PIPE CHATTER



NOVEMBER 2025

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- . SD Awards at Connect
- . Apprentice Contest Registration



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Pipe Chatter

Official publication of the South Dakota Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors, Inc.



SDAPHCC

707 E 41st St, #220 605-271-7255

Sioux Falls, SD 57105 1-800-640-PHCC (7422)

www.sdphcc.org

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Upcoming Events

- Project Management Class December 16, 2025, Rapid City
- Project Management Class December 18, 2025, Sioux Falls
- Med Gas Class January 20-23, 2026, Sioux Falls
- Annual State Convention February 24-27, 2026, Deadwood

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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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Hilti Hosts SDAPHCC Fall Board Meeting

On October 9, Hilti hosted the SDAPHCC Fall Board of Directors meeting at the headquarters in Plano, TX. Board members traveled to the Dallas area two days prior. On October 8, the Board visited Hilti's facility in Irving, TX. They were able to tour the tool service center and test lab. They learned about various Hilti tools and experienced hands-on demonstrations. In addition, the Board received overviews from Hilti reps on the services and benefits they provide.

On October 9, the Board toured Hilti's warehouse in Lewisville, TX and learned about their processes and construction services. Next, they traveled to the Hilti Headquarters in Plano, TX. The Board toured the facility and learned about Hilti's management.

After the end of the tour, the Board held their fall Board of Director's meeting at the Hilti headquarters. The trip provided Board members with valuable information while creating a unique opportunity to strengthen relationships.

A special thank you to the Hilti team for their generous hospitality.















Intro to Project Management

A Workshop for Construction project managers

December 16, 2025 ◆ 8am-5pm ◆ Hilton Garden Inn, Rapid City, SD

December 18, 2025 ◆ 8am-5pm ◆ Hilton Garden Inn South, Sioux Falls, SD

More Profit, More Time & More Peace of Mind

All project managers and field supervisors are loaded with tasks. Often it seems more like juggling and fire-fighting than it does "management." Jumping from one emergency to the next may get the job done, but it is a struggle and there is always the risk of something slipping by that will come back to haunt you later.

So what's the solution? Have a plan and follow its rules! The modern world is built on processes and standards – best practices and procedures that are followed every time to ensure repeatable results. The same is true for our industry; we're just not very good about doing it!

How can you get all this done, especially when you are trying to manage multiple projects? Kirk will show you how - through proper planning, thoughtful execution, checklists, managing with numbers, communication and working as a team.

Attendees will learn the Ten Commandments of Project Management, and how they can help you stop the juggling act and start being a project management professional.

IT'S ALL ABOUT WINNING THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT GAME!

YOUR INSTRUCTOR:

Industry expert **Kirk Alter** will give attendees the tools they need to use on every project to keep the game running smoothly by providing the field workforce with the equipment, materials and information they need to keep



productivity and profits at maximum. Attendees learn the rules of the construction game – and how to play to win it!

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Project Managers and Asst. PMs/Coordinators
- Superintendents
- Subcontractor Business Owners & Managers
 Who Support the PM Process

TOPICS MAY INCLUDE:

Each workshop is tailored to the attendees in the room and what they need to learn to be successful.

- The 10 Commandments of Project Management
- Managing Multiple Projects
- Why Cashflow Matters
- Understanding What's in the Contract
- Knowing When & Why to Say "No"
- Change Orders the Right Way
- What to Do When It Hits the Fan Managing Change on the Project

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED — Registration is limited to just 24 participants. Most companies send multiple attendees to get everyone operating by the same playbook.

This is not a "sit & listen" workshop. Our instructor delivers a lively presentation and active participation in the class is a requirement of attendance.





Intro to Project Management

A WORKSHOP FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT MANAGERS

December 16, 2025 ◆ 8am-5pm ◆ Hilton Garden Inn, Rapid City, SD

OR December 18, 2025 ◆ 8am-5pm ◆ Hilton Garden Inn South, Sioux Falls, SD

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Includes: A full day of instruction, lunch, plus digital access to all course handouts.

Register by completing this form and returning it to the SDAPHCC Office.

Email: Kristie.phcc@midco.net OR Mail: 707 E 41st St, #220, Sioux Falls, SD 57105

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	☐ December 16, 2025 – Rapid City, SD		☐ December 18, 2025 – Sioux Falls SD		
LIST ATTE	NDEE AND COMPANY INFORMATION				
	First Attendee	Second At	tendee	Third Attendee	
Name:					
Address: _		.			
City/State/	Zip:				
SELECT PA	YMENT AMOUNT AND METHOD				
	\$470 per person for SDAPHCC Member	ers 🗖	\$540 per person f	or non-members	
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"I should know this, but I was very surprised to see that we all have the same problems. But we are all coming up with very unique and creative ways to solve those common problems.

That was one of the biggest take-aways for me, was how do I solve the same problems that everyone is having."

Mark Weaver, Project Manager at COPPERA in Taylor, Texas

The Intro to Project
Management Workshop
is sponsored by:



WEBINAR

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Thursday, November 20, 2025 1 p.m. CT

Certain employees are critical to the long-term success and profitability of your business. Their expertise, customer relationships, and unique skills are valuable assets, and your own financial security may rely on their continued commitment and high performance. The unexpected loss of even one key employee could impact your business's value and profitability for years to come. This webinar will provide insights into identifying these essential team members and offer strategies to help retain them.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- > Today's challenges with retaining employees
- ➤ How to identify the key employees in a business
- ➤ The true cost of employee turnover
- ➤ Learn about the three pieces of Federated's Triple Protection Plan and how it can help reward and retain key employees



WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Risk Managers
- Operations Managers
- · HR Professionals
- · Owners/Operators



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PHCC's CONNECT Delivers a Powerful Industry Experience in Grand Rapids

The Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association (PHCC) recently hosted CONNECT 2025 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from October 27-30, bringing together plumbing and HVACR professionals for an engaging industry event.

The conference featured over 20 educational sessions, interactive panels and countless networking opportunities, offering attendees the chance to share best practices, explore emerging trends and gain insights to help them grow their businesses



The prestigious 2025 Colonel George D. Scott Award was presented to Jeff Voss of Boone, North Carolina, recognizing his years of service and devotion to the association and the industry. This award honors those whose efforts have significantly benefited other plumbing, heating and cooling contractors.

"CONNECT is more than a conference, it's a celebration of who we are as an industry," said PHCC President Dan Callies, president of Oak Creek Plumbing in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. "When we come together to share knowledge and support one another, we strengthen our future and the legacy of our profession."

Next year's conference will be held October 19-22 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Contractors are encouraged to mark their calendars now for this opportunity to continue building connections and enhancing their businesses.





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PHCC Educational Foundation Congratulates Our 2025 National Plumbing Apprentice Contest

The Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors — National Association (PHCC) Educational Foundation is proud to announce the winners of the national plumbing apprentice contest. The contest was held over three days — October 27th to 29th in Grand Rapids, Mich. on the trade show floor during the PHCC—National Association's CONNECT 2025 event. A total of seventeen plumbing apprentices from across the nation took part.

Plumbing Apprentice Contest Winners

- First Place: Josh Vogt of Bombard Mechanical in Las Vegas, Nevada. He was sponsored by A.O. Smith.
- Second place: Cody Green of Midwestern Mechanical in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He was sponsored by Moen.



Pictured I to r: Daniel Pritchett, Josh Vogt, & Cody Green

• Third Place: Daniel Pritchett of Reichelt Plumbing in Schererville, Indiana. He was sponsored by the Copper Development Association.

The plumbing apprentices were required rough-in a bathroom system. The set-up includes a toilet, sink and shower, complete with supply, waste and vent lines, plus cleanouts and extra features designed to test the contestants' knowledge and skills. The test set-up includes a variety of pipe materials – cast iron, copper and PVC and corresponding joining methods.

A dedicated team of contractor volunteers arrived two days before the competition to assemble the competitor test benches, distribute the materials and supplies and set up the testing areas. They monitor the competition,

Barnette and Streuli Compete in Plumbing Apprentice Contest

South Dakota had two additional apprentices who also competed in the National Plumbing Apprentice Contest at Connect. Both represented SD well!

Trenton Barnette, Krier & Blain





Trevor Streuli, Midwestern Mechanical





2025 National Plumbing Apprentice Contest continued

evaluate the apprentices' work and provide constructive feedback on each competitor's performance following the event.

The contest is made possible by the generous support of several industry sponsors who provide monetary support and in-kind material and tool donations. Sponsors for the 2025 competition include, with headline sponsors appearing in bold: AB&I Foundry; A.O. Smith; Bradford White Corp.; BNP-Plumbing & Mechanical Magazine; Cast Iron Soil Pipe Institute; Contractor Magazine; Copper Development Association; Delta Faucet Co.; Home Depot Pro; International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO); the International Code Council, Kohler Company; Legend Valve; Milwaukee Tool Company; Moen; NIBCO INC.; Oatey; Rheem HVAC and Water Htg. Division; RIDGID; State Water Heaters; Tyler Pipe & Coupling; and Zoeller Pump Company.



Cody Green

"What makes this contest so special is the community behind it," said Foundation Chair Patrick Wallner. "Our contractor volunteers, manufacturers, suppliers, and educators are all working together to make sure these apprentices have a platform to show off their talents. That collaboration reflects exactly what we need to build the next generation of skilled professionals."

The Foundation's National HVAC Apprentice Contest, typically also held during PHCC CONNECT, is being updated to create a competition addressing the skills apprentices need today, plus the technology they can expect to work with in the future. Contractors from the PHCC of South Dakota chapter are leading that effort, and the newly updated HVAC contest will run at the S.D. state convention next February...



Cody Schroeder of SD Named PHCC's 2025 Plumbing Instructor of the Year

Recognizing an educator who is making a significant impact on the next generation of plumbing professionals, the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association (PHCC) named Cody Schroeder of Midwestern Mechanical Trades Academy its 2025 Plumbing Instructor of the Year. The award – sponsored by PHCC Corporate Partner Milwaukee Tool – was presented at PHCC CONNECT 2025 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Schroeder started with Midwestern Mechanical Inc. in 2005 as a plumbing apprentice. After completing his apprenticeship in 2009, he earned his South Dakota and Sioux Falls journeyman licenses and went on to serve in the field for 15 years as an apprentice, journeyman, and foreman.

Building on that experience, he moved into education in 2021 and now oversees and teaches more than 100 apprentices annually across four Midwestern Mechanical locations.

Drawing on his own experience, Schroeder relates to his students and works tirelessly to ensure each one has the opportunity to succeed. He is an outspoken advocate for apprenticeships and partners closely with the

South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation to promote and expand apprenticeship programs throughout the state.

As an instructor, Schroeder has modernized classroom and lab curriculums to better prepare students for today's evolving industry. He has secured grants to update training facilities with state-of-the-art equipment and has introduced more digital training tools, including Trimble technology, to give apprentices firsthand experience with Building Information Modeling (BIM). His teaching style is designed to reach a wide variety of students – from recent high school graduates to later-in-life career changers – inspiring them to stay engaged and motivated.







Pictured I to r: Ron Shanaver, Milwaukee; Cody Schroeder, Midwestern Mechanical; Dan Callies, PHCC National President

He leads by example, writes PHCC of South Dakota's Brett Kaltvedt. "Cody motivates and inspires his students by being an example of what hard work and loyalty can bring to their careers."

Under Schroeder's leadership, Midwestern Mechanical apprentices consistently have excelled at the PHCC Educational Foundation's National Plumbing Apprentice Contests.

Equally important, Schroeder emphasizes professionalism in the industry. He instills in his students Midwestern Mechanical's motto of "Performance with Pride" – pride in the work they do, pride in how they do the work, pride in how they treat the customer, and pride in how they carry themselves as a trades person. "He explains to them that professionalism builds respect, trust, and credibility from both your peers and the customer, which ultimately leads to success for the company and the apprentices themselves," says Kaltvedt.

Congratulations, Cody!



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South Dakota's Jantzen Fisher Honored as PHCC HVAC Apprentice of the Year

Demonstrating exceptional technical skills, leadership, and a passion for the HVAC profession, Jantzen Fisher of South Dakota has been named the 2025 HVAC Apprentice of the Year by the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association (PHCC). The award, sponsored by PHCC Corporate Partner Rheem, was presented during PHCC CONNECT 2025 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Fisher, a student in Western Dakota Technical College's HVACR program, entered the profession after a chance conversation with a contractor sparked his interest in HVAC. Intrigued by the opportunity to master multiple disciplines – including electrical, plumbing, refrigeration, and sheet metal – he pursued HVAC as a career and has quickly established himself as a standout in the industry.

During his training, Fisher has maintained a 4.0 GPA, earned a Build Dakota Scholarship, and served as president of the HVACR student club. He also competed successfully in SkillsUSA, taking first place at the state



Pictured I to r: Rheem representative, Jantzen Fisher, Midwestern Mechanical; Dan Callies, PHCC National President

level. His instructors praise his dedication, curiosity, and commitment to excellence, noting his habit of arriving early, staying late, and asking thoughtful questions to deepen his knowledge.

Currently working with Midwestern Mechanical, Inc., a PHCC member company in Rapid City, Fisher has impressed his colleagues with his strong work ethic, willingness to take on challenges, and eagerness to learn all aspects of the trade. Starting out as a part-time commercial HVAC installer, he progressed through refrigeration piping on commercial jobs before moving into service work.



"Jantzen is steady and competent," write his nominators. "He has taken what he learned from Western Dakota Technical College and the variety of field experience he learned on the job and has carried that through to the daily tasks he encounters."



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

Contact the SDAPHCC Office (605-271-7255) to refer a potential new member.



SD STATE PLUMBING COMMISSION

217 W Missouri Ave, Pierre, SD 57501 Phone: 605-773-3429

Email: SDPlumbing@state.sd.us

Website: https://dlr.sd.gov/plumbing/

default.aspx

Next Commission Meeting: January 15, 2026, 10:00 am

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

Commission Members

Jonathan Kist, President Plumber Member, Pierre, SD

Jeffrey Leuning, Vice-President Public Member, Ethan, SD

Duane Levanen, Plumbing Contractor Member, Bryant, SD

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

Brian Cooper, Public Member, Sioux Falls, SD







Enter Your Apprentice in the Annual SDAPHCC Apprentice Contest!



Plumbing Division or HVAC Division

Written Testing for both divisions held at 1pm on December 12 in Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Pierre, & Watertown

State Plumbing Hands-On Competition held February 25 & 26, 2026 at the SDAPHCC State Convention in Deadwood, SD

Winning Contestant receives trip to National Competition at CONNECT 2026 in Milwaukee, WI on October 19-22, 2026

State HVAC Hands-On Competition held February 24, 2026 at SDAPHCC State Convention in Deadwood, SD.

Winning Contestant stays for National HVAC Hands-on Competition on February 25 & 26, 2026 at SDAPHCC State Convention in Deadwood, SD. Winning Contestant also receives trip to Connect 2026.

Registration Deadline: December 5, 2025 See contest details and guidelines for more information.







SDAPHCC Apprentice Contest Details and Guidelines

The SDAPHCC hosts an annual apprentice competition in conjunction with its Annual Convention. Apprentices can compete in either the Plumbing Division or the HVAC Division.

Competition Overview

- Apprentices first compete in a written competition.
- The top three contestants in each division advance to the state hands-on competition.
- The first-place winner of the state hands-on competition in each division will then advance to the national competition.

Written Competition Details

- Held at 1pm on December 12 in Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Pierre, and Watertown.
 - Rapid City Location: 3536 Eglin St (Midwestern Mechanical)
 - Sioux Falls Location: 712 E 3rd St (Howe, Inc)
 - Pierre Location: 1802 E Dakota Ave (Wheelhouse Plumbing)
 - Watertown Location: 9 N Maple (Andor, Inc/Taecker Plumbing & Heating)
- Written Test Schedule
 - 12:45 pm Contestants Arrive and Check In
 - 1:00 pm Testing Starts (no exceptions or late starts)
 - 3:00 pm Testing Ends
- IMPORTANT NOTE: Contestants will need to provide a driver's license or other valid picture ID at the time of testing.
- Tests will be graded at a later date and results will be issued within the next few weeks.
- In the case of a tie, the time that the test was turned in will be the tie breaker with the shortest test time as the winner.

HVAC Hands-On Competition Details for State and National

- The State HVAC Hands-on Competition will be held on February 24, 2026, during the Annual SDAPHCC State Convention, at The Lodge, in Deadwood, SD. Winners will be announced that night at the opening reception.
- The National HVAC Competition will be held on February 25-26, during the Annual SDAPHCC State Convention, at The Lodge, in Deadwood, SD. Winners will be announced on the 26th during the trade show.
- Winners of the National HVAC Competition will also be invited to travel to the National Convention, where they will be formerly recognized.



Continued on next page



Apprentice Contest Details Continued

Plumbing Hands-On Competition Details for State and National

- The State Plumbing Hands-on Competition will be held on February 25 and 26, 2026, during the Annual SDAPHCC State Convention, at The Lodge, in Deadwood, SD.
 Winners will be announced on the 26th during the trade show.
- The National Plumbing Competition will be held on October 19-22, 2026, at the PHCC National Convention in Milwaukee, WI.



National Convention Details

- The National Convention will be held on October 19-22, 2026, in Milwaukee, WI.
- PHCC National provides travel funds for airfare and lodging plus free convention registration for contestants.
- SDAPHCC provides one free guest plane ticket per SD contestant.
- Contestants will compete against apprentices from across the nation in a written and a hands-on competition.

Contest Guidelines

- Employers must be a member of the SDAPHCC.
- Apprentices must be a second-year apprentice or higher during 2026 and shall not have attained journeyman status.
- Plumbing apprentices must be a registered apprentice with the South Dakota Plumbing Commission.
- HVAC apprentices must be EPA 608 certified.
- The contestants should not have previously competed at the National PHCC competition.
- Contestants can only participate in the state hands-on competition once per division.
- Registration deadline is December 5, 2025.

Registration Form - SDAPHCC Apprentice Contest					
Instructions: Please return the completed form by December 5, 2025 to the SDAPHCC office					
Contestant Name:	Year of Apprenticeship:				
Personal Address:					
	T-shirt size:				
Phone: Email:					
Employer Company:					
Employer City:	Phone:				
Employer Contact Person:	Title:				
Employer Email:					
Indicate Division (check one): Plumbing Testing Location (check one): Rapid City	HVAC Sioux Falls Pierre Watertown				



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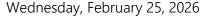
SDAPHCC ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION & PHCC NATIONAL HVAC APPRENTICE CONTEST FEBRUARY 24-27, 2026 THE LODGE, DEADWOOD, SD

Tentative Schedule

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

- All Day SD HVAC Apprentice Hands-On Competition
- ◆ Afternoon *New* Future Leaders Program





- All Day National HVAC Apprentice Competition
- ♦ Morning *New* Future Leaders Program
- Afternoon Continuing Education for Plumbing & HVAC Contractors & SD Plumbing Apprentice Hands-On Competition
- ◆ Evening Reception & Dinner, SDAPHCC Board Meeting

Thursday, February 26, 2026

- Morning Seminars, SD Plumbing Apprentice Hands-On Competition & National HVAC Apprentice Competition
- Lunch Featuring SDAPHCC Contractor Award Presentation & Officer Installation
- Afternoon Trainings and Hand-On Demonstrations, Trade Show Set-up & Spouse Event
- Evening Apprentice Contest Awards Presentation, Trade Show, & Dinner

Friday, February 27

Morning - Breakfast and Tear Down



2026 SDAPHCC ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION FEBRUARY 24-27, 2026 THE LODGE, DEADWOOD, SD



New Changes

Hands-On Training

Sustaining SDAPHCC members will be hosting hands-on trainings and demonstrations on Thursday afternoon.

PHCC-National HVAC Apprentice Contest

SDAPHCC is excited to host apprentices from across the country competing in the newly redesigned contest

Future Leaders Program

This pre-convention program provides one day of speakers with content designed to equip new and future leaders.

Same Favorites

Educational Seminars

A variety of speakers will provide informative and useful information to help contractors run successful businesses.

State Apprentice Contest

The top 3 Plumbing & HVAC apprentices will compete for a chance to advance to the National competition.

Trade Show

A fun and social event featuring Sustaining Members displaying the latest products and innovation in the industry.

Plus...Fun Spouse Event, Gun Raffle, Silent Auction, Awards, & Networking

SDAPHCC Medical Gas Certification Class

What: Medical Gas Installers Training

When: January 20-23, 2026

Time: 8:00am - 5:00pm each day

Where: Sioux Falls, SD

Tuition: \$1,575 per person (PHCC Member)

Please fill out a separate form for each student.

\$1,775 per person (non-member)

Please print or type – this information will be used for your permanent records.

The class will consist of training in all facets of medical gas pipeline equipment installation for hospitals, office-based occupancies, nursing homes and other health care facilities. A portion of the class will be devoted to learning proper brazing techniques and requirements for working with medical gas equipment and piping.



TO REGISTER: Complete the following form and send with tuition payment to: SDAPHCC, 707 E 41st St, #220, Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Make checks payable to: SDAPHCC. Registration Deadline: 12/31/25

Registration Form for Medical Gas Training Seminar

ABOUT THE COURSE

MEDICAL GAS INSTALLERS TRAINING SEMINAR

A Medical gas installation and brazing class is being set up for Sioux Falls, South Dakota, January 20-23, 2026. Classes will run from 8:00 am to about 5:00 pm. Students will need to bring paper and pencils for note taking and highlighters.

Contractor employees need to be journeyman level, or active in an apprentice program for at least four years. Estimators, construction company officials and hospital employees who will not be installing medical gas systems, and building officials/inspectors, are welcome into the class with the four year requirement waived.

As many of you are aware, NFPA has mandated brazing qualifications since 1993. NFPA 99 now mandates that all installers meet the requirements of the A.S.S.E. series 6010, 32 -hour course. In addition, many major design firms now mandate compliance with the ANSI/A.S.S.E. 6000 series in their specifications. As of July 2016 the federal government has mandated compliance with the 2012 edition of NFPA 99.

Class will consist of training in all facets of medical gas pipeline equipment installation for hospitals, office-based occupancies, nursing homes and other health care facilities. A portion of the class will be devoted to learning proper brazing techniques and requirements for working with medical gas equipment and piping. The textbook for the class will be the 2018 edition of NFPA 99 and will be provided, as well as other learning aids.

Students will also be required to successfully complete a written examination as well as a brazing practical in which you be required to braze vertical and horizontal full-penetration joints on 1-1/2" tubing and the brazing coupons will be tested by a Certified Welding Inspector at an independent laboratory.

Class fees will include the use of turbo torches and acetylene. Each student will need to bring 4' of 1-½" L tubing (not cleaned) and 6 to 8 1-½" wrought couplings with stops, as well as 1 lb of silver solder.

Class space is limited.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR



Bill McCormick has more than 27 years experience in design, testing, verification, troubleshooting and repair of all

components in medical gas systems, including air compressors and vacuum pumps. He is a ASSE 6050 credentialed medical gas instructor and has been teaching classes for more than 10 years.

CONDUCTED BY



Medical Engineering Services, LLC 123A Sandy Dr Newark, DE 19713 302-731-8600

HOSTED BY



South Dakota Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors, Inc 707 E 41st St, #220 605-271-7255 kristie.phcc@midco.net

In Memoriam - Orville Taecker



Orville F. Taecker, age 95, of Watertown, SD, passed away peacefully on Monday, October 6, 2025, in Watertown, SD. Funeral services were at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, October 17, 2025, at St. Martins Lutheran Church in Watertown, SD, alongside with his brother Marlyn's funeral. Rev. Paul Kuckhahn officiated. Music was provided by Suzy Steinmetz as organist. The funeral service was live-streamed via website.

Visitation was at the Crawford-Osthus Funeral Chapel in Watertown on Thursday, October 16, 2025, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. and prior to services at the church on Friday.

Burial was at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Watertown. Military graveside honors were conducted by Codington County Post #17 of the American Legion, Watertown, and the Funeral Honors Team of the U.S. Navy.

Orville Fredrick Taecker was born May 13, 1930, to George "Oscar" and Gladys (Neuendorf) Taecker in Memorial Hospital, Watertown SD. He attended the one room rural Gardner School and graduated from Watertown High School in 1949. Orville enlisted and served in the United States Navy as an Airplane Electrician from August 1951 through August 1955. He served in Africa, Morocco, London, England and Memphis, TN. Following his honorable discharge, he returned to Watertown and worked on the family farm, and then for Swift & Co before starting Taecker Plumbing and Heating in 1957. On July 15th of this year, Orville celebrated 68 years in business. He stood firmly behind the motto – The Business that Service Built.

While stationed in London, he met Doreen Firminger, his landlady's 'red headed hairdresser' on a blind date. They were married on May 8, 1954, in London, honeymooned in Paris and 3 months later were transferred to Memphis, TN. After his discharge from the Navy, they moved to Watertown. Orville and Doreen celebrated 56 years of marriage before Doreen passed away in 2010.

With strong family values instilled by his parents, Orville was a 4-H Leader when his children were 4-H members and was instrumental in creating the 4-H Leaders Association Trust Fund to provide additional financial support to the 4-H Program. For the 1973-74 school year, Orville and Doreen welcomed a Chilean exchange student to the family, Jorge Rodriguez. When Paul played Legion Baseball, Orville stepped up to be the Post 17 Athletic Director and drove the team bus to games all over the region. Summers were spent camping with family and friends and included many hours pulling water skiers across area lakes. In later years, he took his sons and grandsons fishing both locally and on trips to Canada.



Sunday dinners together were a long-time Taecker Tradition which Orville continued by welcoming all family and their guests to his tables. The one rule was that you take your cap off when you sit at his table! Four generations at one table was a family tradition he proudly carried on from his parents whether there were many or few at the table.

In 1978, Orville and Doreen built the store that currently houses Andor Inc. – Taecker Plumbing and Heating. Until this summer, you'd find Orville at work, every day in his 2nd home – his store. Customers were friends and he always enjoyed a visit when anyone stopped to say hello. He celebrated his 95th birthday with an open house at the store visiting with customers, friends and family.

Championing entrepreneurs and local businesses was also very important to Orville, and he worked to establish the Uptown Association, later the Watertown Business Association which produced the Holiday Lighted Parade

In Memoriam - Orville Taecker continued

for over 25 years. He was a proud member and supporter of many national organizations that lobby for small business friendly legislation. Giving back with your time and talents is a strong Taecker tradition which he embraced and encouraged.

Orville was passionate about supporting the p-h-c industry and was actively involved in both the State and National Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors (PHCC) associations. He served on the SDPHCC Board of Directors as a zone director, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice-President and President.

With a passion for developing the next generation of professionals in the p-h-c industry, Orville became the leader and driving force in establishing the South Dakota Educational Foundation leveraging the relationships he developed to start a local scholarship fund. Not only did he support the South Dakota scholarship fund, but he was also a consistent Top Contributor of the National PHCC Educational Foundation which provides scholarships for high school students pursuing p-h-c related education.

In service to the National PHCC, Orville held offices, served for 4 years as a National Zone Director and on the National Education and Leadership Committees. In 2006, Orville joined the National PHCC Educational Foundation Board of Governors.

Orville and Doreen enjoyed traveling to many of the PHCC National Conventions across the country – usually by car and used it as an excuse to explore the US. After Doreen's passing, Orville continued to attend conventions with Paul and Julie to maintain the friendships he'd built with fellow contractors.

Orville was a lifelong member of St. Martin's and Bethlehem Lutheran Churches where he served in various leadership roles. Orville attended church services nearly every Sunday throughout his life. Special thanks to his 'church buddy' Al Stoltenburg.

Orville was preceded in death by his wife Doreen, his parents Oscar and Gladys, his sister Edith, and brother-in-law Russell Betts. His brother Marlyn survived him by one day. He is survived by his children, Alan (Sue) Taecker, Ann Taecker, and Paul (Julie) Taecker all of Watertown, SD, grandchildren, Benjamin (Pam) Taecker, David (Teresa) Taecker, Sara Taecker, and 4 great-grandchildren Autumn, Aubrey, Ethan and Natalie and Exchange Student Jorge Rodriguez of Santiago, Chile. Also surviving are his brother Jim (Mavis) Taecker of South Shore SD, sisters Jean (William) Smith of New Hope Minn., Faye Betts of Mondovi Wis, Karen (Robert) Heemeyer of Burnsville Minn, and Christine (Robert) Lindgren of Forest Lake Minn, 15 nieces and nephews and numerous great -nieces and nephews. Also close to his heart were Monica Ries and all the employees of Taecker P&H, past and present, whom he considered family.

In lieu of flowers, Orville would have been pleased for any memorials directed to the SDPHCC Scholarship Fund, or the PHCC National Scholarship Fund, or the Great Plains Student Scholarship Fund.









Strategies For Retaining Key Employees

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SDAPHCC Sponsorship Packages



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Sponsorship Packages offer members a way to simplify their participation by bundling their activity. Package sponsors will not only receive convention & newsletter benefits, but will also receive recognition for their SDAPHCC support all year round.

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- ◆One Full Convention Registration
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- ◆Half Page Convention Program Ad
- Recognition as Silver Golf Sponsor for both golf tournaments

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- ◆One Full Convention Registration
- ♦One Trade Show Booth
- ◆ Recognition as Bronze Golf

For more information or to sign up as a sponsor, please contact the SDAPHCC Office at 605-271-7255 or email kristie.phcc@midco.net

Regulatory Report



By Chuck White, VP of Regulatory Affairs

EPA Proposes Revisions to Refrigerant Transition Act

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed a reconsideration of several provisions in the Technology Transition rule. The proposed rule, published on Oct. 3, makes changes to the timelines for Global Warming Protection (GWP) requirements in some specific applications of commercial refrigeration.

Additionally, the reconsideration proposes to eliminate the sell through period for split air conditioning systems that use products which were manufactured prior to Jan. 1, 2025. PHCC believes the elimination of the sell-through period for residential and light commercial AC/HP products will be a positive solution to the significant economic expense of stranded inventory. PHCC will continue to review the other industry related sections of the proposed rule and prepare comments for EPA's consideration.

EPA Takes a Position on Showerheads

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took action earlier this year supporting an Executive Order on showerheads. The topic of showerheads has been of interest to the office of the President for the last four administrations. Showerheads have been limited to a discharge of 2.5 gallons per minute (gpm) (at 80 psi) for many years. What has been debated though was what constitutes that showerhead. During the Obama administration, the showerhead consisted of all the devices that emit water in a showering space, the current administration views a showerhead as a single device emitting water and each device is limited to the 2.5 gpm. Currently, the "Saving Homeowners from Overregulation With Exceptional Rinsing Act" (SHOWER Act) (H.R. 4593)

is being discussed to codify the definition of showerhead to match the language in ASME A112.18.1-2024 (an accessory to a supply fitting for spraying water onto a bather, typically from an overhead position and excludes safety showers). For now, a shower space is allowed to have as many 2.5 gpm showerheads as the water service will supply and the drainage will drain.

Shutdown Forces OSHA Staff Furloughs

According to a Engineering News Record (ENR) article, the ongoing government shutdown has sidelined 1,200 Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) staff members. As a result, routine inspections, compliance assistance, and outreach programs have been suspended with only essential personnel being able to respond to emergencies involving "imminent danger to life or property." OSHA's injury-tracking and information-technology systems could become difficult to continue if the lapse endures, potentially delaying data collection and publication. Additionally, once the federal government shutdown ends, agencies will likely struggle to clear accumulated caseloads and process appeals.



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New SD Plumbing Code Effective 10/28/25

The South Dakota State Plumbing Commission has completed the adoption process for the 2024 Uniform Plumbing Code.

The new code with adopted amendments became effective on **October 28, 2025**.

Permits that are received by the SD Plumbing Commission on 10/28/25 or after will be on the 2024 UPC. Those submitted prior to 10/28/25 will need to be in compliance with the 2015 UPC for the duration of the permit.

The 2024 Uniform Plumbing Code can be accessed through IAPMO at: 2024 Uniform Plumbing Code

The adopted amendments can be accessed through the SD Legislature website at: 916 AdoptedRules.pdf

IAPMO is currently working with the Plumbing Commission to create a South Dakota specific code book which will be available at a later date.

Special Offer

SDAPHCC members receive 20% discount on AGC of SD safety training programs.

Visit www.sdagc.org for a list of programs. Offer good through end of 2025





December 5, 2025 Registration Deadline for Apprentice Contest

December 8, 2025

Registration Deadline for Project Management Classes

December 12, 2025 Written Testing for Apprentice Contest

December 16, 2025

Project Management Class, Rapid City Hilton Garden Inn

December 18, 2025

Project Management Class Sioux Falls Hilton Garden Inn South

December 31, 2025

Registration Deadline for Sioux Falls Med Gas Class

December 31, 2025

Membership Renewals Due

January 20-23, 2026

Med Gas Class, Sioux Falls

February 24, 2026

SD HVAC Apprentice Hands-On Competition The Lodge, Deadwood, SD

February 25-27, 2026

SD Annual State Convention, SD Plumbing Apprentice Hands-On Competition and PHCC-National HVAC Apprentice Hands-On Competition The Lodge, Deadwood, SD

From the Executive's Desk



By Kristie Brunick

As I look back on the previous month, I can truly say that October was a blur.

The month started off with a Board trip to Texas to visit Hilti's headquarters near Dallas and hold our Fall Board Meeting. I enjoyed learning about Hilti while spending time with our Board. The trip was so beneficial in several ways.

My husband's sister and her family live near Dallas. So, my husband decided to join me after the Board meeting, and we spent the weekend visiting family. It was great to spend time with family that we rarely get to see.

The next 2 weeks in the office were spent wrapping up details from the Board meeting while preparing to go to Connect.

In addition, I was able to travel to Watertown and attend the funeral for Orville and Marlyn Orville. I was blessed by their beautiful service. Orville's life made such an impact on so many and his legacy will continue to touch many more for years to come. (see pages 23 & 24 for full obituary)

The next weekend found me in Huron, cheering on my daughter at the State Cross Country meet. It was a chilly and windy day, but she had a great run and beat her

PR by over a minute!

Lastly, October wrapped up with a trip to Grand Rapids, MI for PHCC National Connect. The above picture of me was taken on the deck of the convention center which overlooks the river. South Dakota was well represented with a great group! Midwestern Mechanical had an awesome week and brought home three outstanding awards (see pages 9-13).

In addition, Dan Hartman, Wolff's Plumbing & Heating, along with Jantzen Fisher, Midwestern Mechanical, and Moe Kersjes, Wolff's Plumbing & Heating, demonstrated the new HVAC Apprentice contest at Connect. Dan has spent the last year redesigning the contest from a contractor's perspective. During Connect, he able to encourage other states to start HVAC competitions and send apprentices to compete in SD this February.



Pictured front row: Chelsea and Trevor Streuli; back row I to r: Brett Kaltvedt, Jacob Elsbecker, Tracy Kaltvedt, Cody Green, Jantzen Fisher, Cody Schroeder, Trenton Barnette, Troy Fitzhugh, Kristie Brunick, Brandon Van Sickler, Nathan (Moe) Kersjes, Dan Hartman

I count myself fortunate to work with some of the best professionals in the nation!

Looking ahead to November and beyond, we have several things to consider.

Med Gas Class

The SDAPHCC will host a Med Gas Class in Sioux Falls on January 20-23, 2026. Class size is limited and spots are starting to fill up. Please register by December 31. For more information, see pages 21 & 22.

Executive's Message continued

Two Project Management Courses Coming to SD in December

Kirk Alter returns to SD to teach the following 2 classes:

- Rapid City Project Management Course, December 16, 2025 at the Hilton Garden Inn
- Sioux Falls Project Management Course, December 18, 2025 at the Hilton Garden Inn South

For class information and registration, please see pages 5 & 6. Please register by December 8, 2025.

Membership Renewals

As we near the end of the year, we begin to think about membership renewals. Renewal statements will soon be mailed to all members. Contractors can take advantage of a discount from national by submitting their dues payment prior to December 31. Every year as I process renewal payments, I am humbled and thankful for the continuous support the association receives from its members.

Membership Special

There is still time for new members to receive 2 months of free membership if they join this fall. If you know someone who would benefit from membership in the SDAPHCC, please encourage them to apply and contact me with their information.

Annual Sponsorships Available

Sustaining members, have you considered an annual sponsorship? This is a simple and easy way to support the association in all of it's activities with just one payment. Gold, Silver, and Bronze sponsorships are available. For more information, see page 26.

Apprentice Contest Registration

The registration deadline for the Annual Apprentice Contest is December 5, 2025. Please note, this is earlier than prior years. This is a great opportunity to highlight your outstanding apprentices. The written test will be held on December 12 and will be offered in 4 locations around the state. For more information, see pages 15-17.

Annual State Convention

Plans are underway for the SDAPHCC Annual State Convention. This year, we are meeting February 24-27, 2026, at The Lodge in Deadwood, SD. There are several new changes for this year.

First of all, we will be hosting the National HVAC Hands on Competition. We are so excited to welcome guests from around the country to SD!

As a result, the SD HVAC Hands on Competition will be held the day prior to allow us to select a state winner.

Secondly, we are organizing a Future Leaders Program as a pre-convention event for new and upcoming leaders in the industry. We are currently looking for subject matter experts to serve as speakers for this event. If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact me.

Lastly, we would like to shift our Thursday afternoon program from traditional seminars to hands-on training/demonstrations. We are also looking for supplier members to host these sessions.

For more information, please see pages 19 & 20. Watch for registration information to come out by next month.



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