

# ILLINOIS MASTER PLUMBER

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING • CONTRACTORS

Volume 109, No. 8

August, 2023



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The Illinois Master Plumber published monthly, is the official publication of the Illinois Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association, only insofar as notices, bulletins, and reports are concerned.

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# PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

by Mike Ehret  
Illinois PHCC President

As we experience the hottest summer on record, our country is reminded that our industry is responsible for keeping people safe from the extreme weather. Having reliable systems that can cool our structures is vital for not only comfort, but for survival. These systems, as well as ones installed to heat our structures in winter, must be installed correctly and maintained to function safely.

As energy codes become stricter, the systems, equipment, controls, etc. become more and more complicated – and expensive. These more intricate machines require smarter, more competent and dedicated individuals to maintain and install these systems. To maintain the degree of competence, we need to ensure that the individuals we hire are qualified to work on these complicated pieces of equipment.

A state licensing law and state code similar to the plumbing code should be and needs to be adopted into place. Systems are always increasing in complexity and to stay current with today's technology, we need to license all individuals that work on these systems for the safety of the people that rely on them to keep them comfortable – and alive.

Thanks for reading,

*Mike* 



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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2023**

CCA of PHCC Meeting  
Hyatt Regency Hotel  
Phoenix, AZ

**SEPTEMBER 23, 2023**

IL PHCC Online CEU Class

**OCTOBER 6, 2023**

IL PHCC Online CEU Class

**OCTOBER 26, 2023**

ERTC Backflow Symposium  
DoubleTree Hotel  
Bloomington, IL

**OCTOBER 25-27, 2023**

PHCC CONNECT '23  
Huntington Convention Center  
Cleveland, OH

**NOVEMBER 10, 2023**

IL PHCC Online CEU Class

**MARCH 22, 2024**


IL PHCC Expo & Educational Day  
Drury Lane Conference Center  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL




## PLUMBING CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION RENEWAL TIME

All plumbing contractors registered with the Illinois Department of Public Health should receive a renewal form in late August. Even though you may be renewing online, you must still fax or email the insurance and bonds. Only send those documents by ONE of these methods. Do **NOT** email and then follow up with a fax. This only causes confusion and delays the process. IDPH highly **recommends emailing**, rather than faxing.

Please make sure you look at all the materials carefully and submit your renewal as soon as possible - **DON'T DELAY**. Your registration is **NOT** considered renewed until full payment and your renewal documents (i.e. Surety Bond, Certificate of Insurance) are received. **All of these items MUST be received on or before September 30th to avoid late penalty.**

Questions on renewals may be directed to the IDPH Plumbing & Water Quality Program at [dph.plumbing@illinois.gov](mailto:dph.plumbing@illinois.gov). 



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# 2023/24 ILLINOIS PHCC CEU SCHEDULE

The Illinois PHCC schedule for online and in-person classes for the 2023 renewal year is listed below. These classes offer a minimum of 3 different speakers and topics in each class.

All Illinois PHCC classes will provide State hours for Certified Inspectors and Licensed Plumbers.

Below is our current schedule of continuing education classes for Illinois licensed plumbers. **Please visit our website at [www.ilphcc.com](http://www.ilphcc.com) for the latest information and to register for a class.** Registration links will be live at least 6 weeks prior to the class date.

## 2023-2024 Continuing Education Dates

**Saturday, September 23, 2023**  
8:00am – 12:00 pm (Online)


**Friday, October 6, 2023**  
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Online)

**Friday, November 10, 2023**  
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Online)

**Saturday, January 13, 2024**  
8:00 am – 12:00 pm (Online)

**Friday, February 16, 2024**  
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Online)

**Friday, March 22, 2024**  
9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
**Drury Lane Conference Center, Oakbrook  
Terrace, IL**

**Saturday, April 20, 2024 – 8:00 am – 12:00 pm  
(Online)** 



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IMSCA-PAC is selling raffle tickets to win your choice of a great prize package! This raffle is for sports, travel, and outdoor enthusiasts!

\$50 PER TICKET

Multiple tickets can be purchased!

- >> **Four tickets to the Chicago Bears** vs. the Carolina Panthers game at Soldier Field on November 9th at 7:15 p.m. This prize also includes parking passes (Value: \$1,100.00). *Donated by Tom Morton, LLD Electric.*
- >> **Four tickets to watch the Chicago Blackhawks** play at the United Center (Date TBA). (Value: \$750.00). *Donated by Jim McGlynn, McWilliams Electric Company.*
- >> **Four tickets to the Chicago Cubs** vs. Pittsburgh Pirates game at Wrigley Field on September 19th at 6:40 p.m. These are aisle seats in Section 214 Row 6. This prize package also includes parking passes. (Value: \$500.00) *Donated by Mason Contractors Association of Greater Chicago.*
- >> **\$1,500 Travel Package** \$500 Southwest Airlines, \$500 Delta Airlines, and \$500 Hotels.com gift cards. *Donated by the Bloomington/Normal PHCC/IL PHCC.*
- >> **\$500 Amazon gift card** *Donated by the Electrical Contractors Association of Chicago.*
- >> **\$500 Best Buy gift card** *Donated by PCA of Greater Chicago.*
- >> **\$500 Cabela's gift card** *Donated by the Underground Contractors Association of Illinois.*
- >> **\$500 GoPlay Golf gift card** good at 5,000+ golf courses nationwide or for use on golf merchandise, golf lessons, or golf vacations. *Donated by Bloomington Normal PHCC/IL PHCC.*
- >> **\$500 Home Depot gift card** *Donated by SMACNA Greater Chicago.*
- >> **\$500 Lettuce Entertain You gift card** *Donated by MCA Chicago.*
- >> **\$500 Morton's Steakhouse gift card** *Donated by the Bloomington Normal PHCC/IL PHCC.*

Choose the prize you want a chance to win!

11 winners WILL BE DRAWN

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The winning tickets will be drawn on September 15, 2023 You do not need to be present to win. Please make check payable to IMSCA-PAC and return, along with this form to: IMSCA, 201 E. Adams St., Suite 1A, Springfield, IL 62701. Under State Law, IMSCA-PAC can accept both corporate and personal checks. Your support is appreciated.

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If you have additional questions regarding IMSCA-PAC, please contact Jessica Newbold Hoselton at 217-523-4361 or [jnewbold@boldnewstrat.com](mailto:jnewbold@boldnewstrat.com). A copy of our report filed with the State Board of Elections is available on the Board's official website [www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov) or for purchase from the State Board of Elections, Springfield, IL. Contributions are not tax deductible.





# PHCC CONNECT 2023

Oct. 25-27, 2023 / Cleveland, Ohio



## Dive Deeper into Union-Related Developments this Fall at PHCCCONNECT2023

PHCC's Union-Affiliated Contractors (UAC) will be offering several timely and relevant educational sessions planned with signatory plumbing and HVAC signatory contractors in mind but will also offer practical and beneficial information for open shop PHCC contractors at PHCCCONNECT2023, Oct. 25-27 in Cleveland, Ohio. Register today to access the knowledge and best practices you need to improve your operations and bottom line.



## Two UAC Hosted Sessions on Oct. 25

Presented by attorney **Christina Wernick** of Laner Muchin, LTD



### Employer Preparation – Remaining Ready Before, During & After Union Trust Fund Audits

This session will focus on how to prepare for all stages of a fringe benefit compliance audit. You'll learn what to anticipate before the audit begins, what documents are necessary, how to advocate interim audit challenges, how to challenge an inflated audit report after issuance, and more.

### Fund Trustee Realities & Responsibilities

This presentation will educate trustees of union multiemployer benefit funds about their growing fiduciary responsibilities. Attendees will explore common pitfalls for trustees such as how to identify and avoid conflicts of interest, party-in-interest transactions, plus adhering to proper trustee expense submissions, and addressing the latest legal challenges impacting trustees.



# BONUS!

On Thursday, Oct. 26, 4 p.m.-5 p.m., the UAC will host an Open Roundtable discussion with the United Association.

We invite you to join us in an informative, frank and interesting roundtable discussion on a range of relevant industry topics with leaders from the

**United Association (UA)**. This UAC forum is applicable to both signatory plumbing & HVAC contractors and will also be of interest to our open shop PHCC-affiliated contractors. Engage with several UA leaders, including **Tom Bigley**, Director – Plumbing Services; **Ray Boyd** – Director of Training; and **Joseph Fernandez** – Special Representative. Facilitators will be PHCC President **Dave Frame** and UAC Chairman **Brian Rich**.



## Additional Educational Sessions of Interest:

- A Closer Look at A2L Refrigerants
- Can We Chat...GPT?
- Safety and Productivity through Effective Training Practices
- Walk Away Wealthy in new Economic & Technological Times
- Fraud in a Changing Workplace Environment



Be sure to join us at PHCCCONNECT2023, where we can all recognize UAC Vice Chair **Dave Frame** for his tremendous contributions as PHCC National President, including his continued support of UAC. See him pass the baton to new PHCC leadership during the closing reception at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame!

# DON'T MISS OUT

Register for PHCCCONNECT2023 today:  
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# PHCCCONNECT2023

## SET TO HELP PLUMBING AND HVACR CONTRACTORS

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For plumbing and HVACR contractors who are eager to discover proven, practical ideas to meet their business goals, the PHCC National Association is providing real insights, real solutions, and real value at its annual Conference and Product & Technology Showcase – PHCCCONNECT2023 – to be held this year on Oct. 25-27 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Attendees can expect more than 20 targeted educational sessions on topics plumbing and HVACR contractors want most, from business management and leadership, to sales and marketing, to soft skills and technology.

One of PHCC’s highly anticipated keynote speakers, Coach Ken Carter, is ready to push attendees to their full potential during his address, “Growth Begins at the End of Your Comfort Zone.” And, back by popular demand, Economist Connor Lokar of ITR Economics will offer an accurate, proven, analytical approach on “Piercing Through the Noise”.


Educational opportunities also include manufacturer tours of Moen, Merit Brass, RIDGID, and Oatey, and a chance to experience PHCC’s popular Finance Bootcamp.

The year’s Product & Technology Showcase will be an unprecedented hub of activity – world-class technologies with a “hometown” feel – with new exhibitors, more technology, more plumbing and HVAC manufacturers, product demonstrations, education theaters, “QSC Talks” from a business coach, and intimate one-on-one conversations with the leaders of exhibiting companies.

And, inspiration flows both ways every year during the PHCC Educational Foundation’s National Plumbing and HVAC Apprentice Contests.

Destination: Cleveland

Attendees can enjoy Cleveland’s endless icons of art, culture, and history. In fact, the PHCCCONNECT2023 closing event is at the city’s legendary Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

For more information – including the conference schedule, session descriptions, registration, sponsors, and hotel rates and reservations – visit [phccweb.org/connect](http://phccweb.org/connect). 



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Illinois Backflow Symposium  
Thursday October 26th, 2023  
Doubletree Hotel  
Bloomington, Illinois**

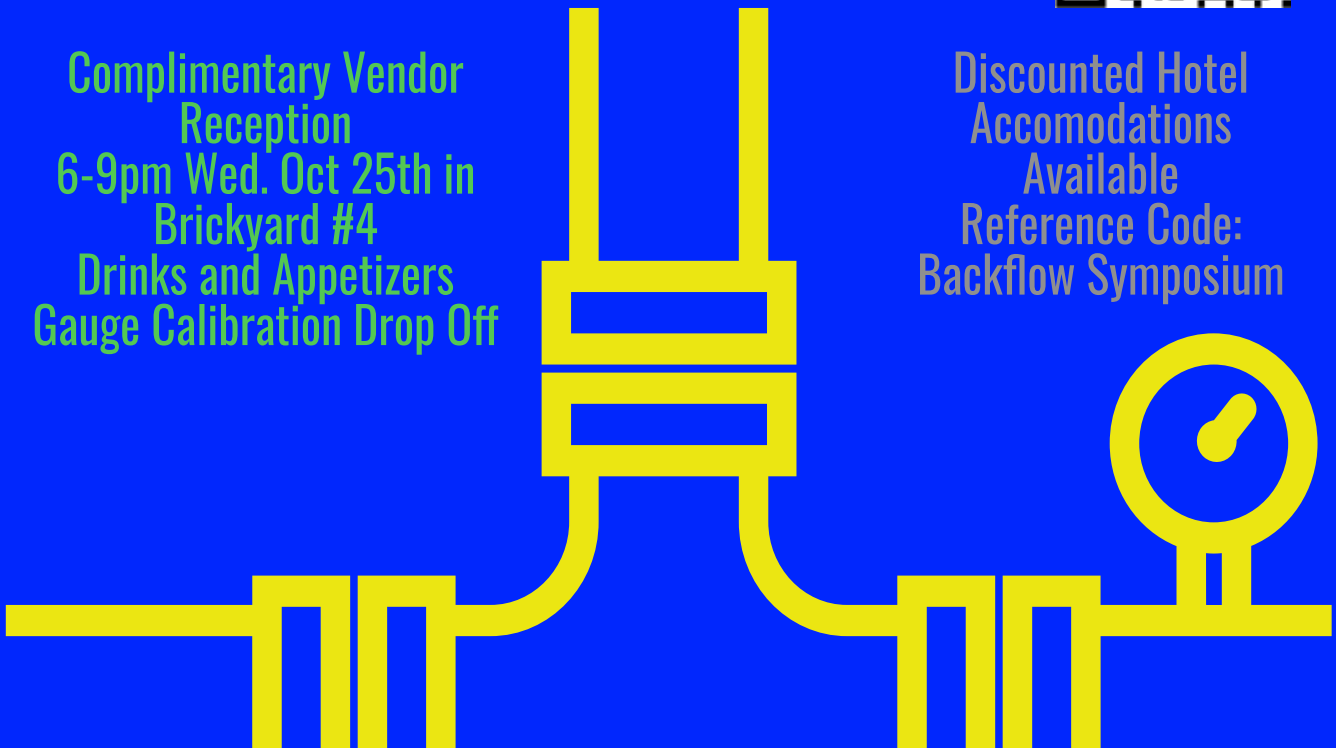
7:30am - Registration & Continental Breakfast - Vendor Area Open  
8:30am \*IEPA\* Chris Johnston - Cross-Connection Code Review  
9:15am \*IRWA\* Dave McMillan – Lead Service Line Replacement  
10:00am \*IDPH\* Illinois Department of Public Health Update  
10:45am - Break - Vendor Area Open  
10:55am - Bob Schafer—Special Applications and the Illinois Plumbing Code  
11:45am - ERTC Training Update, Outline of CCCDI Recertification Program  
12:00pm - 1:15pm \*Catered Southern BBQ Lunch\* - Vendor Area Open  
1:15pm - Kurt Harris, UR Trench Safety-Confined Space and Excavation Safety  
2:00pm - Josh Goeden, Mid-Continent-Leak Detection Technology  
3:00pm - Adjournment

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# US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, TRADE GROUPS, UNIONS PARTNERING TO PROTECT WORKERS FROM HAZARDS IN TRENCHING, EXCAVATION

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has signed an agreement with an alliance of trade organizations, labor unions and industry stakeholders to better protect people who do trenching and excavation work.

The two-year agreement between OSHA and the Partners for Safe Trenching and Excavation Operations Alliance will unite the North American Excavation Shoring Association, the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, the National Utility Contractors Association, the Associated General Contractors, the Common Ground Alliance, the International Union of Operating Engineers and the Laborers' International Union of North America to address some of the construction industry's most hazardous work.

"Sadly in 2022, we saw a dramatic and disturbing increase in the number of workers who died in trench collapses," said Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Doug Parker. "We know that awareness and vigilance saves lives. Joining with the Partners for Safe Trenching and Excavation Operations Alliance is an important collaboration to help ensure that industry employers are taking the precautions required to keep every worker who enters or works near a trench safe."

The alliance will help small- and medium-sized employers protect workers from hazards related to trenching, excavation and shoring. The initiative will also focus on the four leading construction industry hazards, namely falls, caught-in or caught-between, struck-by objects and electrocution. In addition, alliance participants will share information on how to improve controls and equipment to reduce worker exposures to hazardous levels of noise and silica.

OSHA will partner with the alliance and its members to develop guidance in multiple languages and deploy resources, such as safety articles and alerts, worksite tours, educational sessions and focused discussions on common hazards in trenching and excavation work and agency priorities and initiatives. Alliance partners will also create and offer podcasts and webinars focused on best practices in trenching and excavation. In addition, the alliance will encourage industry stakeholders to incorporate equity and worker voice into its outreach and activities to help connect as many workers as possible with important worker safety and health information.

Through its Alliance Program, OSHA works with organizations such as trade and professional associations, labor unions, educational institutions, community and faith-based groups, and government agencies to share information about OSHA's initiatives and compliance assistance resources with workers and employers, and educate workers and employers about their rights and responsibilities.

Learn more at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov). 



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## Reviewing the OSHA Top 10 to Help Reduce Common Workers Compensation Injuries

Operating a successful business carries a lot of responsibility. Understanding and reviewing common risks with your employees can go a long way in preventing accidents, controlling losses, and protecting profits to lead to a safer, healthier work environment.

### What can you do to help prevent workplace injuries and accidents?

Having an understanding of the [OSHA Top 10 most frequently cited standards](#) is a great way to keep an eye out for common risks that could lead to [workers compensation](#) injuries and claims. Take time to review the following with your employees.

For the 2021 fiscal year, the Top 10 consisted of<sup>1</sup>:

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Fall Protection        | 6. Fall Protection Training                     |
| 2. Respiratory Protection | 7. Control of Hazardous Energy (lockout/tagout) |
| 3. Ladders                | 8. Eye and Face Protection                      |
| 4. Hazard Communication   | 9. Powered Industrial Trucks                    |
| 5. Scaffolding            | 10. Machinery and Machine Guarding              |

### Be proactive

As an employer, you have a responsibility to help keep your employees safe. Take action now by:

- Posting OSHA and safe work reminders in places employees will see them
- Providing regular [safety training](#)
- Delegating a risk manager
- Implementing and regularly updating written safety programs
- Maintaining accurate records of work-related injuries and illnesses
- Supplying proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Informing of potential jobsite hazards through labels, alarms, and information sheets

The least expensive workers compensation claim is one that never occurs. [Reach out to your local Federated® marketing representative](#) today for more information.

1. <https://www.osha.gov/top10citedstandards> The Top 10 Most Frequently Cited Standards. Accessed 5/15/23.

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## PHCC INDUSTRY SUMMIT RESULTS IN COLLABORATION, SOLUTIONS ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, REGULATORY ISSUES, AND MORE

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Proving the value of constructive collaboration, PHCC - National Association leaders and the association's industry partners and major sponsors exchanged ideas and solutions for mutual benefit during PHCC's Industry Summit in Dallas, Texas, last month. The Summit - a chance to make a meaningful impact on issues and opportunities facing plumbing and HVACR contractors and the industry - was hosted by Rheem Manufacturing, a PHCC Corporate Partner.

"I learned early on that constructive collaboration was essential for success," PHCC-National President Dave Frame told attendees at the Summit. "By exchanging ideas, learning from each other, and establishing new relationships, we can further our mission of advancing the industry not only for our own organizations but also to protect public health, safety, and the environment."

Indeed, the group of industry leaders spent the day exploring ways to better collaborate on crucial industry initiatives, namely regulatory issues, advocacy, workforce development, education and training, and sustainability.

Regulatory updates - particularly trends in decarbonization/electrification - were a key takeaway for Summit participants. PHCC - National Vice President of Regulatory Affairs Chuck White led a discussion on how PHCC and its industry partners can work together to ensure that contractors and their employees have the information they need to effectively advocate for reasonable regulatory mandates and prepare for upcoming changes. "The complexity of regulations impacting our industry amplifies the need for collaboration on advocacy efforts and to establish effective communication channels to keep industry professionals informed to ensure compliance," he said.

During the Summit, attendees discussed how to set contractors up with financing options for customers interested in purchasing new HVAC equipment. Other topics addressed included how manufacturers can help develop information on heat pump water heaters (the benefits of new products, when to expect return on investment, etc.) for contractors to pass on to customers, as well as how they can improve hands-on training opportunities through PHCC state and local chapters.

In the area of workforce development, several PHCC partners and sponsors shared some transformative efforts, including supporting an apprentice program for at-risk female high school students, working directly with school guidance counselors to promote the trades, and more. "While workforce challenges are not new to this industry, it remains the number one concern for PHCC members," said PHCC Vice President of Business Development Elicia Magruder. "PHCC and the PHCC Educational Foundation have numerous resources available to help our chapters and members promote careers in the trades, but we still need to do more to ensure a continuous pipeline of skilled workers."

Of the event, Rheem Vice President of Residential AC Randy Roberts said, "Manufacturers can't be successful unless we hear and respond to the challenges and needs of our customers. PHCC's Industry Summit took that up a level, allowing us to engage with contractors, suppliers, and other manufacturers to focus on the current issues our customer base is experiencing and identify how we can all help each other to support and advance our industry."

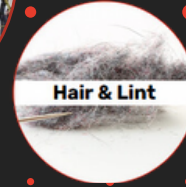
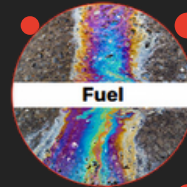
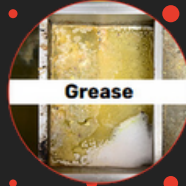
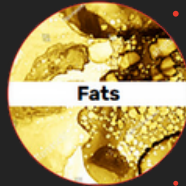
PHCC already is building on the energy and commitment exhibited during the Summit, moving to implement many of the solutions discussed as well as making arrangements for its next Industry Summit. "The ideas shared serve as a strong foundation for future collaboration among PHCC, the PHCC Educational Foundation, and our industry partners," said Frame. "By working together, we can address industry challenges, foster growth, and ensure a prosperous future for the plumbing and HVACR industry."





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