Chitkowski Law Office).



From left: Event sponsors Bill Gladstone (Gladstone Tax & Accounting) and Bill Heffernan (Screen Safe) pictured with presenter John Fisher (The Alera group).



Paul Lally (Wipfli) speaking during the Accounting Best Practices session.



Nearly 75 registrants signed on for the November 16 Seminar held in Willowbrook (Marriott-Delta).



Attorney Jason Loebach (Chitkowski Law Office) led “The Legalities of Succession Planning”.



Seminar attendees provided comments, shared experiences, and had many questions answered throughout the event.

NA PHCC 2023 “CONNECT” CONVENTION- CLEVELAND, OH

Hundreds of plumbing, heating & cooling contractor members and industry leaders gathered from October 24-27 in Cleveland, OH for exceptional experiences in education, networking and comradery at the National PHCC’s annual “CONNECT” convention. Among the registrants at the fall convention were PCA contractor company members John Baethke (Baethke Plumbing), Brian Rich (GA Rich & Sons), and Terry McCarthy (TPC), along with IL PHCC Executive Director Bev Potts and PCA Executive Director S.J. Peters.

The convention included sessions on 10/26 planned by the UAC (Union Affiliated Contractors) of the PHCC geared toward signatory contractors, including topics presented by attorney Christina Wernick (Laner-Muchin) on *Fund Audits* and on *Trustee Responsibilities*. A wide-ranging contractor forum moderated by S.J. Peters on 10/27 featured UA officials (Director of Plumbing Tom Bigley; Training Director Ray Boyd; and Special Representative Joe Fernandez) as well as immediate past PHCC President (and UAC Chairman Dave Frame of Bob Frame Plumbing Services) and Brian Rich (ITF Representative and UAC past Chairman). Conference highlights also included general sessions led by “Coach Ken Carter” and Economist Connor Lokar, the annual Business Meeting, a closing event at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and more.



(From left): PCA & IL PHCC Treasurer John Baethke (Baethke Plumbing); NA PHCC CEO Cindy Sheridan; PHCC immediate Past President & UAC Chair David Frame (Bob Frame Plumbing Services); IL PHCC VP Terry McCarthy (Terry Plumbing); IL PHCC Executive Director Bev Potts; and IL PHCC Auxiliary Officer Becky Davis.



(From left): David Frame; UA Director of Plumbing Service Tom Bigley; UA Director of Training Ray Boyd; UA Special Rep. Joe Fernandez; UAC Advisory Board Member and ITF Representative Brian Rich (GA Rich & Sons); and PCA Executive Director S.J. Peters.



Christina Wernick (Laner-Muchin) led two UAC-planned sessions on Audits and Trustee Duties.



PCA Executive Director S.J. Peters moderated the UA-UAC forum for PHCC’s Union Affiliated Contractors.



The CONNECT Convention again featured the apprentice contests (plumbing and HVAC)



The UA-UAC forum/panel included (from left) Brian Rich; Dave Frame; Joe Fernandez; Ray Boyd; and Tom Bigley; S.J. Peters (PCA/UAC) as moderator is pictured at right.



PHCC immediate past President Dave Frame (Bob Frame Plumbing Services, South Bend IN).

PCA TOUR OF DUPAGE WATER COMMISSION

Over two dozen PCA members and invited guests attended an interesting, informative, and entertaining guided tour on August 11 of the Elmhurst-based distributor of Lake Michigan water throughout DuPage County. Led by senior staff members Chris Bostick (DWC Manager of Water Operations) and Mike Weed (Operations Supervisor) on behalf of the PCA, our Association's annual tour event opened with an overview presentation about the facility's function, history and operational facts and figures. The nearly 1-hour excursion on foot that followed provided our visitors with a thorough and detailed inside look at how the DWC brings a maximum capacity of 185 million gallons of water every day to nearly 800,000 residents and businesses throughout DuPage. DWC (which went into operation in 1992) supplies water originating from the lake to 29 separate municipal, county, and private utilities on a wholesale basis, which subsequently provide water to their recipients at retail pricing. The event concluded with a Q&A and discussion session while the participants enjoyed a casual lunch together. The tour was so well received that it was suggested we schedule an encore of the event at the DWC again in the future. If you're interested in joining us next time, let us know.

Our sincere thanks to the staff and leadership at the DuPage Water Commission!



DWC Manager of Operations Chris Bostick (left) with PCA President Brian Kennedy.



Pipes from the past on display at the DWC.



The guided tour was planned for PCA attendees.



The control center of the DWC.



A presentation by Chris Bostick ended with a Q&A session.



Relics of actual wood piping.

ANN HARBOR "TRAIN THE TRAINERS"

Instructor Training Week in Ann Arbor Recap

In what has grown into an annual tradition, the Trustees of the Plumbers' Local 130 Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) conducted their board meeting on August 17 in conjunction with the UA's week-long Instructor Training program held at Washtenaw University in Ann Arbor, MI. In addition to the PCA-appointed contractor JAC Trustees who traveled to attend meetings and sit in on classes during the yearly Industry Day, PCA President Brian Kennedy (Gehrett Plumbing) also was invited by the union and made the trip to represent our Association. PCA members who currently hold seats on the JAC include Matt Erickson (CJ Erickson Plumbing Co; Treasurer) along with fellow management Trustees Tony Albergo (Ewing Doherty); John Baethke (Baethke Plumbing); and Todd Leonard (TR Leonard Plumbing & Heating). Our sincere thanks go out to all PCA contractor members who serve on the JAC, Pension and Welfare Funds – as well as the PCA & Plumbing Council Boards.

Also serving as Local 130 JAC Trustees from the WSA are current Chairman Justin Treutelaar (Great Lakes Plumbing & Heating) and Scott Hoffman (Fettes, Love & Sieben). Business Manager James Coyne serves as Co-Chair for Labor.



From left: Local 130 Business Manager Jim Coyne; Scott Hoffman (Wsa; Fettes, Love & Sieben); Brian Kennedy (PCA; Gehrett Plumbing); and Justin Treutelaar (Wsa; Great Lakes Plumbing & Heating).

PCA CRIME SAFETY SUMMIT HELD IN OCTOBER

PCA Crime Safety Summit with Riverside Police and Fire Departments Provided Practical Information and Advice

Awareness, prevention, law enforcement advice, and best practices to mitigate losses while promoting safety were all covered at the PCA's contractor-focused seminar on October 10, 2023 in response to the continuing rise in crime throughout greater Chicagoland – and nationwide. Theft, plumbing shop burglaries, service vehicle break-ins, and more were examined with occupational safety at the forefront. Led by Director of Public Safety Matt Buckley (who simultaneously serves as Riverside's Police Dept. and Fire Dept. Chief) with RPD Commander Jim Lazansky and RPD Sgt. Brian Greenwald, the 2-hour presentation held at Riverside Township Hall also explored mental health concerns and resources, the possible effects of the recently enacted Safe-T-Act in Illinois, impacts and issues related to the legalization of recreational cannabis, and a variety of relevant topics. The interactive discussion concluded with a substantial Q&A session. *The PCA gratefully acknowledges Riverside Township (Supervisor: Vera Wilt); the Riverside Police Dept.; and the Riverside Fire Dept. for hosting our event and providing the program at our request. Riverside Township also shared this link for mental health resources that it makes available to the community: <https://riversidetownship.org/mental-health-presentations/>*



From left: Director/Chief Buckley; Sgt. Greenwald; PCA President (Gehrett Plumbing) Brian Kennedy; and Commander Lazansky.



Alyssa and Laura Meurer (Trailblazer Plumbing) with Chief Buckley and Commander Lazansky.



From left: Riverside Township Supervisor Vera Wilt; PCA Executive Director S.J. Peters; PCA President (Gehrett Plumbing) Brian Kennedy; and PCA First VP (Terry Plumbing Co.) Kelly Castrogiovanni.



Director of Public Safety Matt Buckley (right), with Sgt. Brian Greenwald (center) and Commander Jim Lazansky (left) welcomed the PCA and opened their presentation.

IMSCA Bids Farewell to Jessica Newbold-Hoselton; Welcomes Frontline Co. as Successor

Ryan Roth to Step Up as IMSCA Executive Director, Frontline President Kim Robinson as Advisor

Serving as the Executive Director of IMSCA (Illinois Mechanical & Specialty Contractors Association) since 2017 after succeeding her longtime predecessor and mentor (the late) Louie Giordano, Jessica Newbold-Hoselton is leaving the organization comprised of 30+ signatory associations that jointly monitors and lobbies for legislation on the state level to advance and protect employers in the union construction industry. As of December 1, Jessica will join the staff of the *Illinois Retired Teachers Association* based in Springfield as its next Executive Director. The PCA has been fortunate to work with Jessica, has appreciated and valued her accomplishments and leadership for IMSCA, and we wish her only the best going forward.

After weighing various options and candidates, and after careful and thorough consideration by its Board, IMSCA has retained Frontline Co. to replace Jessica. Led by Founder/President Kim Robinson, Frontline Co. is a highly respected, trusted and proven consulting firm with exactly the components IMSCA sought. The firm will assign employee Ryan Roth as IMSCA's Executive Director, which will also benefit by extension from its 32-member staff and oversight by Kim. PCA's Executive Director S.J. Peters is IMSCA's current President (through December 2024) and can be contacted at 312-563-9526 or at sj@pcaofchicago.com for questions or comments. Visit IMSCA's website for more information at www.imsca.org.



Jessica Newbold-Hoselton



Ryan Roth



Kim Robinson

Union Wellness Centers are also Screen Safe Drug Testing Collection Sites

The Union Wellness Centers (UWC) launched by the Plumbers' Local 130 Welfare Fund now featuring 8 locations (with more being developed in cooperation with other union trades in the PCA's jurisdiction) are a practical and convenient option for your Local 130 member employees to go to for collections, and it is cost efficient for our "Drug Free Alliance" program because they do not charge a collection fee. For more information call Screen Safe at 815-676-2200 (fax: 815-676-2210), or visit: www.screensafeinc.com. A list of current UWC locations is below:

Bellwood: 2400 Madison Street, Suite 102A - 60104
Phone: 312.421.1016, Ext. 7
Mon. & Wed.: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tues. & Thurs.: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Fri.: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Channahon: 25407 S Bell Rd, Suite A, IL - 60410
Fax: 815-655-2730
Phone: 312.421.1016, Ext.6
Mon. & Wed.: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tues. & Thurs.: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Fri.: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Crestwood: 4736 Cal Sag Rd., Suite A, IL - 60418
Fax: 708-390-7001
Phone: 312.421.1016, Ext.5
Mon. & Wed.: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tues. & Thurs.: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Fri.: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Crystal Lake: 360 Station Dr., Suite 260A & 260B, IL - 60014
Fax: 779-201-4420
Phone: 312.421.1016, Ext. 3
Mon. & Wed.: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tues. & Thurs.: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Fri.: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Lemont: 15900 W. 127th Street, IL - 60439
Fax: 312.421.1017
Phone: 312.421.1016 Ext.1
Mon. & Wed.: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tues. & Thurs.: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Fri.: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Merrillville - 616 W 81st Avenue, Suite A, IN - 46410
Phone: 312.421.1016 , Ext.8
Mon. & Wed.: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tues. & Thurs.: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Fri.: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Rosemont: 6300 N. River Rd., Suite 100A & 100B, IL - 60018
Fax: 847-787-7144
Phone: 312.421.1016, Ext.4
Mon. & Wed.: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tues. & Thurs.: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Fri.: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Warrenville: 28600 Bella Vista Pkwy., Suite 2010A & 2010B, IL - 60555
Fax: 630-634-0402
Phone: 312.421.1016, Ext.2
Mon. & Wed.: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tues. & Thurs.: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Fri.: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

PCA MISSION STATEMENT:

To improve the viability of member firms by providing timely, educational, useful and practical information and services which enable them to better serve their customers and their employees. The PCA is dedicated to the promotion, advancement, education and training of the industry for the protection of our environment and the health, safety and comfort of society.

Help for PCA Contractors ERS: Well-Being. Done Well.



PCA-affiliated contractors can gain free access to in-person or virtual counseling services and online resources of Employee Resource Systems – ERS, the Employee/Member Assistance Program for PCA contractors, and Local 130 members. The PCA sponsors this service for contractors covered by the PCA's union contract. The contractor's employees and family members who do not belong to the union are welcome to utilize ERS' many valuable services and programs. Your employees and Local 130 Plumbers enjoy numerous ERS benefit offerings, including online seminars, articles, and videos on family life, health, finances, career, living, and college life. In addition, the program provides resources for those seeking Child care, Older Adult Services, Resources for Veterans, and more. ERS is the service provider responsible for administering crucial evaluation, counseling, and follow-up to our "Drug-Free Alliance Program." Visit the ERS website at www.ers-eap.com or call toll-free: 800.292.2780.

PCA & Local 130 Drug-Free Alliance Information



The PCA/Local 130 CBA requires random/mandatory drug testing for all rank & file UA members and the non-bargained staff of PCA signatory employers who elected to "opt-in" to the program. Contractors who have not "opted-in" are not required to include their "non-bargained" employees (contractors, managers, administrative & sales staff, etc.) in the Drug Testing Participant Pool. All rank & file UA Local 130 members continue to test.

Please note: When eligible employees are notified to take the drug test, most collection sites now require a barcode. Employees can contact ScreenSafe to set one up or use their email address. Employees may now register online to save time. Once registered (an email address is required for this), they will receive a "bar code through email or text that they will show at the collection site to minimize paperwork and speed up the process. Note: all Union Wellness Centers are test collection sites for Local 130 members. If you have further questions or concerns, contact ScreenSafe, Inc. at 877-727-3369 or email info@screensafeinc.com.

Register online at www.escreengo.com with the scheduling code 752SSI. To download a copy of the Plumber's Local 130 Drug-Free Policy booklet, visit the PCA website at www.pcaofchicago.com.