

The South Dakota

PIPE CHATTER



APRIL 2025

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Kristie Brunick, Executive Vice President
kristie.phcc@midco.net

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Upcoming Events

- **East River Golf Tournament** - June 26, 2025, Larchwood, IA
- **West River Golf Tournament** - September 11, 2025, Spearfish, SD
- **CONNECT2025** - October 27-30, 2025, Grand Rapids, MI
- **Virtual Continuing Ed Class** - November 6, 2025, Online

The South Dakota Pipe Chatter is published monthly and is the official publication of the South Dakota Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors, Inc only insofar as notices, bulletins, and reports are concerned. Editorial and personalized new stories reflect the opinion of the writers and not that of SDAPHCC. Neither SDAPHCC nor this magazine accepts responsibility for statements or claims made for their products by advertisers.



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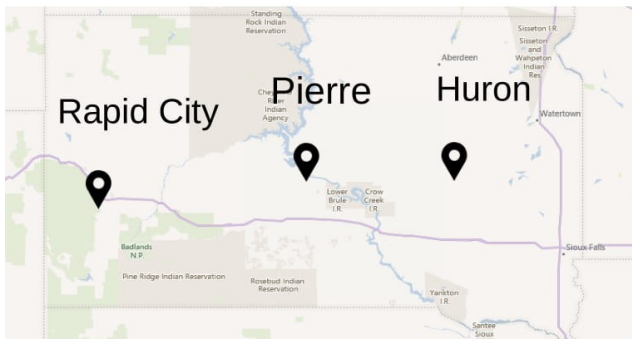
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SDAPHCC Golf Tournaments



Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

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East River Golf Tournament

Thursday, June 26, 2025

Grand Falls Casino Golf Course

Larchwood, IA

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West River Golf Tournament

Thursday, September 11, 2025

Elkhorn Ridge Golf Course

Spearfish, SD

9 Hole Scramble

Shotgun Start at 2pm



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Sixteen Plumbing Continuing Education Classes Held

During the month of March, the SDAPHCC partnered with IAPMO to co-sponsor continuing education classes for South Dakota plumbing contractors, journeymen, and licensed apprentices.

Sixteen classes were held in thirteen locations throughout South Dakota. In addition, a virtual class was held at the end of March for those who were unable to attend an in-person class. Dan Hartman, of Wolff's Plumbing & Heating, Inc, and Tom Hines, formerly of Frisbee Plumbing, Heating, A/C, and Electrical, served as the instructors for the classes.

Dan taught the virtual class, plus classes in Winner, Pierre, Mobridge, Aberdeen, Spearfish, and Rapid City. Tom taught classes in Yankton, Huron, Sioux Falls, North Sioux City, Watertown, Mitchell, and Brookings. Several licensed plumbers took advantage of these opportunities to complete their annual training.

For those who were unable to attend the in-person classes, there are still two other alternatives available. The online class will open this summer. This course allows attendees to fulfill their training online at their own pace and time. The SDAPHCC website will be updated with registration information once the course becomes available. In addition, a virtual class will be held later this year on November 6. The virtual class allows attendees to complete their continuing education training in one night, via zoom, with a live instructor.

All of these classes are approved by the South Dakota Plumbing Commission to fulfill the required four hours of continuing education needed for license renewal.



SDAPHCC Members Host Scout America Class

On March 7, 2 SDAPHCC Members hosted the Scout America Plumbing Badge Class at Midwestern Mechanical in Rapid City.

Seven students attended the class taught by Brett Kaltvedt (Midwestern Mechanical), Larry Baker (Action Mechanical) and Jesse Lilliskov (Action Mechanical).

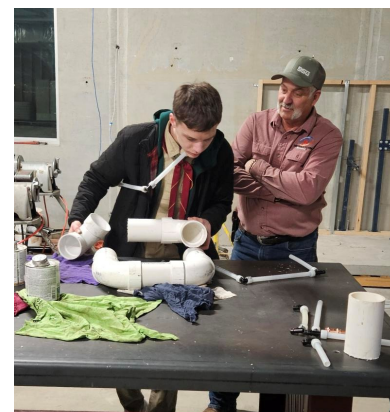
The class content consisted of the following items:

- **Plumbing's Importance:** Focused on how a well-functioning plumbing system is crucial to health and safety. Showed an emphasis on real-world impact, not just technical skills.
- **Health Regulations:** Included plumbing-related health regulations and highlighted the importance of safety and compliance in plumbing work.
- **Safety Precautions:** Focused on safety prepared scouts for real-life scenarios where safety is critical.
- **Plumbing Systems:** Covered both the supply system (hot & cold water) and drainage systems, which is essential for understanding plumbing as a whole.
- **Plumbing Tools and Materials:** Identified tools and terminology, offering foundational knowledge for working on plumbing tasks.
- **Piping Types:** Included understanding different types of piping and their uses offering insight into material science and applications.
- **Water Heater & Hydronic Systems:** Expand the scope of the class beyond basic plumbing and explored more advanced systems used in heating and hot water management.

The students also participated in hands-on activities. These practical components were crucial for reinforcing the curriculum. The activities ensured that the scouts didn't just learn theory but also practiced skills they can apply in real-life plumbing tasks.

The hands-on activities included:

- **PVC Pipework:** Cleaning and gluing pipes plus learning how to work with basic plumbing materials.
- **PEX Pipe Connections:** Introducing modern plumbing techniques by learning to cut and make connections with PEX pipes using hand and power tools .
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Thursday, April 17, 2025
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WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- The requirements for Driver Qualification Files
- How to utilize the SMS Program to help reduce risks within your fleet



WHO SHOULD ATTEND

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- Operations Managers
- HR Professionals
- Owners/Operators



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Candidates' Corner

For the first time in years we have *two* candidates running for PHCC—National Vice President. Meet Tony Bertolino and Brett Kaltvedt ... and watch for more messages from them in future issues of *PHCC Online*.

Brett Kaltvedt, Midwestern Mechanical (Open Shop) and Baete Forseth HVAC (Union), Sioux Falls, South Dakota



With the current volatility of our industry, we need to be flexible and intentional. I firmly believe we are the best trade association in construction, and working with our suppliers, contractors, and employees we can stay the course with minimal interruption. PHCC is a great resource for building relationships that support and grow our companies. As your next Vice President, I plan on working to maintain and grow those relationships.

Fun unknown fact about me: I am a certified cryptozoologist (the study of animals that are considered legendary or unproven) ... Bigfoot, etc.

Tony Bertolino, Rob Bertolino Plumbing and Heating, Virginia Beach, Virginia



Spending time in Texas with Roger Wakefield was an incredible experience. During our conversation, he asked me about three important things PHCC offers. That simple question made me pause and reflect on everything this organization has done for plumbers and HVAC professionals over the years – education, advocacy, and strong best practice groups. I had the chance to chat and promote some of these key benefits, especially for those who aren't yet members. Representing PHCC in that moment was an honor, and it reinforced just how valuable this organization is for the future of our industry.

The election will take place this fall during the 2025 PHCC National Annual Business Meeting. As the election gets closer, watch for more details on how you can vote.

Do you know a company that could benefit from being a member in the SDAPHCC?

Contact the SDAPHCC Office to refer a potential new member.

**605-271-7255 or
kristie.phcc@midco.net**



Create Sustainable Growth Through Loyalty Plans

By QSC Business Coach Todd Williams

Customer loyalty plans are essential for business growth, offering several key advantages. They help retain customers, reducing turnover and ensuring a stable revenue stream.

They also improve customer satisfaction by offering personalized services and rewards, fostering emotional connections. And, they create brand advocates who promote positive word-of-mouth.

Additionally, businesses gain valuable insights into customer preferences, refining marketing strategies.

Common loyalty program features include:

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- Discounts
- Priority Service
- Exclusive Offers
- Referral Business

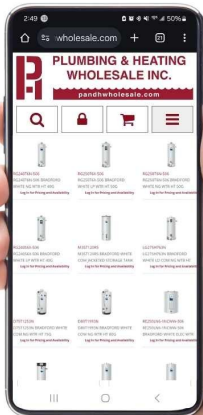


QSC business coaches can help you create sustainable growth for your business through loyalty plans. Visit phccweb.org/qsc, or contact Beth Dobkin at dobkin@naphcc.org or 916-835-5013.

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2025 Legislative Wrap Up



By SDAPHCC Lobbyist Ellie Bailey, Riter Rogers LLP

The main run of the 2025 Legislative Session is now complete. This was an unusual session in that the session began with Governor Kristi Noem and ended with Governor Larry Rhoden. Former Governor Kristi Noem presented her State of the State address on Tuesday, January 14, and resigned from Office on January 25 following the United States Senate confirmation of her appointment to serve as the Secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security. Governor Rhoden addressed legislators at a joint session on January 28. His Lieutenant

Governor selection of Tony Venhuizen was approved by the House and Senate. Lt. Governor Venhuizen then presided over the Senate for the remainder of session, taking over the gavel from former Lt. Governor Rhoden.

It was an active session with many new faces. There were 28 new representatives in the House, 6 having previously served in the legislature. There were 14 new Senators, with 4 having previously served in the legislature. There were two particular bills in which your Association was heavily involved throughout session: SB 24 and SB 25. Both bills had a long and winding road to get to the finish line. I am pleased to report that both bills were signed by the Governor and are set to become law on July 1, 2025.

Senate Bill 24

Senate Bill 24 was sponsored by the South Dakota State Plumbing Commission and sought to revise provisions relating to the promulgation of rules to set licensing and inspection fees for plumbers and related professions. The bill allows the Commission to charge an initial application fee, and provides a ceiling for the fee. The bill further authorizes rulemaking regarding late fees and increases other inspection fees. The Commission indicated the bill will provide sufficient funds to hire an additional inspector to serve the industry more efficiently. Because the bill involved a fee increase, it was considered by the Senate and House Appropriations Committees, and required a two-thirds majority vote in both bodies.

The fee bill successfully made it through two Senate committees with the Association's supportive testimony provided by Kristie Brunick. The bill initially failed to receive a two-thirds vote on the Senate Floor—this is normally the end of the road for a bill. The next day, however, in a surprise move, the Senate suspended the rules and elected to reconsider the bill. The bill passed. It was considered alongside a host of other fee bills brought by the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation.

SB 24 then proceeded through two House Committees where it was again supported by your Association with favorable testimony provided by the undersigned. The fee bill was approved by the House of Representatives and signed by the Governor on March 18. We worked collaboratively with the Plumbing Commission throughout session in support of this bill.



SB 25

Senate bill 25 was the second bill sponsored by the South Dakota State Plumbing Commission this session. This bill sought to clarify the adoption and use of the plumbing code. As initially introduced, it would have allowed

2025 Legislative Wrap Up continued

the Commission to update the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) through the administrative rules process on a go-forward basis. We became engaged immediately after the first committee hearing when it became apparent this bill was in jeopardy. Some Senators we spoke with were concerned about ceding their authority to update the UPC to the administrative rules process. We worked with Senators Sue Peterson and Randy Deibert to amend the bill to update the UPC from the 2015 to the 2024 version. The bill was supported by and passed the Senate in this amended form.



Amendments made on the House side to prohibit cities from utilizing certain versions of the code, however, were opposed by the South Dakota Municipal League. They were considered that the amendments would interfere with municipal plumbing ordinances in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Aberdeen, Spearfish, and/or Brandon. We worked closely with the Municipal League and Commission to ensure the amendments did not jeopardize the ultimate passage of the bill.

Because the Senate would not approve the House amendments to the bill, it was sent to conference Committee, which included 3 members from the House and 3 members from the Senate. We engaged heavily with conference committee members to determine which version of the bill would be supported. Ultimately, the Conference Committee agreed to pass the Senate version of the bill, which updates the UPC from the 2015 to the 2024 version. This version was then supported by the House and Senate. This bill garnered a lot of attention, discussion, and controversy—the relationship between the city ordinances and the state adoption of the UPC may be addressed in future sessions.

There were two other bills that your Association was monitoring: (1) Senate Bill 67, which would have created a state apprenticeship office—this bill failed, and (2) Senate Bill 98, which would have updated building code references—this bill also failed.

Finally, your Association supported HB 1166, which was an act to enhance penalties for violation of right-to-work statutes and to provide a penalty therefore. This bill passed the House but was ultimately tabled in the Senate Commerce and Energy Committee.

Many thanks to your Executive Vice-President Kristie Brunick for her engagement and responsiveness on all of these issues throughout session. I appreciated the opportunity to work with your Association this legislative session.

Ellie Bailey, Riter Rogers LLP



Regulatory Report



By Chuck White, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, PHCC-National Association

Maintain Your DOL Form I-9's

The uptick in enforcement of immigration regulations makes this a good time for employers to revisit and maintain their U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Form I-9s. Federal law requires that every employer who recruits, refers for a fee, or hires an individual for employment in the U.S. must complete [Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification](#). While employers are not required to file information with the DOL, having the information can protect your

workforce.

Employers must:

- Have a completed Form I-9 on file for each person on their payroll who is required to complete the form;
- Retain and store Forms I-9 for three years after the date of hire, or for one year after employment is terminated, whichever is later; and
- Make their forms available for inspection if requested by authorized U.S. government officials from the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Labor, or Department of Justice.

FinCEN Issues Reporting Guidance

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) has issued changed [guidance](#) for the requirements to file Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI). As of March 21, 2025, all entities created in the United States — including those previously known as “domestic reporting companies” — and their beneficial owners are now exempt from the requirement to report BOI to FinCEN.

Existing foreign companies that must report their beneficial ownership information have at least an additional 30 days from the date of publication of the [interim final rule](#).

PHCC applauds FinCEN’s recognition of the burden that would have been placed upon small businesses and appreciates the relief granted by this guidance.

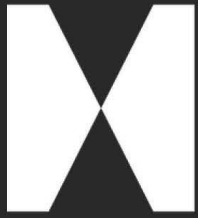


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Find Business Solutions at PHCC CONNECT 2025

By Staff Writer, PHCC-National Association

Your Business Can Get Crazy! How do you find your way?

You'll find it at PHCC CONNECT 2025, Oct. 27-30, in Grand Rapids, Michigan ... where we're bringing together the people and education to meet your needs, ease your burdens, and take your business to the next level!

Here's a sample of the sessions we're delivering:

- Cultivating Accountability in Financial Practices
- Leveraging AI for Enhanced Productivity and Profitability
- Thriving in a Changing World Through Responsible Business Ownership
- Breaking the Cycle: Why Employees Struggle to Get It and How to Change That
- Navigating Employee Engagement: Six Reasons for Resistance and Proven Solutions
- Effective PR Strategies
- Crime in the Workplace

Plus, prepare to unlock the full potential of your people during our keynote session – "Connectable: How to Strengthen Team Connection in the New Era of Work" – led by *Wall Street Journal* best-selling author and thought leader Ryan Jenkins (pictured). Stay tuned for additional session details at phccweb.org/connect!



SD STATE PLUMBING COMMISSION

217 W Missouri Ave,
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Phone: 605-773-3429
Email: SDPlumbing@state.sd.us

Next Commission Meeting: April 24, 10am

Mandy Nielsen, Program Director
Carol Ames, Secretary
Jennifer Anderson, Secretary

Commission Members

Duane Levanen,
Plumbing Contractor Member, Bryant, SD

Jonathan Kist,
Plumber Member, Pierre, SD

James Bailey,
State Health Dept Rep, Sioux Falls, SD

Brian Cooper,
Public Member, Sioux Falls, SD

Jeffrey Leuning,
Public Member, Ethan, SD

From the Executive's Desk



By Kristie Brunick

2025 Golf Outings

As we roll into spring, one can't help but think of being outdoors. We are excited to once again host two golf outings this year.

Our East River Golf Tournament will be June 26 at Grand Falls Casino near Larchwood, IA. Our West River Golf Tournament will be September 11 at Elkhorn Ridge in Spearfish, SD.

We will soon be accepting sponsorships and team registrations. Please watch your email, and the next PipeChatter for more information.

Journeyman Test Prep Course

Do you have an apprentice that is nervous about taking the journeyman test? Or maybe they've taken it, but just can't seem to pass it?

The SDAPHCC partnered with IAPMO and PHCC National to create a course that will help apprentices prepare for their journeyman's test. The course is available online and can be completed at the apprentice's pace. The goal of the course is to equip apprentices to successfully pass their journeyman's test. [See page 13 for more details.](#)

2025 Plumbing Continuing Education

We had a great Continuing Education Season last month. Sixteen in-person classes were held throughout the state plus a virtual class. For those who were unable to attend these classes, there are still 2 more options available to get your credits.

We have a second virtual class scheduled for the evening of November 6. This class will be taught by a live instructor via zoom.

In addition, the online class will be available this summer. Users can login to the class at their convenience to complete the training. Watch the PipeChatter and our website for updates.

Apprenticeships

The SDAPHCC offers apprenticeships in Plumbing, HVAC, Sheet Metal and Refrigeration. If you have an apprentice needing training, please contact the SDAHCC office to schedule an apprentice enrollment meeting.

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safety training programs.**

Visit www.sdagc.org for a
list of programs.

Offer good through
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Join us to help build a culture that's smart about mental health.

The Construction Hike for Hope is an event meant to engage the construction industry on the importance of mental health and suicide prevention. According to the CDC's data on suicide risk within occupational groups, the construction and extraction industries were found to have the highest rate of suicide in the United States.

SD Construction Hike for Hope
Saturday, May 17, 2025

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