

ILLINOIS MASTER PLUMBER

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING • CONTRACTORS

Volume 112, No. 06

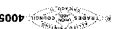
June, 2026



Tom Mahoney *Elected* Illinois PHCC President

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ILLINOIS MASTER PLUMBER

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING CONTRACTORS



Volume 112, No. 06



JUNE 2026

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PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

Up to the Challenge - by Tom Mahoney
Illinois PHCC President

As I submit my first monthly column as your new Illinois PHCC Chapter President, I'll open by thanking you, our members – my peers – for your confidence and support. Earning our livelihood in the plumbing (and/or HVAC) trades means we share an important and unique bond. While I am honored and humbled by being entrusted by you in this responsible role, my goal is to “give back” both to this industry and our association that I respect and appreciate each day.

My inspiration to get involved in the PHCC is reflection of my Dad's willingness to ‘step up’ in important ways. He entered the plumbing apprentice program in 1947, but he too went ‘over and above’ as a scout leader, a volunteer fire fighter, and more. His willingness to meet the challenge as a contractor meant there were many nights and weekends away as he handled emergency calls and took care of his customers. Despite Dad's well-meaning warnings to my brother (Dan) and me to not go into plumbing as a career, we gently disobeyed and did it anyway – and *I've never* regretted my decision. In fact, as I now watch our newer apprentices and journeymen continue to evolve and improve as skilled technicians, my satisfaction and gratitude for what we do for a living only grows stronger. Little did he know that both his sons – Dan and I – would ultimately answer the call to each become President of our top-notch PHCC state chapter. Looking back today, I recall fondly how our Dad relented and hired me as “newbie” the minute I shared my plan to become a bricklayer! That's how my plumbing career was launched as an apprentice in 1989. I think he'd be happy and proud now.

After I attained journeyman status, I worked side by side with my Dad and brother Dan at *Mahoney Plumbing* for two decades before founding *Little Tommy's Plumbing Shop* in 2009 – as a union company, which again matched our Dad's vision for what is best



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for our employees and the industry. As an incredible and precious bonus: right at my side, contributing mightily, and cheering me on from the start with our *Little Tommy's* enterprise has been my amazing and supportive wife Kristin. Today we continue performing service, repair and remodels, and I'm delighted to say that our daughter Samantha and son Ryan are active in the business.

As my term of office gets underway, I realize and I am awed at the thought of following in the footsteps of some of the most legendary contractor leaders I have known and admired. That includes my "big brother" and fellow plumber Dan, who didn't hesitate to serve our state chapter for the betterment of the industry and our peers as well. They have all contributed their time and talents to build our association to what it is today, and I'll do all I can to preserve and improve what the Illinois PHCC stands for with your assistance and input. During this next year, I plan to focus on continuing the fine work of the Illinois PHCC with the guidance of our Board and with the support and advice of our staff, all the while aiming to keep what's most useful and helpful to our members at the forefront of all we do. I will also look to expand and enhance the relationships we have with vendors and sponsors, and to make serious inroads to draw younger contractors into our association to secure its future.

The Illinois PHCC offers a great many resources, benefits, networking opportunities and tools to help your business thrive. As a contractor, I have put PHCC "advantages" to work and have witnessed the many positive differences this has made. Our association always relies on new leaders willing to get more involved. I'm glad I have and hope you'll do the same. *None of us is as strong as all of us.*

Tom Mahoney



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Mark Your CALENDAR



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 9-11, 2026

CCA Fall Meeting
Kohler, WI

OCTOBER 19-22, 2026

CONNECT 2026
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

IPEA Round Table
Par-A-Dice Hotel
East Peoria, IL

OCTOBER 17, 2026

IL PHCC Online CEU Class

SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

IL PHCC Online CEU Class



ILLINOIS PHCC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS INSTALLED

Tom Mahoney, Little Tommy's Plumbing Shop, Highland Park, Illinois was elected President of the Illinois PHCC and installed on June 18th at the Par-A-Dice Hotel in East Peoria. Other Illinois PHCC officers for the coming year are: Vice President, Anthony Brown, Werner-Nugent Plumbing, Posen; Secretary, Paul Brush, CK Brush, Bloomington; Treasurer, John Baethke, John Baethke & Son Plumbing, Chicago; and President Emeritus Kevin Kuhn, RJ Kuhn Plumbing, Heating, & Cooling, Oswego. Auxiliary officers were also installed at the same time: Patty Kuhn, President; Gail McWilliams Vice President; Bev Potts Treasurer.

IL PHCC Directors serving for the coming year are:

Tammy Rich Stimson, Bloomington/Normal PHCC; Mark Ehret, Great Southwestern Association; Anthony Brown, John Baethke and Tom Mahoney, PCA of Greater Chicago; Dan Heise, Midwest IL Mechanical Contractors; Randy Grob, Egyptian Association, Brian Rich, Past Presidents; and Brian Yelton, Associate Members.

We would to thank PCA of Greater Chicago President, Rick Kuhn, for conducting the installation.



L-R: Installing Officer Rick Kuhn, Anthony Brown, Paul Brush, Kevin Kuhn, Tammy Rich Stimson, Mike Ehret (standing in for Mark Ehret), Tom Mahoney, Patty Kuhn, and Bev Potts.



President Tom Mahoney presents Kevin Kuhn with his past president's pin and plaque.



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ILLINOIS PHCC PAST PRESIDENTS ATTEND INSTALLATION DINNER

Several Illinois PHCC Past Presidents attended the IL PHCC Annual Meeting & Installation Dinner on June 18th in East Peoria. At their meeting prior to the event, the Past President's Club voted to donate \$2,000 to the Illinois PHCC.



Pictured are (L-R): Terry McCarthy, Jerry Rich, Tom Gent, Steve Stimson, Brian Rich, Tammy Rich Stimson, Mike Ehret, Tom Mahoney and Kevin Kuhn.

AUXILIARY *presents check to* IL PHCC

At the June 18th Illinois PHCC Installation Dinner, Auxiliary Vice President Patty Kuhn announced that the Auxiliary is donating \$9,000 to the Illinois PHCC for building maintenance and historical preservation. The Auxiliary raises funds for industry promotion/support, and scholarships through their Expo Program Book, Silent Auctions, and T-shirt sales.

The Association sincerely thanks the Auxiliary for their generous donation and continued support!



Auxiliary Vice President Patty Kuhn presents a check to IL PHCC President Kevin Kuhn.

ILLINOIS PHCC AUXILIARY 2026 SERVICE PROJECT

Each year the Illinois Auxiliary conducts a service project to help others. The benefactor this year was the Stitch'n Sisters of Nameoki United Methodist Church in Granite City, Illinois.

They are a non-profit organization that relies entirely on volunteers and donations. Their mission is to serve their community "one stitch at a time" by making quilts, blankets, blessing bags, and walker caddies that are donated to Head Start, DCFS, nursing homes, and shut-ins.

The Illinois Auxiliary donated \$2,000 to enable the group to purchase sewing and quilting materials. They are able to fund donations such as this with the revenue generated from their Expo Program Book, t-shirt sales, and silent auctions.



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ILLINOIS AUXILIARY *holds Auction*



As a part of the June 18th Illinois PHCC Installation Event held in East Peoria, Illinois, the Auxiliary held its ever popular silent auction. Over \$1,400 was raised for Auxiliary scholarships and industry promotion projects.

Thank you to everyone who donated the variety of items for the auction, and to those who bid and bought them.

ILLINOIS PHCC BOARD MEETS

The Illinois PHCC Board of Directors met on Friday, June 19th at the Par-A-Dice Hotel in East Peoria.

The annual Federated Insurance update was given by Devin Moore of Federated. He discussed their Risk Management Academy and safety and risk management tools that are available to all PHCC members. Devin encouraged contractors to use their DriveSAFE Telematics app to help improve employees' driving habits. Packets of helpful information were provided to all attendees.

Reports were heard from the various committees as well as a report on the PHCC National Association events.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 18th in Bloomington.



Pictured L-R: Paul Brush, Shelly Lott, Mike Ehret, Tom Mahoney, Bev Potts, Randy Grob, Tammy Rich Stimson, Brian Rich, Anthony Brown, and Kevin Kuhn.

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PHCC ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF CEO CINDY SHERIDAN, SELECTS DAN QUINONEZ AS NEXT CEO

The Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association has announced that Chief Executive Officer Cindy Sheridan, CAE, will retire at the end of 2026.

During a PHCC Board of Directors meeting on May 7, the board unanimously selected PHCC Chief Operating Officer and PHCC Educational Foundation Executive Director Dan Quinonez as her successor. Quinonez will assume the CEO position on Nov. 1, with Sheridan serving in an advisory role during the transition.

“This succession plan ensures a smooth transition and continuity for the organization,” said PHCC President Jason Pritchard. “We value Cindy’s many contributions to the organization as a strong and steady leader, as well as a highly respected professional in the industry. We wish her all the best in the next phase of her life.”

“At the same time, we are excited to elevate Dan to the top staff position at PHCC,” Pritchard added. “Over the past three years, Dan has established solid relationships and earned trust throughout the organization. With his strong industry knowledge and proven leadership skills, he brings the experience and vision needed to seamlessly guide PHCC into the future.”

Sheridan’s legacy as PHCC’s first female CEO has been shaped by a commitment to collaboration and alignment across PHCC and the plumbing and HVACR profession. Her many accomplishments include elevating PHCC’s profile across the industry; advancing workforce development initiatives; creating critical resources to help contractors grow their businesses; and streamlining PHCC’s internal processes.

A Certified Association Executive with more than 40 years of association management experience, Sheridan became PHCC CEO in January 2023. Before that, she served as the PHCC Educational Foundation Chief Operating Officer. She joined PHCC in 2000, overseeing membership and chapter relations.

In her role with the Foundation, Sheridan spearheaded a “Get the Lead Out Plumbing Consortium” lead-free education campaign, which reached 4,000 industry professionals. She also launched the PHCC Academy® as an online apprentice training program, which has grown into a premier resource for industry education.

“It has been a privilege and honor to be trusted to lead PHCC and work with our incredible members,” Sheridan said. “I am grateful to work with a team of creative and talented professionals who are dedicated to improving the plumbing and HVACR industry and our members’ businesses.”

“Dan has the integrity and background to lead PHCC into the future,” she added. “I look forward to working closely with him during the transition.”

Before joining the PHCC Educational Foundation, Quinonez served as Executive Director for both the Roof Coatings Manufacturers Association (RCMA) and the Professional Electrical Apparatus Reconditioning League (PEARL).




He brings more than 20 years of experience as a national spokesperson and association leader across three industries — food manufacturing, roofing, and the trades.

Since taking the helm at the PHCC Educational Foundation — while simultaneously serving as Chief Operating Officer of PHCC since November 2024 — Quinonez has delivered results at every turn. Under his leadership, the Foundation achieved a record year for scholarship awards, forged elevated partnerships with the SkillsUSA Championship and WorldSkills competition, and completely reimagined its National HVAC


Apprentice Contest. He spearheaded a major expansion of the PHCC Academy, launched a strategic public relations initiative that dramatically raised the Foundation’s industry profile, grew the endowment by \$3 million, and drove more than \$2 million in Academy sales — all within just three years.

“I look forward to stepping into the PHCC CEO role as the organization looks ahead to its next chapter,” Quinonez said. “There are exciting opportunities ahead for PHCC. By working closely with our members, state and local chapters, and industry partners, we will continue strengthening the association and creating new avenues for growth that benefit both our members and the industry.”





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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Bev Potts

The Spring Session of the 104th Illinois General Assembly adjourned on May 31st after an agreement was reached on a State budget. Legislators will return to Springfield for 6 days next fall for the Veto Session. Bills that passed both chambers must be sent to the Governor within 30 days. He then has 60 days to take action on them. If he takes no action, they automatically become law. We continue to go through bills that passed for things that may have been amended to other bills that affect our industry.

Plumbing/Piping/Trade Related Bills:

HB 4361 (K. STUART) Provides that an individual performing plumbing inspections shall be licensed under the Illinois Plumbing License Law and shall be exempt from the certification requirements of the Warehouse Tornado Preparedness Act. Amended to extend the time to obtain certifications, exempts building inspectors conducting inspections prior to January 1, 2026 with 5 years of experience, those accredited through an approved apprenticeship program, and others. Passed the House and the Senate.

HB 4379 (A. BRIEL) Amends the Equitable Restrooms Act to provide that the owner or operator of each State-owned building and the owner or operator of each public building shall ensure that one or more of the public restrooms is designated as an adult changing station, with certain requirements. This passed the House and Senate.

SB 3465 (G. GUZMAN) Amends the Construction Site Temporary Restroom Facility Act to change the short title to the Construction Site Temporary Restroom Facility and Sanitary Conditions for Menstruation and Lactation Act. Repeals a provision which specifies that separate toileting facilities are not required for males and females if individual portable toilet facilities are used by an owner of a portable building or building under construction to provide access to a restroom. Also requires contractors to provide menstruation supplies on the jobsite, as well as sanitary conditions and refrigeration for lactation. Other provisions. Passed in the Senate and the House.

SB 4025 (R. VILLIVALAM) Amends the Environmental Protection Act. The owner of a private property must allow the community water supply access to the property to replace, on the private side of the property, the lead service line or the galvanized requiring replacement service line if the community water supply is offering such a replacement at no cost to the property owner. If the owner of the private property is unavailable or unwilling to provide consent, any legal occupant of the private property may provide consent for access to the community water supply or the community water supply's contractor. Passed the Senate and the House.

Contracting/Business Bills:

SB 3645 (M. Porfirio) Extends the repeal of the Design/Build Act to 1/1/30 and the Progressive Design/Build Pilot Program to 1/1/28. Passed the House & Senate.

Proposed items that did not pass:

Workforce Extreme Temperature Act.

Paid Leave for All - To include construction.

New Home Buyer Protection - 2-year warranty on plumbing, hvac, and electrical.

Labor Omnibus (SB 3393) Included PWA applying to material deliveries, etc. Inspections/Plan Reviews by 3rd Party. Architects & Engineers.

How Would Your Business Respond If the Power Goes Out?

When your business can't run due to a power outage, it can lead to dangerous conditions and costly downtime. Establishing and communicating a strong emergency preparedness and [recovery plan](#) can help you and your employees react safely and recover quickly if your business loses electricity.

Build Your Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan

A power outage is never ideal for anyone, but the business impact can be especially damaging. Although outages often coincide with [severe weather](#), having a plan in place can be beneficial any time. The following tips can be a good place to start:

- Outline best practices for before, during, and after a power outage.
- Identify critical systems that require immediate power.
- Install surge protection to help safeguard equipment and computer systems.
- Regularly test generators to ensure they can support critical loads.
- Establish clear procedures to disconnect and reconnect systems when power returns.
- Assign qualified staff to maintain and recover electrical equipment safely and provide key employees with accurate documentation.
- Verify insurance coverage for equipment breakdowns and update contact information.
- Use off-site or cloud storage for computer backups, and back data up regularly.
- Address liability concerns with emergency lighting and clear safety procedures for employees and clients.

Keep Up With Electrical Maintenance

A recovery plan works best when paired with regular preventative maintenance. Following manufacturer specifications for [electrical maintenance](#) can help to reduce the risk of unscheduled outages. In addition, older, poorly maintained electrical systems may lead to efficiency loss and costly breakdowns. Regularly schedule a thorough inspection of your business by a qualified professional to help catch these risks.

Take action before a power outage occurs. Talk with your Federated Insurance® [marketing representative](#) to learn about electrical risk management for your business. Clients can access additional workplace safety resources on the Training & Resources page of [mySHIELD](#)®.

This article is for general information and risk prevention only and should not be considered legal or other expert advice. The recommendations herein may help reduce, but are not guaranteed to eliminate, any or all risk of loss. The information herein may be subject to, and is not a substitute for, any laws or regulations that may apply. Some of the services referenced herein may be provided by third parties wholly independent of Federated. Federated provides access to these services with the understanding that neither Federated nor its employees provide legal or other expert advice. All products and services not available in all states. Qualified counsel should be sought with questions specific to your circumstances and applicable laws.

PHCC-ASA 2026 Joint Legislative Conference Brings Industry Priorities to Capitol Hill



The Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association (PHCC) and the American Supply Association (ASA) successfully joined forces with the 2026 PHCC-ASA Joint Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., with contractors, distributors and industry leaders delivering a unified message to lawmakers on workforce development, energy policy and regulatory certainty.

Held May 5-6 at the YOTEL Washington D.C., the conference brought together members from across the plumbing, heating, cooling and piping industries for direct engagement with federal legislators and staff on issues impacting contractors, suppliers and consumers nationwide.

Throughout the conference, attendees advocated for policies designed to strengthen the skilled trades workforce, preserve consumer energy choice and modernize federal energy regulations in a way that supports innovation and affordability.

“Partnering with PHCC for this event was an exceptional opportunity to bring a vital segment of our industry’s supply chain to Washington, D.C., ensuring lawmakers on Capitol Hill remain informed about how critical workforce and energy legislation impacts our businesses, our customers, and the communities we serve,” said Steve Rossi, ASA Vice President of Advocacy.

The PHCC-ASA Joint Legislative Conference concluded May 6 following congressional meetings and a closing reception with industry leaders.



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Too Hot to Handle? Navigating OSHA's New Heat Safety Rules

As the sun climbs higher and afternoon shadows fade, the temperature rises, making it the perfect time to review your business's Heat Illness Prevention Program. In April 2026, OSHA introduced a new National Emphasis Program (NEP) for Heat (1), broadening its scope to include more indoor and outdoor industries. This article outlines the industries, activities, and incidents that significantly increase your risk of inspections, along with strategies to safeguard your employees.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), from 2021 to 2024, there was an average of 48 heat-related fatalities annually. Most of these deaths result from heat stroke, when the body's core temperature reaches 104°F or higher. Heat-related illnesses and injuries can occur even at ambient temperatures, especially when workers engage in strenuous activities while wearing PPE that restricts movement or breathing. When any two of these factors—high temperatures, strenuous activity, or PPE that hinders heat dissipation—are present, employers must implement a Heat Illness Prevention Program. It is crucial to consider these external factors during job hazard analysis to ensure proper PPE selection and assignment.

An effective Heat Illness Prevention Program informs employees about the serious risks associated with high temperatures and outlines strategies to mitigate them. These strategies should at least include monitoring ambient temperatures, ensuring ample access to cool water, allowing new employees time to acclimate, and providing designated cooling areas. Most outdoor heat-related fatalities, ranging from 50% to 70%, happen within the first few days of exposure because the body needs to acclimate. Acclimatization involves gradually increasing exposure to hot conditions, enabling physiological adjustments that help maintain body temperature.

Youth and seasonal workers are particularly susceptible to heat injuries and illnesses, with twice the risk of on-the-job injury compared to experienced workers. Increased body heat causes physical and mental stress, and those not acclimated often struggle to perform basic tasks. High temperatures can impair cognitive and physical functions, increasing the risk of second- and third-order accidents caused by fatigue. Hot weather can even turn a routine task deadly due to mental and physical exhaustion.

Workplace deaths and inpatient hospitalizations must be reported to your regional OSHA offices. Most self-reported incidents will trigger an in-person inspection. However, the Heat



NEP considers heat inspection as important as construction falls and confined space activities. This means OSHA will likely conduct an in-person inspection when it receives a heat complaint. This is a significant change, as previously heat complaints were handled by phone or mail to request more information from the employer. During a National Weather Service heat warning, if an OSHA inspector passes a worksite that lacks drinking water or adequate shade, they are required to stop and conduct an inspection. Heat inspections enable OSHA to identify additional safety hazards. The key point is to have multiple high-visibility water coolers and portable shade or easily identifiable shaded areas for employees to cool off.

In addition to employer complaints and in-plain-view-triggered inspections, OSHA is creating a Heat high-hazard industry list to guide targeted unannounced inspections. The previous Heat NEP focused on the usual suspects for outdoor work, including construction, landscaping, and agriculture. The current Heat NEP includes these industries and also adds package delivery, bakeries, foundries/mills, warehousing, concrete plants, and miscellaneous wholesalers.

As temperatures rise, businesses must evaluate their Heat Illness Prevention Programs, especially after OSHA's April 2026 NEP for Heat. Prevention includes monitoring temperatures, providing cool water, allowing acclimatization, and ensuring cooling areas. Young and seasonal workers are especially vulnerable. OSHA now emphasizes in-person heat inspections based on complaints, targeting more industries like delivery and warehousing. Employers must stay compliant to protect workers.

If you have questions or need help creating your program, the Illinois On-Site Safety and Health Consultation Program can supply a sample Heat Prevention Program. The Illinois Department of Labor provides free consultation for small and medium-sized businesses, including on-site visits, program creation, training, and even air and noise testing. This free service, mainly funded by a federal grant through the 21(d) On-Site Consultation Cooperative Agreement, aims to help you develop a safer, more compliant workplace and may even reduce your workers' compensation costs. For more details, visit <https://worksafe.illinois.gov> or contact Harry "Hap" Hileman at 217-993-2111 or harry.hileman@illinois.gov.
Note: This program is 90% federally funded, with 10% provided by the State of Illinois.



1. https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/enforcement/directives/CPL_03-00-024_0.pdf



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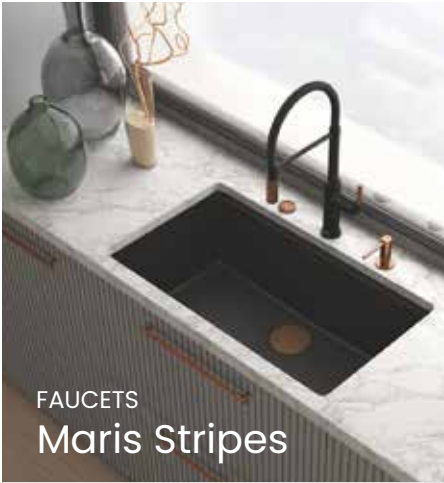
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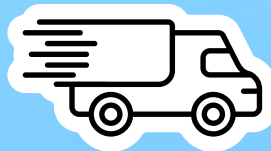
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