

The South Dakota

# PIPE CHATTER



APRIL 2026

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- Legislative Report
- Free Webinars



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

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## The South Dakota

# Pipe Chatter

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### SDAPHCC

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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)

### Association Officers

- President: Brett Kaltvedt, Midwestern Mechanical, Inc - Rapid City
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## Upcoming Events

**PHCC National Legislative Conference**  
May 5-6, 2026, Washington, DC

**East River Golf Tournament**  
June 26, 2026,  
Grand Falls Casino, Larchwood, IA

**West River Golf Tournament**  
September 10, 2026  
Elkhorn Ridge Spearfish, SD

**PHCC National Connect**  
October 19-22, 2026  
Milwaukee, WI

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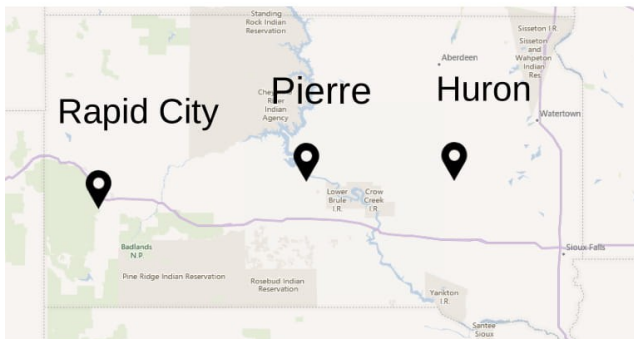
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# President's Message



Hello PHCC members, it was great to meet some of you at our convention in Deadwood! Kristie, as always, did a fantastic job putting this together and your other board members were busy contributing as well with different responsibilities during convention. We also had great attendance from National PHCC which shows their ongoing respect and support of SDAPHCC.

In March, I was able to attend the National ACCA convention in Las Vegas for a couple of days in a collaboration with ACCA and the PHCC. They allowed me to participate in their board meeting and Government Relations Committee meeting. It was a great experience as we both work toward the same goals and have the same issues. With us working together we can make a larger impact legislatively and within our industries.

I believe there has been a turn with the youth attempting to find a trade. We had about 7 high school job shadows this spring looking to see if this HVAC or Plumbing was going to be their career choice. It would appear people are doing the math and seeing the benefit of going right into a field or technical school instead of higher education. This is a positive change that should impact all of us.

Skills USA competition is coming up in April at Mitchell Tech, and you will find me there as coordinator of their Plumbing contest. If you didn't know, SDAPHCC gives travel scholarships to the winners of the Plumbing and HVAC contests.

I hope you all have a great April! Hope to see some of you soon!

- Brett Kaltvedt, 2026 SDAPHCC President

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# SDAPHCC Golf Tournament

Join us for this fun event. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the SDPHCC Educational Foundation

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Grand Falls Casino Golf Course

Larchwood, IA

9 Hole Scramble - 18 teams maximum

Shotgun Start - 2pm

Dinner & Prizes - 5pm

## Check the items you wish to register for

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| _____ - Team Registration - \$780.00                               | _____ - Individual Registration - \$195.00  |
| _____ - Four Mulligans for Team - \$20.00                          | _____ - Hole & Pin Prize Sponsor - \$300.00 |
| _____ - Dinner Only Registration - \$50.00                         | _____ - Prize Sponsor - \$300.00            |
| _____ - Dinner Sponsor - 2 available at \$600 each or 1 at \$1,200 |   |

REGISTRATION TOTAL - \_\_\_\_\_ Payment enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please invoice

\*Individual & Team Registrations include green fee, cart, pre golf range ball, dinner & prizes

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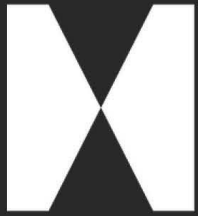
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Team Members (if registering a team) \_\_\_\_\_

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# Sixteen Plumbing Continuing Education Classes Held

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

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

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

For those who were unable to attend the in-person classes, there are still two other alternatives available. The online class will open this summer. This course allows attendees to fulfill their training online at their own pace and time. The SDAPHCC website will be updated with registration information once the course becomes available. In addition, a virtual class will be held later this year on November 16. The virtual class allows attendees to complete their continuing education training in one night, via zoom, with a live instructor.

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



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# Meet New SDAPHCC President Brett Kaltvedt



Brett & Tracy Kaltvedt

Hello PHCC members, I am Brett Kaltvedt and I was recently sworn in as your SDAPHCC President. I am the current Vice President of Midwestern Mechanical Rapid City and have been at MWM my entire Plumbing/Heating career.

My wife, Tracy, and I reside in Hermosa close to the Black Hills. Most of you know Tracy as she loves to come along and build relationships in the industry alongside me. My son, Briar, works for Midwestern Mechanical Rapid City as a Service Technician and my daughter, Kassidy, lives in Canby MN with her husband Bryan and our 2 grandkids.

We love the outdoors and spend time camping, horseback riding, four wheeling, hunting, and fishing. We enjoy gardening, working on a variety of projects, and bee keeping.

My passion, as most of you know, is the youth. You will find me helping with plumbing apprentice contests at our state convention, nation convention, and Skills USA. I work with high schools that have shop/CTE programs to get the students interested in our trades.

I served on the National PHCC Board of Directors as Zone 3 Director and I remain a member of the Government Relations, Business Development, ACCA/PHCC Steering, and Plumbing Technical Committees!

I look forward to serving all of you as President and am willing to discuss any concerns or great ideas for the future of our state PHCC Chapter with you!



Brett Kaltvedt, Joe Cornetta, Lilian Cornetta, & Tracy Kaltvedt



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## BUCKLE UP FOR THE COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SAFETY ALLIANCE (CVSA) ROADCHECK

Thursday, April 16, 2026  
1 p.m. CT



This webinar will provide an overview of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) International Roadcheck, scheduled for May 12–14, 2026. Fleet managers and business owners will learn key information about the largest targeted commercial motor vehicle enforcement program in North America.

The CVSA-led presentation outlines common violations and areas of focus to help you understand what inspectors may look for during this event.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND

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

### WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- An overview of the CVSA Roadcheck and its purpose.
- A review of the 2025 focus areas, including tire safety and false records of duty status.
- The most common out-of-service violations found during past inspections.
- The importance of pre-trip inspections, electronic logging device (ELD) usage, and proper documentation.



Register today to gain valuable insights into the CVSA Roadcheck.

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# PHCC Welcomes Zoeller Pump Company as New Corporate Partner

The Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association (PHCC) is proud to announce Zoeller Pump Company as its newest Corporate Partner, strengthening a shared commitment to supporting professional contractors and advancing the plumbing and HVAC industry.



As a leading manufacturer of sump, effluent, sewage, grinder and battery backup pumps and related solutions for residential and commercial applications, Zoeller Pump Company brings decades of industry expertise, innovation, and contractor-focused service to the PHCC community.

"PHCC is excited to welcome Zoeller Pump Company as a Corporate Partner," said Cindy Sheridan, CEO, PHCC—National Association. "Their longstanding dedication to quality and contractor support aligns seamlessly with PHCC's mission to empower plumbing and HVAC professionals through education, advocacy, and connections."

Zoeller Pump Company's commitment to American manufacturing, reliability, and customer service reflects the high standards upheld by PHCC members across the country. As a Corporate Partner, Zoeller will have opportunities to collaborate on educational initiatives, industry events, and programs designed to strengthen the skilled trades workforce.

"We are proud to continue our support of PHCC and the meaningful work they do every day." Said Billy Stutz, Zoeller's Chief Marketing Officer. "Their commitment to strengthening our industry directly aligns with Zoeller's values and we're honored to play a part in helping to expand their impact."

PHCC Corporate Partners play a vital role in advancing the association's mission by fostering innovation, promoting workforce development, and delivering meaningful value to contractor members.

For more information about partner and sponsorship programs, contact PHCC Vice President of Business Development Elicia Magruder at [magruder@naphcc.org](mailto:magruder@naphcc.org), or call 800-533-7694.

## Save the Date - West River Golf Tournament



Thursday, September 10, 2026  
Elkhorn Ridge Golf Course, Spearfish, SD  
9 Hole Scramble, Shotgun Start at 2pm

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# SDAPHCC Members Host Scout America Class

On March 13, three SDAPHCC Members hosted the Scout America Plumbing Badge Class at Midwestern Mechanical in Rapid City.

Three students attended the class taught by Brett Kaltvedt (Midwestern Mechanical), Larry Baker (Action Mechanical) and Briar Kaltvedt (Midwestern Mechanical).

The class content consisted of the following items:

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



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

The hands-on activities included:

- **PVC Pipework:** Cleaning and gluing pipes plus learning how to work with basic plumbing materials.
- **PEX Pipe Connections:** Introducing modern plumbing techniques by learning to cut and make connections with PEX pipes using hand and power tools .
- **Copper Fitting Pressing:** Pressing copper fittings while learning the essential skill for working with metal pipes.

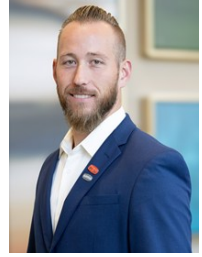


## PHCC NATIONAL'S CANDIDATE'S CORNER

*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.*

"When I first started plumbing, I never imagined where this career could take me. Recently, PHCC was invited to a high-level meeting at The White House with major AI companies, the President, the Speaker of the House, and other national leaders to discuss the rapid growth of data centers and the infrastructure needed to support them. PHCC was in the room representing the plumbing and HVAC trades. If someone had told me as a kid that becoming a plumber could take you to The White House, I probably would have laughed. Moments like this are why advocating for our industry and the professionals who power it is so important."

*The election will take place at the 2026 PHCC Annual Business Meeting to be held on Tuesday, Oct. 20, at CONNECT 2026 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.*



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# 2026 Legislative Report



By Ellie J. Bailey, 2026 Lobbyist for SDAPHCC

## Highlights

The main run of the 2026 legislative session is now complete with both the House and Senate adjourning mid-afternoon on March 12 after passing the budget.

A significant tax bill, SB 245, was a focus of the final week of session. This bill aims to provide property tax relief to homeowners.

The 2027 Legislative Calendar has also been set. The Session is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, January 12, 2027. The format of the calendar is substantially similar to this year's schedule.

## HOUSE BILLS

**HB 1066 An Act to revise a provision related to theft by a contractor, subcontractor, or supplier.**

**Sponsor:** Representative Fitzgerald and Senator Howard

**Summary:** The bill aims to amend a provision related to theft by a contractor, subcontractor, or supplier. Specifically, it addresses the misuse of more than five hundred dollars of proceeds from payments made for improvements on real estate, mines, or public utilities. The bill stipulates that if a contractor, subcontractor, or supplier knowingly uses these funds for purposes other than paying for labor, skill, materials, or machinery, with the intent to defraud, they are guilty of theft.

**Position:** Monitor

**Status:** Signed by the Governor on March 16.

**HB 1202 An Act to authorize the construction of a trades center on the campus of Lake Area Technical College, to make an appropriation therefor, and to declare and emergency.**

**Sponsor:** Representative Roby and Senator Vilhauer

**Summary:** This bill authorizes construction of a trades center on the Lake Area Technical College campus. The bill appropriates \$5,200,000 from the general fund to the South Dakota Board of Technical Education to contract for construction, completion, and equipping of the trades center, including labs, classrooms, student services, and related utilities and professional services.

**Position:** Support

**Status:** Passed Joint Appropriations Committee as amended (13-4) on February 12; failed House of Representatives as amended (43-22) on March 2.

**HB 1299 An Act to permit the use of biological filtration systems in water recreational facilities located in certain lodging establishments.**

**Sponsors:** Representative Uhre-Balk and Senator Deibert

**Summary:** This bill permits small lodging establishments, such as boutique inns or bed-and-breakfasts with limited rooms, to use biological water filtration systems instead of traditional chemical systems in their pools,

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# 2026 Legislative Report continued

spas, or water recreation areas, under regulated health and safety standards. The establishment must obtain a permit from the Department of Health before installing or using such a system.

**Position:** Monitor

**Status:** Signed by the Governor on March 25.

## SENATE BILLS

**SB 3 An Act to limit the types of residential improvements for which counties, municipalities, and townships may require a permit.**

**Sponsor:** Senator Rohl

**Summary:** This bill places limits on counties, municipalities, and township's ability to require permits for certain repairs or replacement to owner-occupied residential structures. The bill would limit such permits for exterior structures (e.g. doors, gutters, roofing, windows and siding), as well as certain interior structures (e.g. foundation work and/or heating and cooling). The bill was sent to conference committee; that committee amended the bill to clarify that the provisions apply to detached single-family homes—fascia and soffits were also added to the list of items wherein no building permit is required to repair or replace.

**Position:** Monitor

**Status:** Signed by the Governor on March 17.



**SB 6 An Act to reduce the duration of an individual's reemployment benefits.**

**Sponsor:** Senator Rohl

**Summary:** The bill, which amends § 61-6-8 (Title 61 is on Reemployment Assistance), says an individual's maximum benefit amount is equal to one-third of the individual's total base period wages not to exceed twelve (instead of twenty-six) times the individual's weekly benefit amount. The bill also says trade readjustment payments may allow an individual to receive benefits in excess of twelve (instead of twenty-six) weeks if the individual is in training approved by the secretary under the Trade Act of 1974, and then only as long as necessary to complete the training.

**Position:** Monitor

**Status:** Deferred to the 41st legislative day in Senate Commerce and Energy on January 22.

**SB 63 An Act to establish the state office of apprenticeship within the Department of Labor and Regulation**

**Sponsor:** The Chair of the Committee on Commerce and Energy at the request of the Department of Labor and Regulation

**Summary:** This bill creates an apprenticeship office with the SD Department of Labor. Many of the provisions within the bill align with federal regulations on the same topic. One goal of the office is to engage in outreach

# 2026 Legislative Report continued

and education to promote apprenticeship programs as a workforce development tool within the state.

**Position:** Monitor

**Status:** Signed by the Governor on February 25.

**SB 86 An Act to authorize purchasing agency verification and monitoring of workers' compensation insurance coverage obtained require that certain contracts include a provision for the purchasing agency to verify and monitor workers' compensation insurance carried by public improvement contractors.**

**Sponsors:** Senator Sue Peterson and Representative Jorgenson

**Summary:** This bill requires the contractor of a public improvement for a purchasing agency to verify it has obtained workers' compensation insurance prior to commencement of any contracted service. The purchasing agency, which is any governmental body or officer authorized to enter into contracts, is required to monitor the status of the contractor's workers' compensation insurance coverage by requesting the contractor to provide proof of payment of insurance premiums and a list of all subcontractors involved. This bill was **amended** in committee to include a title change. Additionally, a new section was added to the bill that permits a contract to be terminated if a contractor or subcontractor fails to comply with this provision of law.

**Position:** Monitor

**Status:** Deferred to the 41st legislative day in Senate Commerce and Energy Committee on January 27.

**SB 129 An Act to update references in certain statutes to the 2024 standard building codes.**

**Sponsors:** Senator Reed and Representative Roby

**Summary:** This bill seeks to update the version of the International Building Code (IBC) currently set forth in Chapter 11-10 of the law (Building Codes and Standards). Currently, IBC 2021 is referenced; this would update the code to the 2024 edition of the IBC.

**Position:** Monitor

**Status:** Signed by the Governor on March 4.

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# Regulatory Report



*By Chuck White, PHCC National Vice President of Regulatory Affairs*

## EnergyStar Preserved by DOE

EnergyStar has been a joint program between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for a number of years but essentially under the leadership of EPA. This program was slated to be eliminated through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. PHCC and other industry stakeholders encouraged the agencies to keep the program viable since EnergyStar has a high recognition by consumers.

A recent **Memorandum of Understanding** was signed transferring primary management of EnergyStar to DOE, which, while not guaranteeing program funding, does place the program on firmer footing under the direction of the primary energy management agency in the United States. PHCC supports the continuation of EnergyStar and allows consumers to depend on the consistency of EnergyStar rated products.

## Is HVAC Ground Fault Protection Issue Resolved?

As a result of a tragic accident involving a child, the 2020 edition of the NFPA National Electric Code (NEC) added a section to require outdoor HVAC equipment for residential applications to have ground fault protection (GFCI). That change was problematic in that GFCI devices were not reliable with some types of HVAC equipment resulting in nuisance equipment outages. An exemption was put forth and included in the 2023 NEC which delayed implementation of the requirement until Sept. 1, 2026. Since that date is fast approaching, PHCC reached out to some manufacturers to see if products will be available come Sept. 1. It is generally known or believed that:

- Sixteen states that have adopted the 2020 or 2023 NEC have amended the NEC to either eliminate section 210.8(F) or eliminated the Sept. 1, 2026 expiration date.
- A new class of HF/HF+ GFCI devices must be defined, designed, and developed for this application.
- It is unclear if products will be available by Sept. 1 (probably unlikely), but the industry is working diligently to comply.
- It is possible there will be an extension of the Sept. 1 deadline but there has been no commitment to that at this time.

## AI Is Not Foolproof

A recent article in **Construction Dive** expresses concern for overreliance on AI in the construction process. Max Mahdi Roozbahani, a senior lecturer at Georgia Tech, discusses how AI can misinterpret information and generate errors in reports, sometimes in safety reports, which can create completion issues as the job progresses.

Construction projects are more than language analysis, there are many physical attributes on jobsites that can be difficult for AI to analyze. The article sees the benefit of AI handling routine tasks but emphasizes the need for competent oversight of AI-prepared sensitive reports.

# A Second PHCC Visionary Peer Group is Ramping Up - Sign Up by April 30

PHCC National is launching a second round of Visionary Peer Groups in 2026.

These groups offer an exciting new opportunity for service and repair business owners and general managers to connect, collaborate, and grow alongside fellow contractors who share similar goals, challenges, and a passion for success.

Each peer group will meet monthly with an experienced business coach to exchange ideas, solve problems, and sharpen strategies in key areas such as: business growth and profitability; leadership and team management; and operations and efficiency.

Don't go alone in 2026 - join a community of forward-thinking professionals committed to helping one another thrive.

Be sure to sign up by April 30, as space is limited.

For more information, contact Beth Dobkin at [atdobkin@naphcc.org](mailto:atdobkin@naphcc.org) or 916-835-5013.



## Whole-House Ventilation

Inside air can be up to 10 times more polluted than the air outside. To combat the issue of poor ventilation, many studies and building science experts indicate that today's homes need balanced ventilation throughout the day to maintain a healthy indoor environment.

**Ask your DSG Sales Rep for details.**



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**Every exit decision has tradeoffs.** Higher price can mean giving up control. Maintaining control can limit liquidity. Protecting legacy may complicate the deal. If succession is on your radar – now or years from now – you need a clear framework to evaluate your options.

In this PHCC member-only webinar, you'll assess ESOPs (Employee Stock Ownership Plans) through four practical lenses:

- Price: What are you optimizing for?
- Control: What are you willing to release?
- Identity: Who are you without the business?
- Legacy: What do you want to preserve?

[Reserve Your Spot](#)

**About the Speaker** - Matt Middendorp, Director of ESOP Consulting at Vision Point Capital, advises business owners nationwide on evaluating employee ownership with clarity and realism.

*You can also see more details and register for the webinar by visiting [www.phccweb.org](http://www.phccweb.org). Click on Events and scroll to find the webinar listing.*

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## SD STATE PLUMBING COMMISSION

217 W Missouri Ave,  
Pierre, SD 57501

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: 4/23/26, 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

# Business Leadership Essentials is Back!

## Define & Achieve Your Goals with Business Leadership Essentials!

The next session kicks off Wednesday, April 22nd at 1pm Eastern

Now is the perfect time to hone in on how you will define and achieve your team's goals; that is why the Business Leadership Essentials program was created for leaders like you!

### What is the Business Leadership Essentials program?

The Business Leadership Essentials is a streamlined 10-week learning and networking program designed to create real-world impact for current and future leaders in the plumbing & HVACR industry. You'll gain practical tools to lead, manage, and innovate alongside a nationwide cohort of PHCC leaders.

### What To Expect?

- Lifetime access to 300+ engaging modules, templates, & resources.
- Bi-weekly live sessions & insights from experts in our industry.
- Peer collaboration with industry leaders across the country.



*Learn together & save!*  
*Individual: \$995 with lifetime access*  
*Teams of 3+: Save up to \$200 each*

[Click Here for More Details and Registration Information](#)

### Three Core Focus Areas of the Business Leadership Essentials Curriculum:

1. Organization-Wide Leadership  
Align your team's vision and goals across departments, using agile strategies to serve the right customers and adapt to an ever-evolving business environment.
2. Excellence in People Management  
Learn how to hire, define success, and coach your teams to excel. With systems like one-on-ones and team huddles, you'll build a culture of empowerment.
3. Demystifying Financials  
Focus on building more profitable organizations by understanding financial statements and key ratios. Gain practical tools to use in your daily decision-making.

Take this opportunity to invest in your team's growth and start 2026 strong with organizational alignment in defining and achieving your goals! Reach out to [PHCCAcademy@naphcc.org](mailto:PHCCAcademy@naphcc.org) if you have any questions.



# From the Executive's Desk



By Kristie Brunick

## 2026 Golf Outings

We are excited to once again host two golf outings this year.

Our East River Golf Tournament will be June 25 at Grand Falls Casino near Larchwood, IA. Our West River Golf Tournament will be September 10 at Elkhorn Ridge in Spearfish, SD.

Registration for the East River Tournament is open. See page 5 for more information.

## 2026 Continuing Education Options

We just wrapped up our 2026 Continuing Education season. Sixteen in-person classes were held throughout the state plus a virtual class. For those who were unable to attend one of these classes, there are still 2 more options available to get your credits.

We have a second virtual class scheduled for the evening of November 16. This class will be taught by a live instructor via zoom.

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

## Apprenticeships

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

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