

The South Dakota

# PIPE CHATTER



JANUARY 2026

## Inside this Issue:

- Annual State Convention Registration
- Plumbing Continuing Education Registration
- Scholarship Application



The Official Publication of the South Dakota Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors

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## The South Dakota

# 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](http://www.sdphcc.org)  
Kristie Brunick, Executive Vice President  
[kristie.phcc@midco.net](mailto:kristie.phcc@midco.net)

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- President: Jeremy Seeman, Redlinger Bros Plumbing & Heating - Watertown
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## Upcoming Events

- **Med Gas Class** - January 20-23, 2026, Sioux Falls
- **Annual State Convention** - February 24-27, 2026, Deadwood

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

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**Tuesday, February 24, 2026**

- 7:00am-8:00am Breakfast
- 8:00am-11:30am SD HVAC Apprentice Hands-On Competition
- 11:45am-12:45pm Lunch
- 1:00pm-5:00pm SD HVAC Apprentice Hands-On Competition
- 1:00pm-4:45pm \*New\* - Future Leaders Program (see speaker breakdown for more details)
- 6:30pm-8:00pm Welcome Reception, Dinner, & SD HVAC Apprentice Competition Award
- 8:00pm-8:30pm National HVAC Apprentice Competition Orientation

**Wednesday, February 25, 2026**

- 7:00am-8:00am Breakfast
- 8:00am-11:30am National HVAC Apprentice Competition
- 8:00am-11:45am \*New\* - Future Leaders Program (see speaker breakdown for more details)
- 11:45am-12:45pm Lunch
- 1:00pm-5:00pm Continuing Education
- 1:00pm-5:00pm SD Plumbing Apprentice Competition
- 1:00pm-5:00pm National HVAC Apprentice Competition
- 5:30pm-6:30pm Social Hour and Dinner
- 7:00pm-9:00pm Board Meeting

**Thursday, February 26, 2026**

- 7:00am-8:00am Breakfast
- 8:00am-11:45am Seminars & Annual Meeting (see speaker breakdown for more details)
- 12:00pm-1:30pm Lunch
- 1:45pm-3:00pm Spouse Event
- 1:45pm-4:45pm Hands-On Demonstrations and Trainings (see host breakdown for more details)
- 5:00pm-5:30pm Vendor Trade Show Meal
- 5:30pm-5:45pm Awards Presentation
- 5:45pm-8:00pm Trade Show and Dinner

**Friday, February 27**

- 8:00am-9:00am Breakfast
- 8:00am-11:00am Tear Down

*Times are subject to change*

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



***Future Leaders Program***

This pre-convention program provides two half days of speakers with content designed to equip new and future leaders. Attendees can choose to attend just the Future Leaders Program for only \$200 or both the Future Leaders Program and the Full Convention for a discounted \$450.

The Future Leaders Program will include the following presentations:

**Tuesday, February 24, 2026**

- 1:00pm-1:45pm "The Nuts and Bolts of a Mental Health Safety Plan" - Mike Keller, Helpline Center
- 2:00pm-2:45pm "Maximizing Your Plumbing/HVAC Industry Impact" - Jed Scheuermann, IAPMO
- 3:00pm-3:45pm "Soft Skills for Technicians" - Bill Hanke, Johnstone Supply
- 4:00pm-4:45pm "Management & Accountability" - Darin Williamson, EOS Worldwide

**Wednesday, February 25, 2026**

- 8:00am-8:45am "Ok, I'm a leader, now what?" - Thomas Asfeldt, The Twelve7, LLC
- 9:00am-9:45am "How to be a Great Boss" - Katie Johnson, EOS Worldwide
- 10:00am-10:45am "Communication, Coaching, Conflict" - ThomasAsfeldt, The Twelve7, LLC
- 11:00am-11:45am "Increase Capacity, Reduce Risk, Save Money - Why small business outsources" - A Panel Discussion hosted by Jason Boutwell, ProResources

***Seminars***

We have a great lineup of speakers and valuable information planned for our general sessions.

**Thursday, February 26, 2026**

- 8:00am-8:45am "Extreme Ownership" - Thomas Asfeldt, The Twelve7, LLC
- 9:00am-9:45am "Exit Stage Left - How to Successfully Transition Your Business" - Katie Johnson, EOS Worldwide
- 10:00am-10:45am Annual Meeting & Federated Insurance Presentation - "Fire Safety"
- 11:00am-11:45am "Expensive Mistakes Made By Businesses" - A Panel Discussion hosted by Jason Boutwell, ProResources

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



***Hands-On Trainings/Demonstrations***

We are excited to offer a new format for our afternoon programming. The following Sustaining Members will host Hands-On Trainings/Demonstrations on Thursday from 1:45pm-4:45pm.

**Thursday, February 26, 2026**

Room 1 - Hosted by Dakota Supply Group featuring:

- 1:45pm-2:35pm Bradford White - An overview of the water heater industry, with a focus on upcoming Department of Energy changes, and a review of Bradford White residential water heater features, benefits, and troubleshooting.
- 2:45pm-3:35pm Uponor - A overview of PEX, how to utilize PEX in commercial applications, and new Uponor products.
- 3:45pm-4:35pm Victaulic - A review of new Victaulic products and a high level overview of their fabrication process.

Room 2 - Hosted by Northwest Pipe Fittings

Room 3 - Hosted by Johnstone Supply and Granse Trio

- 1:45pm-3:00pm Johnstone Supply - An operating Bosch system with the inverter drive compressor
- 3:30pm-4:45pm Granse Trio (Daryl Unser)- A sump pump, backup pump, and alarms presentation showing products from Zoeller Pump Company, Alderon Industries, and IPS Flood Stop.

***Convention Hotel***

The Convention will be held at The Lodge At Deadwood located at 100 Pine Crest Lane, in Deadwood SD.

To make your room reservation, call 877-393-5634 by January 15. Be sure to ask for the SDAPHCC room block and rate of \$99.00 per night



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



**PHCC National HVAC Apprenticeship Competition**

Join us in welcoming apprentices and guests from across the country as we host the PHCC National HVAC Apprenticeship Competition.

The contest has been newly redesigned from a contractor's perspective. Contestants will compete on Wednesday and Thursday with the winner being announced on Thursday night.



**Spouse Event**

On Thursday afternoon, spouses can attend a relaxing workshop, taught by Amazing Graze Charcuterie, and learn how to craft a great display.



**Trade Show & Silent Auction**

Thursday night will feature Sustaining Members displaying the latest innovation in the industry.



**State Apprenticeship Competition**

Three Plumbing & Three HVAC apprentices will compete in a hands-on competition for a chance to advance to the National competition.



**Annual Awards**

Celebrate the 2026 Contractor of the Year, Wholesaler of the Year, and Manufacturer's Rep of the Year



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

**Gun Raffle**

The SDAPHCC is selling raffle tickets for a chance to win one of the 2 following guns:

- Henry Pump Action .22 Rifle Model H003T
- Browning T-Bolt Sporter .17HMR Rifle

Raffle ticket prices are \$50 each. Only 100 tickets will be sold. The drawing will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2026 during the trade show at the Annual State Convention. The winner need not be present.



To order your ticket(s), complete this form and return it along with your payment by 2/20/26 to the SDAPHCC Office at 707 E 41st St, #220, Sioux Falls, SD 57105.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ # of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$50.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_ Total

**Convention Sponsors**

Thank you to our convention sponsors whose dedicated support makes our event possible!

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*If you are interested in being a sponsor,  
please check out the details on the Sustaining Member  
Registration Form located on page 13.*

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

**Convention Speakers**

Jed Scheuermann, IAPMO, is a Master Plumber with over 40 years' experience. He operated his own plumbing business; worked as a Plumbing Inspector, Senior Inspector and Chief Inspector. His passion is to effectively share trade knowledge with those in the industry, as well as people in other countries during projects. Jed serves as North American Program Director for International Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Foundation (IWSH). He has joined numerous humanitarian efforts and served as a first-responder to natural disasters all over the globe. Jed is an avid writer and photographer capturing these efforts for publication.



Mike Keller is the Suicide Prevention and Outreach Program Director for the Helpline Center. His focus is on suicide prevention through mental health trainings, support programs and supporting grief journeys for those who lost loved ones to suicide. Mike's work journey has led him to work in the construction industry and overseeing programs for Veterans facing homelessness and moral injuries in Minnesota and Wyoming. Now he and his wife reside in Sioux Falls, SD as they make the transition to empty-nesters. When not at work, you can find Mike listening to music, fixing something around the house or going on lazy walks with his wife,



Thomas Asfeldt is a follower of Jesus, husband to Karen, dad to Kristian and Hannah (husband Ben), and soon to be grandpa! He is a self-employed interim executive where he uses his professional and personal experiences, talents, gifts, and training, for the common good. Whether leading a small group of dudes at an early morning breakfast discussing how to resolve conflict, mentoring a CEO one-on-one, or leading a team of high caliber leaders toward performance excellence, he finds significant joy contributing to the success of others and watching them thrive.



Katie Johnson is the Managing Partner of Next Phase Strategy Partners and a dedicated advocate for business owners who want clarity, confidence, and intentional control over the future of their companies. As a Certified EOS Implementer®, Katie helps leadership teams gain clarity, strengthen accountability, and execute consistently using the Entrepreneurial Operating System®. Previously, Katie spent more than 15 years as a commercial banker, gaining real world experience, working closely with business owners to evaluate financial performance, manage risk, and structure growth and transition strategies.



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

**Convention Speakers**

Bill Hanke, Customer Experience Manager, Johnstone Supply, has 14 years of experience in the HVAC industry. He has a strong background in business development, customer service management, and sales leadership. He worked with Johnstone Supply Hull Group, developing NW Iowa and Sioux City accounts. He later supported private contractors in managing and improving their service departments. He currently focuses on helping contractors strengthen their maintenance programs, elevate soft-skills performance, and better understand the financial drivers of their business.



Ron Sell, Training Specialist, Johnstone Supply, has more than 30 years of experience as a senior field technician supporting residential, commercial, and industrial projects. For the past 12+ years, he's worked with Johnstone Supply primarily as a Technical Support Advisor providing both phone-based assistance and advanced technical troubleshooting. Ron holds JCI rooftop certification for startup procedures and earned a two-year refrigeration diploma from Morehead Tech. He also previously held a mater's license in Fargo and is NATE certified.



Tom Hines is an experienced instructor with 40+ years in the plumbing industry. He holds a masters plumbing license in both South Dakota and Iowa. Tom recently retired as General Manager from Frisbee Plumbing, Heating, A/C and Electrical in Sioux Falls. He has an extensive knowledge of local and state plumbing codes. Tom has been teaching the SD & Iowa Continuing Education Courses since 2015. He also served on the SDAPHCC Board of Directors from 2006 to 2023 and is a past SDAPHCC President.



Darin Williamson is a business founder, Certified EOS Implementer®, and Exit Plan Quarterback™ who helps owner-led companies—particularly in the construction trades—build stronger, more valuable, and more transferable businesses. Having built and operated companies in the skilled trades, Darin brings a real-world perspective to the challenges owners face. Darin works with leadership teams to clarify vision, strengthen accountability, and install systems that drive traction and results. He guides business owners through aligning business value, personal goals, and financial outcomes.



# SDAPHCC Convention Registration Form for Contractors



2026 SDAPHCC Annual Convention  
February 24-27, 2026



Company \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\$300 - Full Contractor includes: Wednesday Continuing Education & Dinner; plus all events on Thursday and Friday

\$190 - Spouse includes: all events on Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday plus spouse event

\$200 - Future Leaders Program includes: Special seminars and meals on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning

\$450 - Future Leaders Program Plus Full includes; all events and meals Tuesday through Friday

\$100 - Wednesday CE & Dinner includes: Wednesday's continued education session and welcome reception

\$200 - Thursday Only Registration includes: all events and meals on Thursday

\$50 - Trade Show Only Registration includes: Thursday's Trade Show and dinner

\*For Spouses-The spouse event will be a Charcuterie Workshop on Thursday. Pre-registration is requested.  
Register for Spouse Event?    \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Name	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="transform: rotate(-45deg);">Full Contractor \$300</div> <div style="transform: rotate(-45deg);">Spouse \$190*</div> <div style="transform: rotate(-45deg);">Future Leaders \$200</div> <div style="transform: rotate(-45deg);">Future Leaders &amp; Full \$450</div> <div style="transform: rotate(-45deg);">Wed CE, Dinner Only \$100</div> <div style="transform: rotate(-45deg);">Thursday Only \$200</div> <div style="transform: rotate(-45deg);">Trade Show Only \$50</div> </div>							Total
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>								

To Register - Return completed form along with payment to SDAPHCC Office  
707 E 41st St, Ste 220, Sioux Falls, SD 57105 or Kristie.phcc@midco.net

Cancellation Policy - Full refunds will be given to cancellations made by February 3, 2026.  
Refunds will not be given for no shows or cancellations received after February 3, 2026.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE - JANUARY 31, 2026**

# SDAPHCC Convention Registration Form for Sustaining Members

2026 Annual Convention, February 24-27, 2026  
The Lodge, Deadwood, SD

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Trade Show Display	Price	# needed	Trade Show Subtotal
Trade Show Display - Member - includes one 8 foot table	\$260 plus a silent auction item with \$50 minimum value		
Trade Show Display - Non Member - includes one 8 foot table	\$350 plus a silent auction item with a \$50 minimum value		
<b>Trade Show Subtotal</b>			

List Attendee Names and Select Registration Type	\$225-Full Registration	\$50-Trade Show with Meal	\$0-Trade Show without Meal	Attendee Subtotal
<b>Attendee Subtotal</b>				

Convention Event Sponsorship - Select the item(s) you wish to sponsor								
	Tuesday Breakfast	\$200		Continuing Education	\$450		Thursday Lunch	\$550
	Tuesday Lunch	\$200		Wednesday PM Break	\$250		Thursday PM Break	\$250
	Future Leaders Event	\$400		Wednesday Dinner	\$450		<del>Thursday Dinner</del>	\$550
	Tuesday PM Break	\$100		Thursday Breakfast	\$450		Friday Breakfast	\$450
	Tuesday Dinner	\$300		<del>Thursday Seminar I</del>	\$375		Apprentice Contest	\$500
	Wednesday Breakfast	\$200		Thursday AM Break	\$250		Spouse Event	\$500
	Wednesday AM Break	\$100		Thursday Seminar II	\$375		<b>Sponsorship Subtotal</b>	
	Wednesday Lunch	\$200		Thursday Seminar III	\$375			



**REGISTRATION TOTAL: \$**

Payment method:  Please invoice  Check enclosed payable to SDAPHCC

Please return completed form by January 31, 2026 to:  
SDAPHCC, 707 E 41st St, #220, Sioux Falls, SD 57105 Or Email: kristie.phcc@midco.net

# Apprentices Selected for Annual Hands-On Competition

Six apprentices have been selected to participate in the SDAPHCC Annual Hands-On Apprentice Competition.

On December 12, thirty-four plumbing apprentices and five HVAC apprentices took part in the first phase of the competition by completing the written test. Apprentices tested at sites in Rapid City, Sioux Falls, and Pierre. A special thanks to Midwestern Mechanical, Howe, Inc, and Wheelhouse Plumbing for hosting apprentices at their facilities.

The following individuals had the top three highest test scores in their division and will advance to the State Hands-On Competition:

## Plumbing Division

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

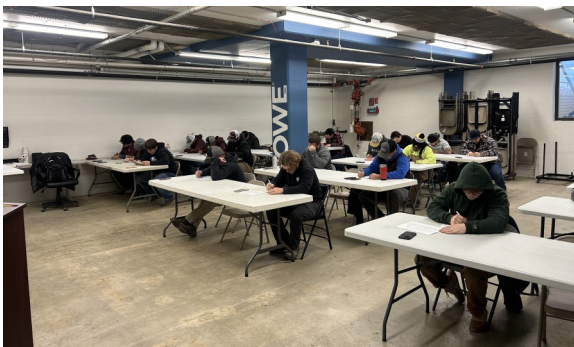
## HVAC Division

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



The Plumbing Hands-On Competition will occur all day on February 25 and 26 during the Annual State Convention at The Lodge, in Deadwood, SD. Winners will be announced during the Trade Show and will advance to the National Apprentice Competition at Connect in Milwaukee, WI.

The HVAC Hands-On Competition will occur all day on February 24 during the Annual State Convention at The Lodge, in Deadwood, SD. Winners will be announced that evening and will advance to the National Apprentice Competition to be held the next two days.



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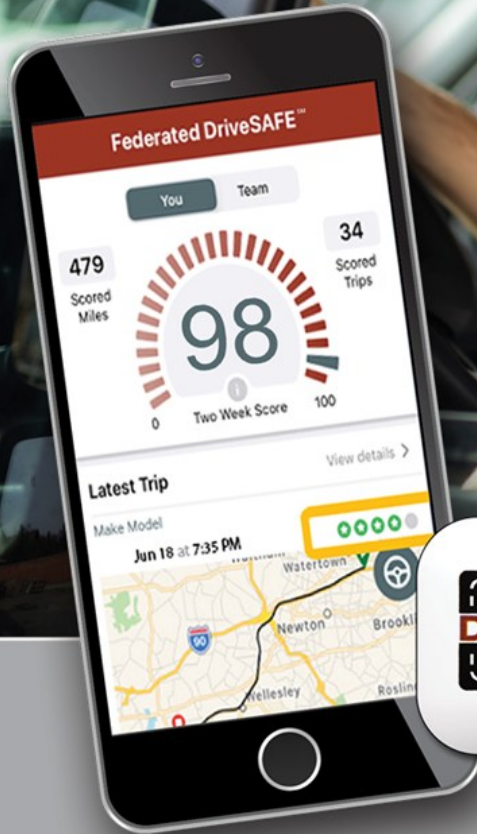
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# Continuing Education Classes Scheduled for March

SDAPHCC and IAPMO have partnered together to provide SD Continuing Education Classes for SD Plumbing Contractors and Journeymen. These classes have been approved by the South Dakota State Plumbing Commission to fulfill the required four hours of continuing education credit needed for annual license renewal.

## Important Class Information

- Classes are held from 6:00 pm to 9:45 pm with scheduled breaks.
- Pre-registration is strongly encouraged; walk-in registrants will be accepted only if space allows. Walk-in registrants should arrive no later than 5:30 pm.
- Attendees will be required to sign an attendance log.
- If inclement weather conditions prevent travel, a class may be postponed. Information will be posted at [www.sdphcc.org](http://www.sdphcc.org) and emails will also be sent to registrants. Please be sure to include a valid email address with your registration. Attendees should exercise their own discretion and judgement.
- If you are unable to attend the class you registered for, please call IAPMO (708-995-3000) as soon as possible to cancel or transfer your registration.
- Registration Questions? Contact Customer Service at 708-995-3000



## What to Bring

- Pen or Pencil
- SD Plumbing Code Book
- Your SD Plumbing License Number

## Continuing Education Information

- This course has been approved by the SD State Plumbing Commission to fulfill the required four hours of continuing education credit needed for annual license renewal for journeymen, contractors, and third year licensed by examination apprentices. Other apprentices are invited to attend but are not required to acquire continuing education credit.
- This course is also approved for Iowa Continuing Education Credit. The course number will be announced at the class.
- Certificates of attendance can be downloaded from your [iapmolearn.org](http://iapmolearn.org) account within 45 days after your class completion.
- For those unable to attend an in-person class, two virtual classes have been scheduled and the online course will be available late summer; both can be accessed at [www.sdphcc.org](http://www.sdphcc.org).

# 2026 Plumbing Continuing Education Class Schedule

## Aberdeen - March 16

Holiday Inn Express - Gold Rush Rm  
3310 7th Ave SE

## Brookings - March 3

Brookings Inn - A, B, & C Rm  
2500 E 6th St

## Huron - March 23

Crossroads Hotel  
100 4th St SW

## Mitchell - March 12

Mitchell Technical College-Nordby Trades Ctr  
1800 E Spruce St *\*note new room\**

## Mobridge - March 17

Wrangler Hotel - Conference Rm  
820 W Grand Crossing

## North Sioux City - March 9

North Sioux City Community Center  
205 Sodracs Dr

## Pierre - March 18

Red Rossa Italian Grille – Highlands Room  
808 W Sioux Ave *\*note new location\**

## Rapid City - March 5 (Last name A-K)

## Rapid City - March 24 (Last name L-Z)

Western Dakota Technical College  
Event Center - 800 Mickelson Dr

## Sioux Falls - March 5 (Last name A-G)

## Sioux Falls - March 10 (Last name H-M)

## Sioux Falls - March 19 (Last name N-Z)

Ramkota Hotel - Jefferson/Lincoln or Harvest Rm  
3200 W Maple St

## Spearfish - March 3

Holiday Inn  
305 N 27th St

## Watertown - March 17

Watertown Events Center-Swan/Whitewood Rm  
1901 9th Ave SW

## Winner - March 19

Holiday Inn Express  
1360 E Hwy 44

## Yankton - March 16

Best Western Kelly Inn  
1607 E Hwy 50

## Virtual Classes

March 31, 2026 or November 16, 2026  
6:00pm-10:00pm CST

### Registration Information

Three Ways to Register for In-person or Virtual Classes

1. Online - Visit [www.iapmo.org/SD](http://www.iapmo.org/SD) or [www.sdpfcc.org](http://www.sdpfcc.org)
2. Email - Complete the Registration Form and email it with credit card payment to [seminars@iapmo.org](mailto:seminars@iapmo.org)
3. Mail - Complete the Registration form and mail it with payment to IAPMO at the address on form

Class Fee: \$80 payable to IAPMO

Acceptable Payment Methods:

Visa, MC, American Express, Check, Money Order

Registration deadline:

2 days prior to selected class date

Rapid City & Sioux Falls Classes:

Please make every effort to attend the date that corresponds with the first letter of your last name. If you are unable to attend on your designated date, pre-registration for another classes is greatly appreciated.

Registration Questions? Contact Customer Service at 708-995-3000



# Registration Form



## 2026 South Dakota Continuing Education for Plumbing Contractors, Journeymen & Apprentices

Approved by the SD State Plumbing Commission to fulfill the requirements needed for license renewal

**ONLINE PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. FAST, EASY AND AUTOMATIC CONFIRMATION.**

To secure your seat, register online any time at [www.iapmo.org/SD](http://www.iapmo.org/SD)  
Online registration payment options available: Electronic-check or credit card

Registration Deadline: 2 days prior to the selected class date  
Each attendee must complete a registration – photo copy this form as needed.

**Please PRINT clearly**

Class Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Date: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

\*Phone \_\_\_\_\_ \*Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

\*South Dakota Plumbing License Number \_\_\_\_\_

Iowa Plumbing License Number (if you hold an Iowa License) \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Required: Phone & email information is needed to contact you with questions regarding your registration or class notifications.*

### METHOD OF PAYMENT

Register online at [www.iapmo.org/SD](http://www.iapmo.org/SD) • Registration Fee: \$80.00 • Class Time: 6:00pm to 9:45pm

MasterCard     Visa     American Express

Money Order/Check

Email Form and payment to:  
[seminars@iapmo.org](mailto:seminars@iapmo.org)

Mail money order/check payable to IAPMO to:  
IAPMO, 18927 Hickory Creek Dr, Suite 220, Mokena, IL 60448

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# Two Intro to Project Management Classes with Kirk Alter held in December

The SDAPHCC held two Intro to Project Management Courses, taught by Kirk Alter, in December.

On December 16, twenty four individuals from eight member companies attended the first class at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Rapid City, SD.

The second course was held on December 18 at the Hilton Garden Inn South in Sioux Falls with 15 individuals from eight member companies in attendance.



During the one day course, industry expert, Kirk Alter, uncovered the necessary tools to running successful and profitable projects. In addition to learning the 10 Commandments of Project Management, attendees also reviewed how to manage multiple projects, why cashflow matters, how to understand a contract, how and when to say "no", how to do change orders, and how to manage project changes.

The class was fast paced and incorporated constant interaction. Throughout the day, Kirk provided multiple resources for future growth. Attendees left with a better understanding of their role in the company and how they can adjust their work for maximum profitability.



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# Southeast Tech to Create Homebuilding Lab with \$2

*From Southeast Technical College Website*

Southeast Technical College (STC) is creating new hands-on learning opportunities on its campus with the new Wells Fargo Homebuilding Lab, made possible by a transformative \$2 million grant from Wells Fargo to the STC Foundation. The announcement was made at an on-campus event attended by Gov. Larry Rhoden, U.S. Congressman Dusty Johnson, R-S.D., Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken and television personality, author and advocate for the skilled trades, Mike Rowe.

The Wells Fargo Homebuilding Lab will provide students with real-world experience in residential construction while supporting affordable housing in the Sioux Falls region.

"We are deeply grateful to Wells Fargo for this generous investment in Southeast Tech and in our students. The new Homebuilding Lab will not only provide much-needed housing for families in our community but will also give our students the chance to build their own futures," said STC president Cory Clasemann. "By working on these homes, students will gain the skills, confidence and industry connections to thrive in today's workforce."

The lab will be constructed on the south end of STC's campus, between the Ed Wood Trade and Industry Center and the Sioux Falls School District's Career Technical Education (CTE) Academy. While STC trade students have historically built homes off campus through various industry partnerships, the Homebuilding Lab represents new opportunities for real-world learning on campus. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2026.

"Wells Fargo is proud to continue investing in South Dakota through our support of Southeast Technical College," stated Jason Rosenberg, Head of Public Affairs at Wells Fargo. "This partnership will deliver crucial workforce development training, equipping the next generation of skilled builders to bolster local communities across America."



By combining classroom learning with on-site construction projects, the Homebuilding Lab is a powerful example of education making a direct, lasting impact. Wells Fargo's support underscores Southeast Tech's mission to deliver industry-relevant education that changes lives one student—and one home—at a time.

"In South Dakota, we build for the future — and that is exactly what this new homebuilding lab does," said Governor Larry Rhoden. "It equips our students with the skills and resources they need to thrive, while also strengthening our communities one house at a time."

Thank you to Wells Fargo and Southeast Tech for investing in the future of our students, communities, workforce and state."



# SDAPHCC Educational Foundation Scholarship Application

The purpose of the South Dakota Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors (SDAPHCC) Educational Foundation scholarship is to help individuals prepare for careers in the plumbing, heating, and cooling industry. This scholarship is particularly intended for students enrolled in trade related training programs in the state of South Dakota.

Two scholarships in the amount of \$2000 will be available for award each year.

Applicants should be planning to seek a career in the plumbing, heating, and cooling industry.

- Graduating high school seniors and non-traditional individuals are encouraged to apply.
- Part-time studies will be considered if applicant can show good cause for other than full-time studies.
- Preference will be given to those intending to or who are enrolled in a South Dakota based training program and who will incur out of pocket expenses for said program.
- Recipients are eligible to apply a second time for a subsequent training period. No more than two awards per person.

A letter of application to the SDAPHCC Educational Foundation including the following information is required for consideration.

- Applicant's contact information
- A typewritten paragraph sharing your career goals
- A sponsorship letter from a member in good standing of the SDAPHCC
- A letter of recommendation from a person that is influential in your life
- Brief description of work history (as appropriate)
- Grade transcripts if a current student

Letter of application and supporting documents must be received at the SDAPHCC office by the 1<sup>st</sup> of April and may be submitted in person, by mail or electronically. Award decision will be made in the month of April and notification of such award shortly thereafter. Disbursement will be made upon receipt of the request form from the training institution.

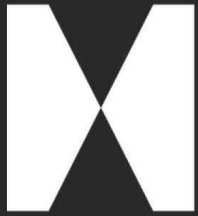
Awards are at the sole discretion of the SDAPHCC Educational Foundation Board of Directors. Immediate family members of the Board of Directors are ineligible.

Submit letter of application and all supporting information to the SDAPHCC office by April 1.

707 E 41st St. Ste 220, Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Email: [kristie.phcc@midco.net](mailto:kristie.phcc@midco.net) - Phone: 605-271-7255

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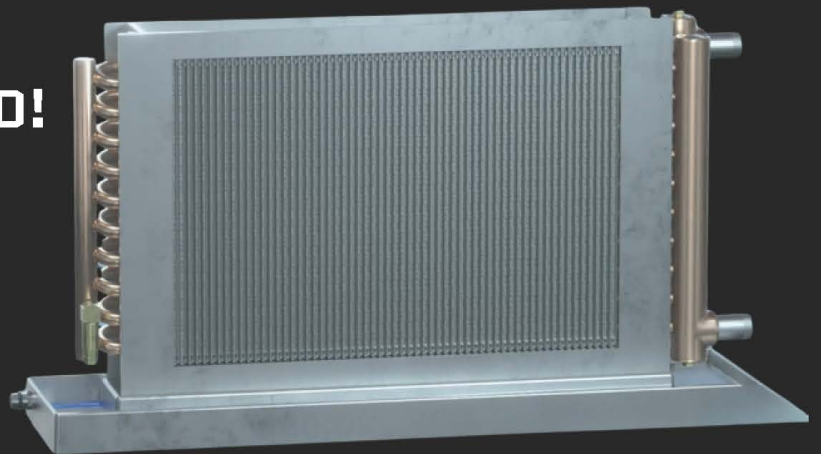
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# IAPMO BACKFLOW PREVENTION INSTITUTE

IAPMO Backflow Prevention Institute (BPI) provides education and training services to increase both private and professional awareness of potential hazards to the public drinking supply relating to backflow and cross-connections. Our training and certification classes are based on the requirements of the ASSE/ANSI Series 5000 Cross-Connection Control Professional Qualifications Standard.

The IAPMO Backflow Prevention Institute training is designed to provide the student with the knowledge to successfully pass any examination required by the State or Local Authority Having Jurisdiction. BPI has designed this comprehensive training to provide the necessary skills to confidently take the exam of AWWA, ABPA, ABC, ASSE this certification class includes use of the USC 10th Edition Field Test Procedure as required by the City of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

**Class Date: February 23-27, 2026**  
**Backflow Tester Training and Certification using the**  
**USC 10th Edition Field Test Procedures**  
**Price: \$950.00**

**Class location: City of Sioux Falls, Water Purification**  
**Plant 2100 N Minnesota Ave Sioux Falls, SD 57104**

Register online at:  
[www.iapmobpi.org](http://www.iapmobpi.org)

For more information:  
**855-536-2800**  
[kim.curtis@iapmo.org](mailto:kim.curtis@iapmo.org)



# SDAPHCC Sponsorship Packages



Take your SDAPHCC support to a new level.

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.

## GOLD SPONSOR

**\$7,400**

- ◆ Full Page Monthly PipeChatter Ad
- ◆ Membership Dues
- ◆ Recognition and Link on SDAPHCC Home Page & Sponsorship Web Page
- ◆ Recognition as Gold Convention Sponsor on event posters, in event program, on event website and during event announcements
- ◆ Two Full Convention Registrations
- ◆ One Trade Show Booth
- ◆ Full Page Convention Program Ad
- ◆ Recognition as Gold Golf Sponsor for both golf tournaments
- ◆ Large Logo on SDAPHCC Trailer

## SILVER SPONSOR

**\$5,300**

- ◆ Full Page Monthly PipeChatter Ad
- ◆ Membership Dues
- ◆ Recognition & Link on SDAPHCC Sponsorship Web Page
- ◆ Recognition as Silver Convention Sponsor on event posters, in event program, on event website and during event announcements
- ◆ One Full Convention Registration
- ◆ One Trade Show Booth
- ◆ Half Page Convention Program Ad
- ◆ Recognition as Silver Golf Sponsor for both golf tournaments

## BRONZE SPONSOR

**\$3,200**

- ◆ Half Page Monthly PipeChatter Ad
- ◆ Membership Dues
- ◆ Recognition & Link on SDAPHCC Sponsorship Web Page
- ◆ Recognition as Bronze Convention Sponsor on event posters, in event program, on event website and during event announcements
- ◆ 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](mailto:kristie.phcc@midco.net)



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 With O2 Trim Standard

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# Regulatory Report



*By Chuck White, VP of Regulatory Affairs*

## **Roll-back of CAFE Standards Announced**

President Trump has announced his intention to roll-back Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards that were set by the previous administration. The President has stated that the Biden standards were excessive, add significantly to vehicle costs, and illegally move fleets toward electric vehicles.

The previous rule required a 2% increase in efficiency annually, with this change the efficiency increase will revert to the previous 0.5% annual increase. As proposed NHTSA Rule will change the 2031 average fleet fuel economy from 50.4 mpg to 34.5 mpg, but the rule is subject to public comment which could impact that projection.

## **U.S. House of Representatives Considers Manufactured Housing Energy Efficiency**

H.R 5184, the Affordable Homes Act is being considered to change an action from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). In 2022 DOE put forth a rule to regulate the energy efficiency of manufactured housing as directed by the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA). Traditionally, manufactured housing has been regulated by the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Code. In the 2022 DOE rule, separate requirements based on the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) were established for categories labeled single wide units and multi-wide units. Additionally, there are different regulations for three different geographic zones (warm to cold regions of the country). The Affordable Homes Act seeks to eliminate the usage of the tiers since multi-wide units face more stringent insulation requirements which result in significantly increased costs of housing. The Act intends to reset manufactured housing regulations back to the traditional HUD Code while further deliberations can take place by DOE.

## **NREL Changes Name**

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), founded in response to the oil crisis of 1973, has been renamed by the Administration. Effective immediately the research facility will be known as the National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR). As stated in the release from the Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation (CMEI), "The energy crisis we face today is unlike the crisis that gave rise to NREL," said Assistant Secretary of Energy (EERE) Audrey Robertson. "We are no longer picking and choosing energy sources. Our highest priority is to invest in the scientific capabilities that will restore American manufacturing, drive down costs, and help this country meet its soaring energy demand. The National Lab of the Rockies will play a vital role in those efforts." The new name reflects the Trump Administration's broader vision for the lab's applied energy research, which historically emphasized alternative and renewable sources of generation, and honors the natural splendor of the lab's surroundings in Golden, Colorado.

## **Corporate Transparency Act Comes Back**

The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) is constitutional. The CTA requires corporate entities to disclose beneficial ownership interests to FinCEN in an effort to curb money laundering. The appeals court's action overturns a lower court decision which halted application of the CTA. As of now, an interim final rule issued by FinCEN last spring remains in place which exempts US companies and US citizens from the CTA's reporting requirements. The Treasury Department has promised to issue final rules within the year. It is possible that an appeal could be asked of the Supreme Court, an action that would need to be filed within 90 days of the 11th Circuit's decision.



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# Energy Choice Act Passes Full Committee, House Vote Expected January



*By Mark Valentini, VP of Legislative Affairs*

In the last issue of Advocate, PHCC Legislative Affairs reported that the Energy Choice Act was marked up and passed out of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy, alongside other legislation that may be considered as part of a comprehensive package modernizing the Energy Policy and Conservation Act.

The Energy Choice Act would unambiguously prohibit state and local governments from banning or restricting the use of natural gas or any other energy source, legislation championed by PHCC as we continue to fight back against efforts to limit consumer choice when it comes to plumbing and HVAC appliances.

Earlier last month, the Energy Choice Act passed out of the full Energy and Commerce Committee and is expected to be scheduled for a vote on the House floor in January before it goes to the Senate for further consideration. PHCC has been a familiar sight on Capitol Hill these past few weeks urging Congress to vote "yes." We will provide updates as they occur.

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## SD STATE PLUMBING COMMISSION

217 W Missouri Ave,  
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Phone: 605-773-3429

Email: [SDPlumbing@state.sd.us](mailto:SDPlumbing@state.sd.us)

Website: <https://dlr.sd.gov/plumbing/default.aspx>

Next Commission Meeting: 1/15/26, 10:00 am

Mandy Nielsen, Program Director

### Commission Members

Jonathan Kist, President, Plumber Member  
Jeffrey Leuning, Vice-President, Public Member,  
Duane Levanen, Plumbing Contractor Member  
James Bailey, State Health Dept Rep  
Brian Cooper, Public Member



**January 15, 2026**

Convention Hotel Reservation Deadline

**January 20-23, 2026**

Med Gas Class, Sioux Falls

**January 31, 2026**

Convention Registration Deadline

**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

## PHCC NATIONAL'S CANDIDATE'S CORNER

*There currently is one candidate running for 2026 PHCC—National Vice President. Meet Tyler Arndt ... and watch for more messages from him in future issues.*

"As I step forward as a candidate for PHCC—National vice president, I want to share how my story with PHCC started and why it matters to me today. I began as an apprentice, who found direction, community, and opportunity through this incredible association. Being named PHCC Apprentice of the Year in 2013 and winning the National Apprentice Contest in 2014 were life-changing experiences that inspired a lasting commitment to give back. That commitment led me into leadership, including serving as PHCC of Wisconsin president and, most recently, as National secretary in 2025. Each role has reinforced my belief that PHCC thrives because of passionate members invested in the future of our industry. I look forward to earning your support and serving with integrity, passion, and purpose."

*The election will take place at the 2026 PHCC Annual Business Meeting.*



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# From the Executive's Desk



*By Kristie Brunick*

I hope you all had a great holiday season! I was blessed to have several fun filled days with family and friends. Now that our kids are older, the excitement of Santa and toys is gone. But it's been replaced with thoughtful conversation, fun games, helpful cooperation, and heartfelt gratitude. As our family evolves, it's fun to discover the new joys (and challenges) that each stage brings.

## Annual Convention - New Changes and Registration

It's time to start seriously thinking about our Annual State Convention! This year, we will be at The Lodge in Deadwood, SD on February 24-27 and we have lots of new changes.

- Future Leaders Event - With the extended schedule, we were able to add this new pre-conference event. Short sessions will be held on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning for new and upcoming leaders. The sessions will focus on equipping individuals with knowledge to help them step into new roles. Participants can choose to attend only this event, or attend both this event and the rest of the conference. This is a great event for those who are new to leadership or will soon be entering leadership. It can also be a great refresher for anyone interested in making improvements.
- National HVAC Apprentice Competition - We are excited to host the National HVAC Apprentice Competition in conjunction with our state convention on February 25 and 26. Dan Hartman, with Wolff's Plumbing & Heating, has worked hard over the last year to revamp the contest. Please help us welcome guests from across the country to SD.
- State HVAC Apprentice Competition - Because we are holding the National HVAC contest at our convention, we will need to select a SD winner prior to the national event. As a result, the state HVAC contest will be held on Tuesday, February 24.
- Seminars and Hands-On Training - Typically, we have seminars all day on Thursday. This year, we will have traditional seminars on Thursday morning. On Thursday afternoon, we will shift to hands-on training/demonstrations provided by our sustaining members. Northwest Pipe Fittings, Dakota Supply Group, Johnstone Supply, and Granse Trio will all be hosting sessions.
- Registration and full event information can be found on pages 5-14. Be sure to make your hotel reservations too!

## Continuing Education Registration is Open

Once again, we are planning to host several in-person plumbing continuing education classes in March. Check out pages 16-18 for the schedule and registration.

## Scholarship Application

If you know a high school senior who is considering entering the industry, please have them submit a scholarship application. I've included the form on page ???. The deadline for the 2026-2027 school year is April 1, 2026.





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South Dakota Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors

707 E 41st St, #220, Sioux Falls, SD 57105

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