

ILLINOIS MASTER PLUMBER

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING • CONTRACTORS

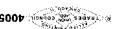
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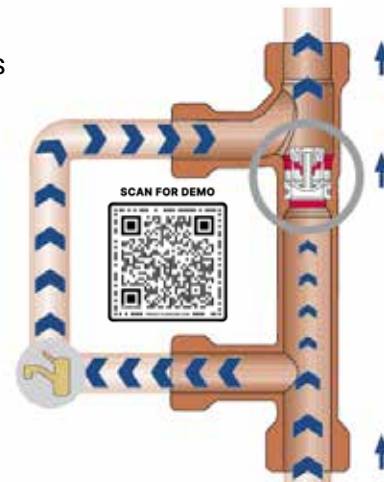
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The Illinois Master Plumber published monthly, is the official publication of the Illinois Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association, only insofar as notices, bulletins, and reports are concerned.

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To: Illinois PHCC
821 South Grand Avenue West
Springfield, Illinois 62704
Telephone (217) 522-7219
BEV@ILPHCC.COM
WWW.ILPHCC.COM

EDITORIAL AND EXECUTIVE OFFICES

821 South Grand Avenue West
Springfield, Illinois 62704
Telephone: (217) 522-7219
FAX: (217) 522-4315
1 (800) 795-PHCC

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PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

by Tom Mahoney
Illinois PHCC President

September typically inspires me to get into a “fall clean-up” mode, meaning I aim to tie up any loose ends as the summer draws to a conclusion and I prepare for the final quarter of the year. So, I want to address some important topics in this month’s issue as reminders of what’s still to come in 2026.

Now is the time to take advantage of the CEU classes that our Illinois State Chapter has to offer. There are numerous convenient online options coming up on September 25, October 17 and November 13. Details can be found on page 7 of this issue, or anytime by visiting www.ilphcc.com.

Our annual PHCC National “CONNECT” convention is happening in Milwaukee, WI from October 19-22. If you’ve not yet registered and made hotel reservations, please don’t delay any longer. An outstanding program awaits all who attend, including three dynamic sessions planned by the UAC (Union Affiliated Contractors) featuring a pertinent legal panel plus three focused briefings on key matters of law affecting contractors. An overview and guide on identifying mental health concerns and how to help your employees is another UAC session. With “Construction Suicide Prevention Week” being observed this month (September 14-18), it’s prudent to acknowledge that there are important ways to recognize when someone you know is in distress and should be referred to a professional to match them with services that can avert a sad and needless ending to a precious life. You can learn how to spot signs of trouble, and where to go to find suitable referrals that will make a difference. The UAC classes I described (on October 21) are reasons enough to sign up for CONNECT – and there are plenty more.

As always, the IL PHCC makes the Code Book available for purchase, and an order form is posted for your use on the chapter’s website (again: www.



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ilphcc.com) or buy it with the order form found in each issue of our magazine. Think of the Code Book as another important tool every plumber should possess.

A new periodic news source was recently introduced by our state chapter: the first edition of the *Illinois PHCC Information Supply Line* was released in August. This practical resource was developed by our association staff because there are times when information on events or industry news needs to reach you before the next edition of the *Illinois Master Plumber* magazine comes out. Using this additional format will allow our chapter to do just that. Watch your email inbox for periodic updates.

Speaking of keeping you informed, please remember also that all Illinois Plumbing Contractor Registration renewals with required documents must be received by the IDPH by or before September 30th. Make sure your CEU credits are up to date, and that you renew your Registration on time.

Lastly, our next IL PHCC Board meeting is scheduled for September 18 at Rob Dob's in Bloomington IL, starting at 11:00 a.m. with lunch included. Please note that all our Illinois state chapter members are always welcome to attend the meeting but make sure to RSVP to Shelly at shelly@ilphcc.org so there is an accurate count and so the staff can properly prepare. *Until next month, keep up your great work!*



Tom Mahoney

PLUMBING CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION RENEWAL TIME

All plumbing contractors registered with the Illinois Department of Public Health should have received a renewal form in August. Even though you may be renewing online, you must still email the insurance and bonds.

In the event that the online renewal should become unavailable, follow the instructions on the renewal form. If your renewal forms and payment must be sent by mail, you will still be able to email the insurance and bond documents.

Please make sure you look at all the materials carefully and submit your renewal as soon as possible - **DON'T DELAY**. Your registration is **NOT** considered renewed until full payment and your renewal documents (i.e. Surety Bond, Certificate of Insurance) are received. **All of these items MUST be received on or before September 30th to avoid late penalty.**

Questions on renewals may be directed to the IDPH Plumbing & Water Quality Program at dph.plumbing@illinois.gov.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 9-11, 2026

CCA Fall Meeting
Kohler, WI

SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

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

SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

IL PHCC Board Meeting
Rob Dob's
Bloomington, IL

SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

IL PHCC Online CEU Class

OCTOBER 17, 2026

IL PHCC Online CEU Class

OCTOBER 19-22, 2026

CONNECT 2026
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

OCTOBER 22, 2026

ERTC Backflow Symposium
Bloomington, IL



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2026/27 ILLINOIS PHCC CEU SCHEDULE

The Illinois PHCC schedule for online and in-person classes for the 2027 renewal year is listed below. These classes offer a minimum of 3 different speakers and topics in each class.

All Illinois PHCC classes will provide State hours for Certified Inspectors and Licensed Plumbers.

Below is our current schedule of continuing education classes for Illinois licensed plumbers. **Please visit our website at www.ilphcc.com for the latest information and to register for a class.** Registration links will be live at least 6 weeks prior to the class date.

2026-2027 Continuing Education Dates

Friday, September 25, 2026

12:00pm – 4:00 pm (Online)

Saturday, October 17, 2026

8:00 am – 12:00 pm (Online)

Friday, November 13, 2026

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Online)

Friday, January 8, 2027

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Online)

Friday, February 5, 2027

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Online)

Saturday, February 20, 2027

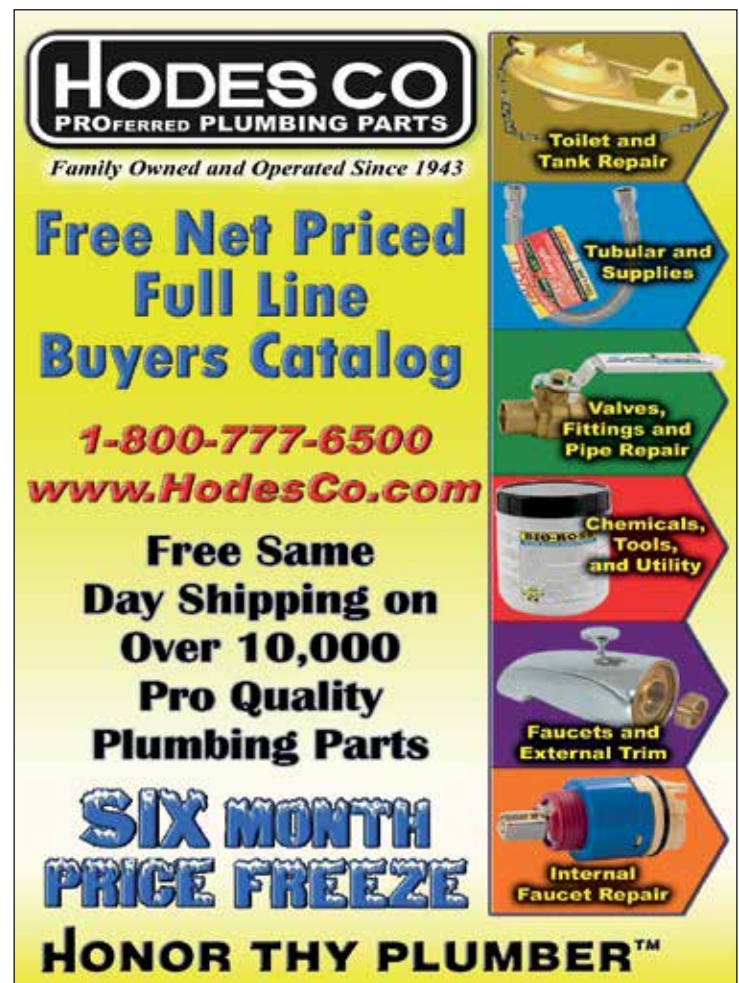
8:00 am – 12:00 pm (Online)

Friday, March 19, 2027

9:00 am – 1:00 pm (In person)
Drury Lane Conference Center,
Oakbrook Terrace, IL

Friday, April 23, 2027

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Online)



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PHCC CONNECT 2026 to Feature Expanded Educational Programming – Gain Practical Strategies and Insights for Stronger Plumbing and HVACR Businesses

The Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association (PHCC) announces that PHCC CONNECT 2026, October 19-22 in Milwaukee, will feature expanded educational programming focused on giving plumbing and HVACR contractors practical strategies, expert insights and peer-to-peer perspectives to help them build stronger businesses.

Covering today's challenges and opportunities across the plumbing and HVACR industries, CONNECT 2026 will offer more than 20 educational sessions, panel discussions and roundtable discussions led by industry experts and experienced contractors. Programming will cover topics including workforce development, leadership, business operations, regulatory compliance, technology and strategies to help contractors build stronger businesses.

Interactive roundtable discussions will encourage attendees to exchange ideas, share best practices and learn from peers facing similar challenges. One featured session is the *Quality Service Contractors (QSC) Lunch & Learn: Stories from the Breakroom*, presented by Nora Burns, *The Undercover Employee*[™]. Drawing from firsthand experience working in frontline roles and proprietary workforce research, Burns will share practical strategies to improve employee engagement, strengthen workplace culture and increase employee retention in the skilled trades.

Signatory contractors will have access to dedicated programming through PHCC's Union-Affiliated Contractors (UAC) enhanced service group. Sessions will cover topics including labor and employment law, collective bargaining, contractor obligations, behavioral health in the workplace and practical strategies for supporting employees through challenging situations.

Additional education continues throughout the expanded Product & Technology Showcase, where attendees can participate in Learning Labs, explore hands-on training opportunities and experience manufacturer demonstrations showcasing the latest technologies and innovations shaping the plumbing and HVACR industries.

"PHCC CONNECT is where our industry comes together to share ideas, strengthen relationships and learn from one another," said Jason Pritchard, president of the PHCC-National Association. "The education at CONNECT 2026 is designed to give attendees practical strategies they can take home and implement immediately while building the relationships that help move our industry forward."

PHCC CONNECT 2026 brings plumbing and HVACR professionals from across the country together for education, networking, industry insights and the expanded Product & Technology Showcase. For more details and to register, visit phccweb.org/CONNECT.

PHCC CONTRACTORS AT UA CONVENTION

The United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters' 41st Convention this August welcomed signatory employers as guests. Among the highlights were General President Mark McManus' unanimous re-election to a new term; a focus on the UA's mental health initiatives; and a report citing a 14% membership increase (to over 400,000 members) since the previous convention due to successful recruitment efforts.



Participating as guests at the UA's 41st convention (which occurs every five years) were from left: Rick Kuhn of RJ Kuhn Plumbing, Heating & Cooling – Oswego IL; Steve Stimson of GA Rich & Sons – Deer Creek IL; Dave Frame of Bob Frame Plumbing Services – South Bend IN; Kelly Castrogiovanni of Terry Plumbing Co. – Countryside IL; and S.J. Peters, Executive Director of PCA of Greater Chicago.

Kuhn is current PCA of Greater Chicago President; Frame is past PHCC National President and current UAC Chair; Stimson is past IL PHCC and IL PHCC Auxiliary President, UAC Vice Chair, and currently serves on the UA Bookstore board; Castrogiovanni is PCA past President, current Plumbing Council of Chicagoland Chair, and a PHCC-appointed contractor member on the IRC; and Peters also serves Advisor to the UAC.

OSHA AND SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

September is National Suicide Prevention Month, and OSHA highlights it as a critical time to address work-related stress and mental health in high-risk industries like construction. Every September, the U.S. Department of Labor, through OSHA, observes **Suicide Prevention Month** to raise awareness about suicide prevention and to encourage workplaces to prioritize mental health alongside physical safety. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration's (SAMHSA) toolkit for the month includes key messages, weekly themes, social media shareables, and resources to promote connection, help-seeking, and community support.

OSHA notes that **construction has one of the highest suicide rates of any industry**, with rates about **four times higher than the general population**. Contributing factors include seasonal work, demanding schedules, and workplace injuries. To address this, OSHA and industry partners created Construction Suicide Prevention Week, typically held in September, to:

- Raise awareness of the unique challenges in the industry
- Provide resources for prevention
- Encourage open conversations about mental health.

Activities and Resources

- **Stand Down Events:** In recent years, construction companies have paused work for a synchronized minute of silence to honor lives lost to suicide and promote mental health awareness.
- **Education & Pledges:** Employers are encouraged to display pledge banners, distribute support resources, and educate workers on mental health tools.
- **Participation:** Organizations can register for events and access materials from the **Construction Suicide Prevention** website to engage employees and foster a supportive culture.
- **Crisis Support:** OSHA promotes calling the **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** or the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255)** for immediate help.

Key Takeaway

Suicide Prevention Month is both a national and industry-specific opportunity to:

- Normalize mental health conversations
- Implement workplace mental health strategies
- Reduce stigma and connect workers with support

For more resources, OSHA's suicide prevention page and the Construction Suicide Prevention Week site offer tools and educational materials to help workplaces take meaningful action.

<https://www.osha.gov/preventingsuicides>

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You've spent years carefully building your business, but how much time have you spent creating a plan to pass your life's work on to the next generation? Help to make your legacy secure with a sound business succession and estate plan.

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Scan to learn more about business succession and estate planning and the options available to help you plan for the future.

SBA Relief Still Available to Illinois Businesses, Private Nonprofits, and Residents Deadline for physical damage loans approaching

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Small Business Administration is reminding eligible businesses, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners, and renters in Illinois of the Sept. 28 deadline to apply for low-interest federal disaster loans to offset physical damage caused by severe storms and tornado occurring June 21.

The declaration covers the Illinois counties of Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Marion, Perry, Washington, and Wayne, which are eligible for both physical damage loans and Economic Injury Disaster Loans from SBA.

Businesses and private nonprofits are eligible to apply for business physical disaster loans and may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets.

Homeowners and renters are eligible to apply for home and personal property loans and may borrow up to \$100,000 to replace or repair personal property, such as clothing, furniture, cars, and appliances. Homeowners may apply for up to \$500,000 to replace or repair their primary residence.

Applicants may also be eligible for a loan increase of up to 20% of their physical damage, as verified by SBA, for mitigation purposes. Eligible mitigation improvements include strengthening structures to protect against high wind damage, upgrading to wind-rated garage doors, and installing a safe room or storm shelter to help protect property and occupants from future damage.

“One distinct advantage of SBA’s disaster loan program is the opportunity to fund upgrades reducing the risk of future storm damage,” said Chris Stallings, Associate Administrator of the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience at SBA. “I encourage businesses and homeowners to work with contractors and mitigation professionals to improve their storm readiness while taking advantage of SBA’s mitigation loans.”

Interest rates are as low as 4% for businesses, 3.625% for nonprofits, and 2.875% for homeowners and renters, with terms of up to 30 years. Interest does not begin to accrue, and payments are not due until 12 months from the date of the first loan disbursement. The SBA determines eligibility and sets loan amounts and terms based on each applicant’s financial condition.

To apply online, visit sba.gov/disaster. Applicants may also call SBA’s Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is Sept. 28. The deadline to return economic injury applications is April 29, 2027. However, after the deadline has passed, there is a 60-day grace period in which SBA will accept applications.

Building Safer, Smarter Workplaces with Employee Training

Your employees look to you as a [leader](#) — someone who sets the stage for the success of the business. With that comes the need for effective training programs to create a safer, more efficient workplace. Not only does taking a proactive stance help enhance employee performance, it can also lay the foundation for long-term success.

A structured training program empowers employees to better understand their roles, refine their skills, and adapt to evolving technologies. Starting strong with solid onboarding, combined with regular sessions on risk management and safety protocols, can help ensure your employees operate effectively while minimizing workplace incidents.

Key Benefits of Training Programs Include:

- **Boosting Productivity:** Training gives employees the tools to work smarter and faster.
- **Strengthening Culture:** Ongoing education helps foster a cohesive workplace and attracts [top talent](#).
- **Improving Retention:** Clear guidance can build employee confidence and aid in reducing turnover.
- **Protecting Profits:** Employees trained to spot risks and respond appropriately can positively impact your bottom line.
- **Minimizing Legal Risks:** Educating on regulations and safety measures helps ensure compliance.

By prioritizing employee training, you can remain competitive, help mitigate risks, and set the stage for sustained growth.

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NOVEMBER

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FOR THE PRICE OF 12



DECEMBER

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Illinois Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Application for Membership

Please print or type

Business Name _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Illinois Plumbing Contractor's Registration Number _____

(For those involved in Plumbing Contracting)

☐ Union Shop ☐ Open Shop

Type of Business Activities

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

☐ Plumbing

☐ HVAC

☐ Hydronics

☐ Process Piping

☐ Fire Sprinkler Systems

☐ Underground Utilities

☐ Backflow Inspection...EPA Backflow
Cert. # _____

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☐ Commercial

☐ Industrial

☐ Residential

☐ Service/Repair..... ☐ 24 hr. service

Signed _____ Date _____

The State Investment is \$245.00. The National Membership Investment is \$591.00. State and National are presented as a package for \$836.00 and may not be split. The Investment period is January 1 through December 31 and may be prorated on a monthly basis. Please make checks payable to Illinois PHCC, 821 South Grand Avenue, West, Springfield, IL 62704.

Please Note: Dues, contributions or gifts to PHCC are not deductible as charitable contributions. However they may be tax deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses.

As per the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1993, 5% of the Illinois PHCC and 5% of PHCC-NA dues are attributable to lobbying expense and are not deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense.

QUESTIONS....1.800.795.7422



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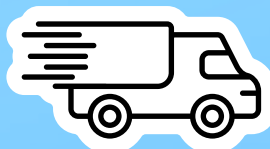
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