



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

**Contractor of the Year - Two Recipients
Wolff's Plumbing & Heating & Midwestern Mechanical**



Dan Hartman (left) and Brett Kaltvedt (right) receiving award from SDAPHCC President Jeremy Seeman (center)

**Wholesaler of the Year
Ferguson**

**Manufacturer's Rep of the Year
Mechanical Sales SD**



Sam Schreier and Joe Porzelt accepting the award from SDAPHCC President Jeremy Seeman



Chet Togel accepting the award from SDAPHCC President Jeremy Seeman

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

Convention Sponsors

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

The SDAPHCC Annual State Convention was held February 24-27, 2026 at The Lodge in Deadwood, SD. Nearly 70 individuals from Contractor member companies and 80 individuals from Sustaining member companies attended the event. In addition, 5 students from Hill City High School and their instructor attended.

During the convention, the SDAPHCC hosted the National HVAC Apprentice Competition plus the state HVAC and Plumbing apprentice competitions. Over 30 apprentices, judges, committee members, and special guests participated in these events.

SOUTH DAKOTA HVAC COMPETITION



The addition of the national competition, changed the convention schedule and created a need to hold the SD HVAC competition prior to the national HVAC competition. As a result, the convention was extended by more than one day.

Three HVAC apprentices completed in the SD HVAC Competition all day on Tuesday and the winner was announced on Tuesday night. Will Lauseng from Waterbury Heating and Cooling received first place and advanced to the national contest.

Because there were 2 remaining open spots in the national competition, it was determined to allow the other two contestants to move on to the National contest as well. (See page 11 for more information).

FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAM

The addition of an extra day offered the opportunity to add a new Future Leaders Program to the convention. The following 8 sessions occurred on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning:

- "The Nuts and Bolts of a Mental Health Safety Plan" - Mike Keller, Helpline Center
- "Maximizing Your Plumbing/HVAC Industry Impact" - Jed Scheuermann, IAPMO
- "Soft Skills for Technicians" - Bill Hanke, Johnstone Supply
- "Management & Accountability" - Darin Williamson, EOS Worldwide
- "Ok, I'm a leader, now what?" - Thomas Asfeldt, The Twelve7, LLC
- "How to be a Great Boss" - Katie Johnson, EOS Worldwide



Mike Keller



Jed Scheuermann

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Bill Hanke



Ron Sell



Darin Williamson

- "Communication, Coaching, Conflict" – Thomas Asfeldt, The Twelve7, LLC
- "Increase Capacity, Reduce Risk, Save Money - How Leaning on Experts in AI, HR, & Financial Services Can Impact Your Bottom Line"- A Panel Discussion featuring Jason Boutwell, ProResources; Kevin Elsing, ELBO Computing Resources; and Harony Kolling, Brady Martz

CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES AND WELCOME RECEPTION

Wednesday afternoon transitioned to Continuing Education for both plumbing and HVAC.

Tom Hines presented the four hour continuing education course required by the Plumbing Commission for annual plumbing license renewal. The course this year focused on the changes in the new 2024 Code.

In addition, Ron Sell, Johnstone Supply, conducted a four hour HVAC Continuing Education Class for those with HVAC licenses.

Following the Continuing Education Classes, attendees enjoyed a fun welcome reception.

BOARD MEETING

The SDAPHCC Board of Directors held their regularly scheduled Board meeting on Wednesday night.

During the meeting, the Board reviewed the current state of the Association with regards to finances, membership, and apprenticeship. Updates were given regarding educational opportunities, golf events, and the 2026 Convention. The Board also discussed upcoming events, and new programs.

Ryan Sheesley, Mitchell Plumbing & Heating, completed his term as Board Member and Lanny Murphy, Frisbees Plumbing & Heating, became the newest Board Member. In addition, Adam Kaskie, Plumbing & Heating Wholesale, completed his 2 year term as Sustaining Member with Jimmy Walsh, Hilti, replacing him.

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NATIONAL HVAC APPRENTICE COMPETITION

The National HVAC Apprentice Competition began on Wednesday morning with 9 contestants. Apprentices from South Dakota, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Tennessee, and California competed all day Wednesday and Thursday morning. The contest showcased the talent, dedication, and professionalism of the next generation entering the industry. (For more information, see pages 13 & 14)

SOUTH DAKOTA PLUMBING APPRENTICE COMPETITION

The South Dakota Plumbing apprentice Competition was held all day on Wednesday. Three apprentices from SDAPHCC companies competed for the opportunity to advance to the national competition at Connect in October (For more information, see page 12).

THURSDAY MORNING SEMINARS and GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

Thursday morning started off with breakfast and a full slate of seminars. Thomas Asfeldt, The Twelve7, LLC, presented "Extreme Ownership" based on the book by Jocko Willink and Leif Babin. Katie Johnson, EOS Worldwide, then presented "Exit Stage Left - How to Successfully Transition Your Business".

Mid-morning, attendees transitioned into the Annual General Business Meeting in which reports were given on the current state of affairs for all areas of the Association and new board members were officially elected.

Following the Business Meeting, Andrew Renn with Federated Insurance shared updates and important information on fire safety.

Lastly, the morning sessions wrapped up with a panel discussion featuring Jason Boutwell, ProResources; Kevin Elsing, ELBO Computing Resources; and Harmony Kolling, Brady Martz. The panel discussion was titled "*Expensive Mistakes - How Mistakes in HR, Finance, & AI Can Unravel a Lifetime of Hard Work*"



Thomas Asfeldt



Jason Boutwell, Harmony Kolling, Kevin Elsing, Andrew Renn



Katie Johnson

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Ryan Sheesley &
Jeremy Seeman



SDAPHCC 2026 Board Installation



Jeremy Seeman &
Josh Hollub

STUDENTS

High school students from Hill City High School arrived at the convention mid-morning on Thursday. The students learned about the hands-on apprentice contest and visited with volunteers about the p-h-c industry. They discussed how to enter the industry and why it is a great career choice.

AWARDS LUNCHEON

At noon, attendees enjoyed the Awards and Installation Luncheon. During lunch, Dan Quinonez, PHCC Educational Foundation Executive Director, addressed the group and shared with attendees the latest developments within the PHCC Academy.

Dan was followed by Josh Hollub, PHCC National Secretary. Josh presented updates from the National association as well as installed the 2026 SDAPHCC Board of Directors.

Ryan Sheesley was recognized for his completed term as Board Member. Jeremy Seeman was also recognized for completing his term as Association President.

Lastly, SDAPHCC President Jeremy Seeman presented the Contractor of the Year Award to Midwestern Mechanical (Brett Kaltvedt) and Wolff's Plumbing & Heating (Dan Hartman) for their outstanding support of the association especially regarding workforce development and the apprentice competitions.

SPOUSE EVENT

On Thursday afternoon, a group of spouses learned how to make fun and interesting charcuterie boards. The class was taught by Joselyn Haines with Amazing Graze Charcuterie.



Julie Taecker, Jenn Christensen,
Tracy Kaltvedt, Sara Farstad,
Shelly Kruse

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THURSDAY AFTERNOON SEMINARS

Thursday afternoon was filled with demonstrations and trainings in the smaller side rooms. Northwest Pipe hosted one room and featured a display from Mulcahy Co. Dakota Supply Group hosted a second room and offered trainings from Bradford White, Uponor, & Victaulic. Johnstone Supply and Granse Trio hosted the third room.

TRADE SHOW

The Trade Show was held on Thursday night with 35 companies participating as vendors. Attendees enjoyed a buffet meal while networking with each other and the vendors.

Jeremy Seeman announced the winners of the State HVAC and State Plumbing apprentice contests. (For more apprentice contest details see pages 11 & 12). The Wholesaler of the Year Award was presented to Ferguson, and the Manufacturer's Rep of the Year Award was presented to Mechanical Sales SD.

Next, Dan Quinonez from PHCC National Educational Foundation announced the winners of the National HVAC Apprentice Competition. (For more information see pages 13 & 14).

In addition, a gun raffle and silent auction were held during the trade show. Congratulations to Larissa Cook, Wolff's Plumbing & Heating and Ashlie Terrasaz, Howe, Inc, on winning the gun raffle.



CONVENTION WRAP UP and PLANS FOR 2027

The convention closed on Friday morning with breakfast and tear down.

The next Annual State Convention will be held at The Lodge in Deadwood, SD on March 2-5, 2027. (Please note the date change).

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SDAPHCC HVAC Apprentice Contest

On February 24, three South Dakota apprentices competed in the state HVAC hands-on competition during the SDAPHCC Annual Convention at The Lodge in Deadwood, SD.

The following HVAC apprentices had the 3 highest written test scores in their division allowing them to compete in the hands-on competition:

- Michael Baker, Howe, Inc
- Will Lauseng, Waterbury Heating & Cooling
- Wesley Stroh, Howe, Inc

The winner of the HVAC division was Will Lauseng. Will automatically advanced to the National HVAC Competition held on February 25 & 26.

There were several members who worked hard to make this competition possible. A special thank you to the following:

- Howe Inc; Midwestern Mechanical; and Wheelhouse Plumbing for hosting the written test in December.
- Ron Sell, Johnstone Supply; and Colin Wunder, Energy Dynamics for judging.
- Dan Hartman for organizing and administering the HVAC hands-on competition.
- Dakota Supply Group, Rapid City Winsupply, Energy Dynamics, and Johnstone Energy for sponsoring materials and jackets.



Wesley Stroh, Michael Baker,
& Will Lauseng



Will Lauseng



Will Lauseng



Michael Baker



Wesley Stroh

**2026 SDAPHCC ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION
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SDAPHCC Plumbing Apprentice Contest

On February 25, three South Dakota apprentices competed in the state plumbing hands-on competition during the SDAPHCC Annual Convention at The Lodge in Deadwood, SD.

The following apprentices had the 3 highest written test scores in their division allowing them to compete in the hands-on competition:

- Kyle Bailey, Howe, Inc
- Chris Cool, Midwestern Mechanical
- Miguel Perez, Midwestern Mechanical

The winner of the plumbing division was Chris Cool. Chris will advance to the National Plumbing Competition which will be held at CONNECT 2026 in Milwaukee, WI.



Kyle Bailey, Chris Cool, Miguel Perez

There were several members who worked hard to make this competition possible. A special thank you to the following:

- Howe Inc; Midwestern Mechanical; and Wheelhouse Plumbing for hosting the written test in December.
- Vince Berry, Southeast Technical College; and Xavier Devlieck, Western Dakota Tech; for judging.
- Brett Kaltvedt for organizing and administering the plumbing hands-on competition.
- Dakota Supply Group, & Ferguson for sponsoring materials and jackets.



Jeremy Seeman
& Chris Cool



Kyle Bailey



Chris Cool



Miguel Perez

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PHCC National HVAC Apprentice Contest

The SDAPHCC hosted the National HVAC Apprentice Competition during its Annual State Convention at The Lodge in Deadwood, SD. Top apprentice talent and industry guests from across the country participated in the event.

The competition took place all day Wednesday, February 24 and the morning of Thursday, February 25. Apprentices tackled challenges designed to test them in real-world scenarios. Judges, composed of experienced industry professionals, assessed each participant's performance.



The following apprentices competed in the event:

- Vincent Califano, John Cipollone, Inc - Havertown, Pennsylvania
- Jantzen Fisher, Midwestern Mechanical - Rapid City, South Dakota
- Cole Kelley, Pipefitters Local 537 Boston - Boston, Massachusetts
- Nathaniel Magner, CroppMetcalfe - Fairfax, Virginia
- Dominic Valles, ACCO Engineered Systems - Pasadena, California
- Hayden Woods, Interstate Mechanical - Knoxville, Tennessee
- Michael Baker, Howe, Inc - Sioux Falls, SD
- Will Lauseng, Waterbury Heating & Cooling - Sioux Falls, SD
- Wesley Stroh, Howe, Inc - Sioux Falls, SD

A special thank you to the following individuals who helped with the technical committee and/or judging:

- Dan Hartman, Wolff's Plumbing & Heating
- Moe Kersjes, Wolff's Plumbing & Heating
- Dale Powell, PHCC National Educational Foundation
- Matt Bub, Quality Heating & Sheet Metal
- Scott Stringfellow, Rheem
- Chris Elam, Rheem
- David Brannen, Rheem
- Colin Wunder, Energy Dynamics
- Ron Sell, Johnstone Supply
- Craig Kaufman, Copeland



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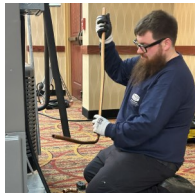
PHCC National HVAC Apprentice Contest

Congratulations to the top three winners:

- First Place - Cole Kelley, Pipefitters Local 537
Boston - Boston, Massachusetts
- Second Place - Jantzen Fisher, Midwestern
Mechanical - Rapid City, South Dakota
- Third Place - Will Lauseng, Waterbury Heating
& Cooling - Sioux Falls, SD



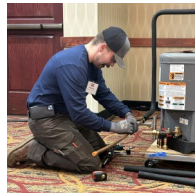
Josh Hollub, Dan Hartman, Jantzen Fisher,
Cole Kelley, Will Lauseng, & Dan Quinonez



Nate Magnier



Jantzen Fisher



Will Lauseng



Wesley Stroh



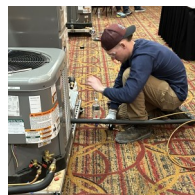
Michael Baker



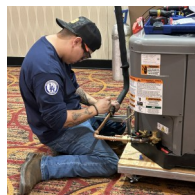
Vince Califano



Cole Kelley



Hayden Woods



Dominic Valles

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