



The Voice OF THE Licensed Master Plumber

President's Message

2012, Issue 1

Dear fellow Licensed Master Plumber:

As this is our first issue of the newsletter of 2012, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was a member of our association in 2011 for their continued support. Your participation in an association that is dedicated to promoting and maintaining the highest professional and ethical standards for NYC Licensed Master Plumbers is greatly appreciated. You are an important part of our association's mission, strategies and accomplishments.

If you are not a member of the Master Plumbers Council, this is definitely the year to join. Our theme this year, "*Members Helping Members*" is all about bringing the industry together to promote the importance of proper plumbing practices to the general public. This includes educating the public to the importance of utilizing a licensed master plumber to perform their plumbing tasks.

By being a MPC member in 2012, you will:

- ♦ **Gain valuable information to enrich your plumbing career;**
- ♦ **Network and build professional relationships;**
- ♦ **Share in our resources** such as access to the member's only section of the *new* website we are constructing;
- ♦ **Have your voice heard** through our numerous committees that meet with various city agencies.

Every individual member is important to us. Please join me in the continued effort to serve our community. Become a member in 2012 by sending in the membership form (found in this newsletter) and dues payment today or visiting us at our website <http://www.nycmpc.org/>

Don't wait. Send it in today!

Thank you.

With Warm Regards,

John J. Sideris

MPC President

Continuing Education Update

The **Construction Trades Licensing Training Corporation** is hosting 2 continuing education classes in 2012.

Date: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 and Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Time: 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM: Registration & Breakfast
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM: Program
(Lunch will be served)

Place: LaGuardia Marriott Hotel, 102-05 Ditmars Blvd, East Elmhurst, NY
(Across from the airport/free parking)

Cost: \$225.00 (Non-refundable)

As a NYC certified training program, all participants who complete the 7 hour course will receive a certificate of completion. This course satisfies the requirements necessary to renew a certificate of competence or license for a licensed master plumber and for a licensed master fire suppression piping contractor. Pursuant to New York City Department of Buildings 2008 Administrative Code, Section 28-40.11, this course must be taken within two years prior to renewal date.

To register for the May 23rd class go to this site:

<http://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1057415> or call (212) 481-9740
(Registration for the September 12th class will begin at a later date.)

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Exciting Changes Coming in 2012

NEWSLETTER

The Master Plumbers Council is proud to announce that our newsletter will undergo a change in the coming months, increasing from eight pages to 12. This will enable us to add articles and provide more valuable information to the industry. We plan to feature columns from our committee chairmen and pass along important NYC government updates.

WEBSITE

In the first half of 2012, the MPC website will undergo a major redesign. Planned changes include a password-protected member's only section that will contain information about DOB/DEP/DOT procedures, full committee reports and other "must have" information. In the general-access part of the website will be an online buyer's guide, a plumbing industry job-board, as well as screens dedicated to promoting the plumbing industry to the general public that stress the importance of using a licensed master plumber.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

Planning has already begun on the 2012 annual conference and tradeshow. We hope to continue our success from last year's show by holding a bigger and more education-filled program in October. Stay tuned for date and time.



Master Plumbers Council of the
City of New York, Inc.

104-09 Metropolitan Avenue, Forest Hills, NY 11375
Phone: 718-793-6300 • Fax: 718-793-6190
www.nycmpc.org

The Voice of the Master Plumber, a membership publication of MPC, is published 10 times per year.

All text for articles is due by the 1st day of the month prior to publication

We welcome your suggestions and contributions.

MPC Board President
John J. Sideris

Executive Director
Angela Cappiello CMP CAE
angelac@nycmpc.org

Editor
George Bassolino

Graphics
RK Graphics, Inc

UPCOMING MEETING

The next **Chapter Membership Meeting** will take place –

On: Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 6:30 pm

At: Cascarino's in College Point (14-60 College Point Blvd.)

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

SHAWN JONES

Chief of Central Plumbing and Audits, NYC DOB

LOUIS CENDAGORTA

Deputy Chief Inspector - Special Projects, FDNY

This meeting is open to members of the Master Plumbers Council. Meetings are a great place to meet your fellow licensed master plumbers in a relaxed environment, exchange ideas and network. Some members have said that information gathered at these meetings has enabled them to recoup their investment in membership.

If you are planning to attend, please notify the MPC office by calling 718-793-6300, or sending an email to angelac@nycmpc.org

GENERAL DISCLAIMER STATEMENT:

The information provided in this newsletter is to be used only to educate businesses and the general public on plumbing and related construction issues that may affect their daily business or personal lives. All opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors only and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the MPC, its officers, Board of Directors, the MPC newsletter or its editors. The MPC does not guarantee the accuracy or the correctness of advertising, articles or references to information sources herein, nor does the MPC intend to endorse, rate, or otherwise officially comment on products available. Therefore, the readers are cautioned to rely on information contained herein at their own risk. All information that is available to you through this newsletter is provided "as is" without warranty or condition of any kind, either expressed or implied, including, but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. The information contained in the newsletter is believed to be correct and accurate. However, the MPC cannot and will not assume responsibility for the consequences of errors contained in the articles or misapplication of any information provided. MPC expressly disclaims any liability for any special, incidental, or consequential damages, including without limitation, lost revenues, or lost profits, resulting from the use or misuse of the information contained in this newsletter.

CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL UPDATE

It should be pointed out that the following data and information being shared with the industry is for informational and educational purposes. A request to the DEP for information that would be included in this update has not arrived in time to be added.

The Cross Connection program was promulgated in 1988 under the direction of the Chief Engineer, Stanley Goldstein. The Cross Connection Task Force was created soon thereafter with various Industries being represented. At its inception, the group met on a monthly basis. Industries being represented included, but were not limited to: NY Real Estate Board, NYC Department of Buildings, NYC Health Department, DEP Legal, DEP Water & Sewer Division, DEP Metering Division, and representatives from the plumbing industry and engineering community.

In 1998, a memorandum was issued by the then Chief to the Deputy Director (Engineering), identifying approximately 105,250 buildings requiring backflow preventers in order to comply with the NYS Department of Health regulations. The target date for full compliance to meet the goal of containing that number of buildings was set to occur in 2005. As we all know, that number was not achieved within that time frame. From 1999 through 2004, the Cross Connection Unit approved 5584 applications, representing a monthly approval average of 115. In order to meet the target date of May 1, 2005, a new initiative of increasing the monthly approval rate to 795 approvals would be required.

Not to dwell on the past, let's move forward to near present day levels of activity and take a look at the numbers available. Starting with November 1, 2010, and concluding with Sept. 9, 2011, the 11 month total for approvals was 6003. The approval number issued on Sept. 9, 2011 was 11,034,388. During this 11 month period, the average varied from 400 at the low to 900 at the peak, which is admirable and those efforts are certainly achieving the goals set forth in the late 80's, early 90's, to protect the water supply within the City of New York.

The current staff members of the Cross Connection Unit are confident they can maintain a monthly average of approximately 250 – 300 approvals. All approval activity is presently handled by the in house DEP staff members, who are very knowledgeable and up to the task.

At the same time, there has been a decline in the enforcement of annual certification requirements. This

remains a challenge to the Cross Connection Unit, to continue their monthly approval goals, and simultaneously increasing the enforcement for Annual Certifications.

Moving to the personnel at the DEP, it is important to stress that the staff has been most cooperative to the members of the various plumbing associations. The Director of Operations, Selim Adrawis, is the person in charge of the day to day activity. He and his staff have been most helpful, returning phone calls in a timely manner, answering emails promptly, and scheduling special meetings to discuss a single project. Fellow MPC members have called for advice and direction and the feedback has been positive.

On a sad note, our industry lost a good friend at the Cross Connection Unit, as Frank Hughes, a staff reviewer, succumbed to an illness in the late fall of 2010. Frank was steadfast at his work; always a fixture in the department, his presence will certainly be missed.

As we move into 2012, the levels of activity, the commitment of the unit and the members of the staff, are in my opinion, "on the same page." As we continue to work with our friends, at the Cross Connection Unit, please remember to say "Thank you" for all of their past efforts.

Reported by Daniel Misa
MPC DEP COMMITTEE CO CHAIR



New York 811 would like to remind you that an effective damage prevention program starts with a simple call to 811, two full business days before your project's start date.

Damage Prevention Committee liaisons:

Reed Schwartz (Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, Manhattan)
516-639-9507 • rschwartz427@gmail.com

Mike Murtha (Manhattan and Staten Island)
516-639-8606 • mmurtha5176@gmail.com



Wage Theft Protection Act

The Wage Theft Prevention Act, which went into effect April 9, 2011, amends the notice of wage rate requirements and expands the civil and criminal remedies that are available when employers fail to comply with these provisions. The act requires this written notice to be provided both at the time of hire and to all existing employees on or before Feb. 1 of each subsequent year. **The act also expands the required content of such notice.**

The Act clarifies and expands the Department of Labor's authority to enforce the Labor Law, and expands an employee's ability to bring complaints and private actions for such violations. The protection against prohibited retaliation is strengthened by closing loopholes on what actions constitute retaliation and expands the remedies available to employees.

Penalties for noncompliance can be severe. The Department of Labor can assess a penalty of \$50 per week for each worker who did not receive the notice plus each employee can recover up to an additional \$2,500 as well as attorney's fees. Finally, because distribution of the notices requires a determination of whether an employee is exempt or not, we strongly encourage employers to review how exemptions are determined. Misclassifying an employee can result in severe financial liability.

For more information please visit the following websites.

<http://www.labor.ny.gov/workerprotection/laborstandards/workprot/lshmpg.shtm>

<http://www.labor.ny.gov/workerprotection/laborstandards/PDFs/wage-theft-prevention-act-faq.pdf>

NLRB Reforms Rules regarding procedures for Union Elections

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) on Dec. 21, 2011, approved a set of sweeping revisions to the rules governing union election procedures. The change was designed to speed up union representation votes and possibly make it easier for organized labor to recruit and gain new members.

The final regulation, which some opponents call the "quickie" or "ambush" union election rule, was set to be published in the Federal Register on Dec. 22, 2011, and will take effect on April 30, 2012. Mark Pearce, chair of the NLRB, has stated that the primary goal of the rule change was to reduce unnecessary and redundant litigation in union election cases.

Articles relating to this issue can be found at the following:

NLRB's Representation Case Final Rule and Update on Notice Posting Litigation

http://www.nixonpeabody.com/publications_detail3.asp?ID=4167

Labor board approves new union election rules

<http://www.ajc.com/news/nation-world/labor-board-approves-new-1266807.html>

Union-Election Rule Will Take Effect April 30, Labor Board Says

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-12-21/union-election-rule-will-take-effect-april-30-labor-board-says.html>

Challenges to New Rule:

Senator Threatens to Defeat NLRB's Election Rule

<http://www.dcmplemploymentlawupdate.com/2011/12/articles/labormangement-relations/senator-threatens-to-defeat-nlrbs-election-rule/>

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By joining the Master Plumbers Council of the City of New York, you receive:

- *Forceful Government Representation* through our committees who go before the NYC Departments of Buildings (DOB), Transportation (DOT), Environmental Protection (DEP) and other agencies critical to your business.
- *Positive Public Relations* to promote the public image of the licensed plumbing contractor.
- *Informative monthly meetings, timely emailed updates, and monthly newsletters* to keep you apprised of information vital to your business.
- *Congenial social gatherings* to meet and converse with your fellow licensed plumbing contractors, supply houses, manufacturer's reps, insurance brokers, etc. Upcoming events include Dinner Cruise, Golf Outing, and Trade Shows.
- *Technology & Marketplace* updates through our website, education seminars and supplier briefings.
- *Committees* (Illegal Practices, DOB, DEP, Fire Suppression, Government Affairs, Labor/Safety/Insurance, Utilities, Education, etc.)

**BE A PART OF THE MASTER PLUMBERS COUNCIL AND
HELP TO PROTECT YOUR LIVELIHOOD. JOIN NOW!**

**For more information please call (718) 793-6300
or visit our website at www.nycmpc.org**

2012 MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

Date: _____

Member's Name: _____ LMP#: _____

Company Name: _____

Associate Member Name(s): 1. _____

(LMP from same company) 2. _____

3. _____

Co Member Name(s): 1. _____

(Key Employee from Company) 2. _____

3. _____

Business Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address (if different than Business Address): _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

New Membership / Renewal Membership

- Check in the amount of **\$1,400**
(if choosing this option, original form must be remitted with check)
- One-time credit card payment
in the amount of **\$1,400**
- 4 quarterly installments will automatically
be charged to my credit card in the
amount of \$375/quarter (\$1500/yr)

Associate Membership (Additional LMP's from Same Company)

- Check in the amount of **\$400** per Associate Member (if choosing this option,
original form must be remitted with check)
- One-time credit card payment in the amount of **\$400** per Associate Member

Co-Membership (Key Employee from Firm)

- Check in the amount of **\$700** per Co-Member (if choosing this option,
original form must be remitted with check)
- One-time credit card payment in the amount of **\$700** per Co-Member

Affiliate Membership (Vendor/Supplier to the Plumbing Industry)

- Check in the Amount of **\$2,200** (if choosing this option, original form must be remitted with check)
- One-time credit card payment in the amount of **\$2,200**.

Pursuant to the payment option chosen above, I hereby authorize the NYC Master Plumbers Council to charge my credit card as follows:

Credit card information: Type: Visa M/C AMEX

Name of Cardholder (as it appears on card): _____

Credit Card #: _____ Exp.: _____ / 20 _____

Signature: _____ CVV Code: _____

Billing Address If Different from above: _____

Checks are to be made payable to: **Master Plumbers Council**, 104-09 Metropolitan Ave., Forest Hills, NY 11375



For questions regarding this form, please contact the NYC Master Plumbers Council,
via: Telephone: (718) 793 6300, Fax: (718) 793 6190 or Email: angelac@nycmpc.org

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