



TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A Publication of The Independent Master Plumbers of Westchester

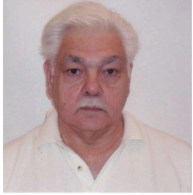
THE INDEPENDENT

Volume X

APRIL 2019

Issue IV

President's Message



Dear Westchester Licensed Master Plumber:

Our committee members attended a meeting with Con Edison officials on April 06, 2019 to finalize the compliance requirements for the Operator Qualification program. The agenda items are outlined within this issue. Come to the membership meeting to get all of the details. Con Edison has indicated that they will require this qualification for **Any** work in an existing building. This program will be enforced. While interest in obtaining this qualification has kicked up recently we are still way short on the number of qualified persons we feel are need to serve the county's residents.

We are pleased to announce that we will have a guest speaker at the April meeting that will present a "GMI" device. Everyone who has attended the Operator Qualification training is well aware of just how important it is to have this device.

The natural gas embargo appears to be heading South. National Grid is poised to cut off major projects if their proposed pipe does not get approved this May. There has been no movement on the Con Ed front.

Last but not least come to the meeting and hear from the members that serve on the County Plumbing License Board. They will be presenting some ideas that will help impede the unlicensed contractors doing plumbing work in the County.

The next membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 25th at The Cabin Restaurant at 6:30pm. See you all then!

Sincerely,

Anthony Schiavo, President

IMPW
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Anthony Schiavo
President
George Bassolino
Vice-President
Steve Spano
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Pat Sementa
Treasurer
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Board Members
Karen Dimitriou
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NEXT MEETING:

SPONSORED BY:
PRONTO SUPPLIES
ADVANCED HYDRONICS
THURSDAY • APRIL 25, 2019
6:30 PM

THE CABIN RESTAURANT

914-592-6682 • 1172 Knollwood Rd • White Plains, NY

Please join us at our next Membership meeting!

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PRONTO SUPPLIES

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019

6:30pm

The Cabin Restaurant

1172 Knollwood Road

White Plains, NY 10701

Improve Your Boiler Room Safety Monitoring Today...

Here are some of Pronto's Top Picks, from **RKI Instruments**



Single Gas Monitors - 03 Series

Available for LEL, O₂, H₂S, or CO
Operates 3,000 hours on alkaline (GP-03 up to 35 hours)
Data log from 5 to 300 hours
Audible / visual / vibration alarms
Automatic backlight



GX-2009

Detects 4 gases: LEL, O₂, H₂S & CO
Smallest / Lightest 4 gas monitor available on the market
3 Visual alarm LEDs & Vibration alarm
20 hours of operation (NIMH batteries)
IP-67 w ater-res is tant/dustproof design



GX-2012 Multi Gas Detector

Monitors ppm LEL, % volume methane, O₂, CO and H₂S
3 Operating modes: Normal, leak check, & bar hole
PPM leak detector; Adjustable display ranges
CO display in leak check mode
Vibration, visual, and audible alarms



Beacon 110 - Single Channel Wall Mount Controller

Audible alarm with reset button
Two programmable alarm levels
Built-in trouble alarm with relay
115/220 VAC or 24 VDC operation
Compact, weatherproof, NEMA 4X enclosure
Accepts LEL/O₂/H₂S/CO direct connect sensors



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Mt. Vernon, NY 10550
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F: 914-600-3089

info@prontosupplies.com

www.prontosupplies.com

Con Edison announces moratorium on any installation of new gas service in Westchester County

This issue is HUGE! It's impact will effect you more than the journeyman rule ever did. We will be taking action. What about you?

Come to the meeting for up to the minute details.

Join the IMPW TODAY (impw.net)

SPONSORSHIPS FOR 2019 AVAILABLE!

Contact: *Karen Dimitriou, Executive Director*

KAREN.DIMITRIOU@GMAIL.COM

914-287-IMPW

GAS OPERATOR QUALIFICATION UPDATES

Enforcement is ready to start

As of Friday, April 05, 2019 these are the numbers for the OQ program:

180 companies sent in the survey to say they were interested in the program

140 companies signed up for training (*Have **40** companies have decided to give up doing gas work?*)

243 people have taken the training

190 have tested (*Have **53** people have decided to give up?*)

157 people have enrolled in the D & A Program paperwork.

There are **170** people out there that have started the process and not crossed the finish line.

At this time there are **144** people that are DOT CT87 qualified.

Con Edison will vigorously enforce this requirement. If you are not qualified your gas may not be restored, your job may not progress.

Don't put yourself in a position where Con Edison refuses to re-establish gas to your customers building because **you** are not DOT Gas Operator Qualified.

The IMPW and their industry partner The Master Plumbers Council have joined together and done their best to provide the opportunity for anyone interested to obtain this qualification. It can take 4-6 weeks to complete the process if there is an adequate demand. There is still time for you to obtain this qualification. But you must act now!

Obtaining this qualification is achieved in three simple steps:

Step 1: Training

If you have not started the process yet:

The next tentative **Training** date is **TBD***

**Training space is limited and offered on a first come first paid basis.*

Step 2: Testing

If you have trained you need to test.

If you failed a part of the test you need to re-test.

Testing space is limited.

We will send testing applications to all persons who have completed **Step 1 Training**.

The next scheduled **Testing** date at the Con Edison Learning Center in Long Island City is **TBD**

**You must have attended a TRAINING session to qualify for TESTING.
TESTING space is limited and offered on a first come first paid basis.*

Step 3: Drug and Alcohol Compliance Program

If you have tested you need the third step.

The Drug and Alcohol Policy applications are available.

We will send D/A compliance applications to all persons who have completed Step 2 Testing.

NOTE: We only schedule training and testing when an adequate number of persons have registered.

Committee members met with Con Ed on April 06, 2019

There are still some aspects of this program that need to be finalized. The following is a list of some agenda items the IMPW had submitted.

Con Edison

What are specific compliance requirements plumbers need to follow?

What is the quality assurance (enforcement) process for compliance verification?

Review final Yellow Book changes.

Review final red tag changes.

Review final drawings or illustrations.

What is being done to publicize the program?

What steps taken to inform/train field staff, managers?

CT/87 Compliance Requirements: When is OQ required?

Definitions (new construction etc.),

See drawing service line definition drawing #5 marked up.

When specifically is CT 87 required?

Who is required to be Operator qualified?

Confirm anyone working on a system where OQ is required must have the qualification.

Is there is an exception for a qualified person to supervise a non-qualified "assistant"?

Is there is an exception for a qualified person and a non-qualified "assistant"?

Website: (set up a website listing OQ firms)

Who is setting up and maintaining the website?

Is the site set up?

What is the address?

How frequently will it be updated?

How did the meeting go? Come to the general membership meeting on April 25, 2019 to find out.

Gas Operator Qualification FAQ

1- When is the next training date?

Answer: We keep a list of persons that want to train. Classes are scheduled as soon as the minimum number of attendees are signed up. The next class is set up for **TBD**. There is still room in this class.

2- When is the next testing date?

Answer: After a person has completed training, we offer them the next available test date as soon as the minimum number of persons are signed up. The next exam is set up for **TBD**. There is still room in this test.

3- I have completed training, testing and signed up for the compliance program. How long does it take to process my application and when can I go for the drug test?

Answer: It generally takes us 3-5 business days to process an application, When the application is completed we send the persons information to Clarity (monitors of D&A program). Clarity will send you a form that details how to arrange for an initial drug test. Once you take the test, the results are generally provided within one week. Once we are notified by Clarity we will process your information and order the OQ card.

4- Can I pay a different way, by not using PayPal?

Answer: This is the only way we are accepting payments at this time. You do not have to create an account with PayPal, you can do a onetime payment as a guest.

5- How often does the plumber have to take the drug test?

Answer: There is an initial test. After that 50% of the pool (all enrolled persons) will be randomly tested each year. The worker will be tested after a gas related accident.

6- Can I make my own D&A compliance program?

Answer: All participants working under this qualification are required to belong to this group, as this is a regulation that Con Edison has set into place. The cost of the program includes the initial drug test, random drug testing and the monitoring of your records.

GMI DEVICES

We are pleased to announce that Pronto Supplies will sponsor the April meeting. They will be bringing representatives from RKI with them. RKI is one of the worlds leading manufacturers of gas detection devices and their products meet all local codes for leak detection and purging devices. They will bring their GX-2012 model and display it at the April general membership meeting. This unit is in production and has a proven track record. Persons interested in purchasing a unit will have the opportunity to do so. Anyone purchasing this device will receive training and certification in the use of this device. Everyone who has taken the Operator Qualification knows the value of these devices for purging gas systems in and out of service. While it is unlikely that Westchester plumbers will ever conduct a CT86 (interior gas pipe inspection) on behalf of the utilities it is still a valuable tool to use to ensure your customers safety.

License Board

Attendees at last months meeting were treated to a presentation from our members who serve on the Westchester Plumbing License Board. As we all know unlicensed and cover-up plumbing is a major problem here in Westchester. The Board is attempting to formulate a new strategy to combat this scourge. Come to the meeting and get the latest details. They would love to hear what you think about this and get you to help them knock this out once and for all.

Mount Vernon Inspections

It has come to our attention that Mount Vernon has been relying on a plumber to conduct inspections for the city that has been unlicensed for over five years due to a disciplinary action taken against him. This fact was brought to the attention of the city and he has since been removed from that position. The City is now using a private company to conduct the inspections. They are charging fees on a sliding scale to conduct plumbing inspections. These fees are for "expedited" service and plumbers and owners are supposedly not required to pay them. However, the fact that the inspections cannot otherwise be conducted probably means that you have no choice but to pay up. We feel it is very unfair for a plumber to pay for a permit (which should include the inspection fee) and now have to absorb (or pass on to the owner) a much higher cost for an inspection. What happens if you fail and have to re-inspect? If this is affecting you we would like to hear about it. Have a story about your town or village? We would like to hear about it. All information is kept confidential. Please email Karen at karen.dimitriou@gmail.com.

**INDEPENDENT MASTER PLUMBERS
OF WESTCHESTER**

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IMPW
Quality Plumbing Safely Done
+ Fair Competition
= Free Enterprise

FIRST CLASS

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Meeting Information

NEXT IMPW MEETING:

SPONSORED BY:
PRONTO SUPPLIES
ADVANCED HYDRONICS

Date: THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019

Time: 6:30pm

Where: The Cabin Restaurant

Additional parking at gas station and bank