



PHCC OF WASHINGTON

NEWS LEAK

March
2006

PHCC Members Win

Are water heaters appliances? PHCC Members made the difference in answering this question. In December 2005 the Department of Labor and Industries proposed new electrical rules that included defining hot water heaters as appliances. This was a concern to PHCC members because that would mean appliance electricians could do water heater replacement contrary to the legislation passed in 2004. The PHCC urged its members to express their concerns to the Department and many of you did just that. In checking with the Department of Labor and Industries recently, PHCC was advised that the Department had decided to not include hot water heaters in the definition of appliances.

PHCC Members WON!

Another great example of how PHCC and its members can influence rules and regulations of affecting the industry when they get involved and speak out with a loud and unified voice. Thanks to all of you who got involved and made this happen!

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HVAC/R Regulation Being Discussed

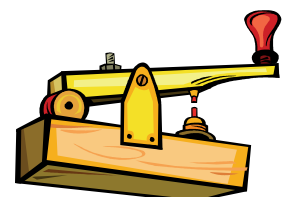
Should HVAC/R contractors be licensed and their workers be certified? Those discussions are now underway in a special task force established by the Department of Labor and Industries. There are lots of issues to consider. PHCCWA head of the Legislative Committee, Charly Mitchel, is involved to the degree he can be and so is Gary Smith with the Independent Business Association.

Will new regulations be able to replace the existing electrical regulations? How much on-the-job training should be required for certification of HVAC/R journeymen? Should there also be a minimum amount of hours of classroom training? Should every HVAC/R worker have to know about all forms of heating, air conditioning, refrigeration and chillers, or should there be separate certifications? Will additional regulation benefit consumers or cost them more money? Will certification increase the number of qualified workers in the industry or reduce it? How will adding HVAC/R regulation with the existing Plumbing Board affect the plumbing regulations? Will the unions increase control of the industry?

Those are the big questions that will have to be answered and PHCC must establish its position on this HVAC/R issue in the very near future. Please respond to requests for your input. You can send them either to Charly Mitchel directly at charly@mitchelplumbing.com or to Cheryl Maas, PHCCWA Director at cheryl@phccwa.org.

Get the Latest!

The 2006 Legislative Session is winding down and YOU can get the latest update on the issues that affect your business from the Independent Business Association via the Internet and www.ibaw.net/wklyrpt. Find out what you've been missing in their weekly legislative report. This isn't just boring politics...it's the stuff that will change how you have to do business.



Visit us on the
web at
www.phccwa.org

PHCC of Washington

Paying On-Call Workers

Most plumbers have on-call workers to respond to emergency plumbing problems. HB 2725 and SB 6434 would have required employers to pay many “on-call” workers at least the state minimum wage when they were “on-call” even if they were at home.

Lobbyist Gary Smith with the Independent Business Association brought this issue to the attention of PHCC and found out how it could hurt our industry and our customers. As business owners we must understand, when our operating costs rise, so must the amount we charge our clients if we plan to stay in business.

Gary did an excellent job testifying against HB 2725 and SB 6434 along with others. GOOD NEWS – HB 2725 and SB 6434 are dead for the 2006 Legislative Session. Expect to see it be re-introduced in 2007 and we must be prepared to fight it next year.



Thank You Members

The PHCCWA staff would like to thank and welcome some additional members that have newly joined and recently renewed their memberships in the PHCC state chapter. Along with these companies are a couple corrections we mistakenly misprinted in our February issue. The companies are:

Contractor Members

Carlson Mechanical
Day & Nite Plumbing & Heating
Pipeline Plumbing & Consulting
Puget Sound Mechanical
Rainier View Plumbing
Rick the Plumber
Mitchel Plumbing Co.

Associate Members

Ferguson
LaPorte & Associates
Noveon, Inc. (formerly Flowguard Gold Pipe)
Plumbmaster
Western States Sales
Wolverine Brass

Associate of the Month: Plumbmaster

Hello, my name is John Keene. I am a sales consultant with PlumbMaster. I started with the company in 1994 when it was called P&M Mfg. Our company used to be known for mostly faucet repair. We have expanded beyond that field without leaving it behind. We carry over 30,000 items and a lot of the products are directed towards plumbers. We carry many of the hard to get parts and have a team of experts to assist in finding them. Please feel free to call on me for any of your plumbing needs. John Keene—(206) 669-0793.



Check your calendar.
Be sure not to miss
the important events
coming soon!

Upcoming Dates of Interest

March 16-18	PHCC Legislative and Leadership Conference
April 18	PHCCWA Board Meeting
April 29	Rebuilding Together

