



TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A Publication of The Independent Master Plumbers of Westchester

March, 2023

President's Message

**The Independent
Master Plumbers of
Westchester**

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The IMPW represents you, the Independent Master Plumber.

Many years ago when Westchester County Legislature considered enacting a 'new' Countywide Plumbing License Law, it had help in drafting the law by only one labor group: The local Plumbing Union. So, being the only labor organization available for the county to work with, the proposed law was drafted based on the union system and union's input. When some of us in the Open Shop sector learned what was happening, we determined that, if the proposed new law was enacted based on the terms drafted, we would, essentially, no longer be able to do plumbing work in Westchester County. So, several local Open-Shop companies got together, formed this organization and 'got busy' forcing changes to the proposed new law.

Upon asking some of the local legislators why we weren't even considered in the drafting process, their answer very simply was: "We didn't even know you existed". Well, while that may have been a stretch of the truth, it made a point: We had no representation.

It was a lesson: We can't sit back, place our heads in the sand, and assume that legislators and representatives, or the government for that matter, will simply 'take care of us'. We must be aware of what is happening, be properly represented and 'take part in the process', if we want to be able to do business and make a living for our employees and our families.

Every month, every year, the IMPW represents YOU, the Independent Master Plumber. Whether it's dealing with technical questions, license testing issues, issues with municipalities, illegal license 'covering' or utility concerns, we're here for you. But we're only effective with your support. Support means joining the IMPW and being active.

Come join us once a month. The food's good, we have demo's by manufacturers, suppliers, educational speakers and the camaraderie is great! Bring your questions, issues, problems and grievances. Meet your fellow competitors, form relationships and support the IMPW. HELP US TO REPRESENT YOU.

Next meeting: March 23rd, 6:30pm, Cabin Restaurant, Knollwood Rd, White Plains.

I hope to see you all there!

Sincerely,

Mario Bruni, President, IMPW

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NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, March 23,
2023
6:30pm
The Cabin Restaurant
1172 Knollwood Rd
White Plains, NY

**Thank
You
To
Our
March
Sponsor**

Special Thank You To Our March
Sponsor:



WOLVERINEBRASS®

Presentation by Nick Parlante

Raffle Items!!

Please visit their website:

<https://www.plumbmaster.com/wolverinebrass/>

JOURNEY LEVEL CERTIFICATION OR MASTER PLUMBER'S LICENSE "WRITTEN VS. PRACTICAL"

In Westchester County, in order to receive a Journey Level Certification or a Master Plumber's license, each applicant must provide appropriate years of experience in the Plumbing Trade and then submit to testing. The testing is performed by the Westchester County Board of Plumbing Examiners and is divided into two (2) parts: Part one (1) is the "Written Test" and part two (2) is the "Practical Test".

The written test is just that: a series of written questions designed to assess the applicant's general knowledge of NY State Plumbing Code, "Plumbing Math", and other basic 'book knowledge' of the Plumbing Trade.

The practical test is SUPPOSED TO BE a test of the applicant's real-world abilities to perform various plumbing tasks, thereby truly assessing his/her experience and ability in a hands-on testing environment. After all, each applicant has already attested to having five (5) years (apprentice applicant) or ten (10) years (master plumber applicant) hands-on employment experience in the Plumbing Trade, this is the opportunity to assess their hands-on trade skills. However, the current Westchester County testing (for both Journeyman and Master Plumbers) consists of two (2) "Written" tests, and no "Practical" testing.

This can result, (and in my opinion has resulted) in applicants who have little or no actual hands-on plumbing experience taking and passing the two written exams and receiving their certification or license. How can this happen? Here's just one way (of many ways) it can be circumvented:

Applicant Q applies for a Master Plumber's License indicating Q has worked for a plumbing company (anywhere in the USA) for 12 years (for the sake of getting a license, Q conveniently fudges the fact that it was all office-related) provides all the necessary documentation and subsequently is approved and tested. Prior to the test, Q takes a 'Code Class' designed to help 'prepare' for the test and reviews the plumbing code and various math problems. Takes the two (2) written tests in Westchester (but no practical test). Passes the tests and subsequently receives a license. Q was indeed a bright candidate but Q did the payroll for the previous plumbing company for 12 years and never really worked in the field or had a wrench in their hand, made a field decision or installed anything. Q is not a plumber and can't really perform any real plumbing work and is now a real danger to the public. Worse, since Q can't actually perform the work themselves, Q begins using their new license to 'cover' unlicensed individuals who do the work poorly, often skirting good practices and the Plumbing Code (since the field supervision is non-existent) but need someone to 'file their jobs'. This places the residents of Westchester County in peril. Let's face it: it only takes one mistake by one plumber to potentially imperil thousands of residents with cross contamination, fire or worse. Applicant Z applies similarly with similar credentials, etc. However, Z has worked in the field and is a properly trained individual. Z's problem: like many others in "the Trades" Z was a poor academic student or perhaps just a poor test-taker in secondary school but was always great with "his/her hands". After experience and maturity in the Trade, Z has become a real exemplary Master Plumber candidate. Z takes a similar 'Code Class' to prep for the exams but has difficulty with the written "Practical" exam, receives a low grade and is denied a license. He/she never had the opportunity to display his/her superior hands-on skills and is denied a Certification or License. In my view, the 'Impractical Practical Test' just did him in and the residents of Westchester County just lost the opportunity for what could have been a fine plumber. Instead, the Residents (and Building Departments who now have to deal with this) are stuck with Q and all the problems associated with Q improperly being licensed.

The License Law is clear: "The examination for a country-wide master plumber's license or journey level certification shall consist of a Written **and a Practical test.**" (emphasis added)

Let's stop the current system of substituting a written test for a tradesperson rather than the **required** "Practical" test. It's in the interest of the Residents of our Westchester County and **IT'S IN THE LAW.**

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2023 EXAM SCHEDULE MASTER ELECTRICIAN, MASTER PLUMBER AND JOURNEY-LEVEL PLUMBER

<u>EXAMINATION DATE</u>	<u>REGISTRATION PERIOD FOR APPROVED CANDIDATES</u>
February 2023	12/01/22-12/30/22
April 2023	02/01/2023-02/28/23
June 2023	04/01/2023-04/28/2023
November 2023	09/01/2023-03/29/2023

Master Electrician exams will be based on the 2017 NEC (NFPA 70).

All Master and Journey-Level Plumbing exams will be based on the 2018 International Plumbing Code and the 2018 International Fuel Gas Code

All candidates must be pre-approved by the licensing board and issued an exam code by this department prior to registration for any exam.

Previously approved candidates seeking to re-take the examination must send an email request to cp-trades@westchestergov.com.

Available testing dates for each session will be posted on the [Brewster Technology](#) website during the respective registration periods.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING (continued)

Offered by RAL Supply/CCOM Group:

Advanced Hydronics

Designing modern hydronic systems; boilers, piping, near boiler piping, circulator sizing, etc.

Wharton location: 3/21, 3/23, 4/4, 4/11

4 week course: 2.5 hr class per week

\$99.00

Contact RAL Supply for more info

Offered by RAL Supply/CCOM Group:

Resideo: Combustion Training

Operating & troubleshooting gas burner control systems

3/27: 8am-12pm

Elmsford Branch

FREE

Contact RAL Supply for more info

Offered by RAL Supply/CCOM Group:

Honeywell Pneumatic Fundamentals

Dive into the world of Pneumatic controls; lecture & hands-on lab

Cedar Knolls/Hanover NJ location: 3/29: 8am-5pm

\$500.

Contact RAL Supply for more info

Offered by RAL Supply/CCOM Group:

Honeywell Pneumatic Fundamentals

Dive into the world of Pneumatic controls; lecture & hands-on lab

Cedar Knolls/Hanover NJ location: 3/30: 8am-5pm

\$500.

Contact RAL Supply for more info

Offered by RAL Supply/CCOM Group:

Navien Training

Product overview; servicing, etc etc

Great Barrington location: 3/30: 1pm-4pm

FREE

Contact RAL Supply for more info

EDUCATION AND TRAINING (continued)

**Offered by Performance Systems Development:
New York Energy Code Training (On-Line Training)**

(These courses are some of the same courses offered and taken by Code Officials).

CEU's are provided. All courses are \$15.00

Contact: Performance Systems Development:

PSDTrainingHelp@psdconsulting.com

Electrifying the Energy Code (Residential): \$15.00

3/21: 8:30-10am

3/29: 8:30-10am

Electrifying the Energy Code (Commercial): \$15.00

3/23: 8:30-10am

3/29: 10:15-11:45am

The Energy Code and Existing Buildings: (Residential): \$15.00

Part 1: 3/28 8:30-10am

Part 2: 3/28 10:15-11:45am

Offered by Rathe Associates:

Contact Rathe Associates; 631-822-1200

Laars FT Wall & Floor Standing Boiler Training

3/22: 9am-3pm; lunch included

Installation, Troubleshooting, Combustion Analysis, Tech Tips

Offered by Rathe Associates:

Contact Rathe Associates; 631-822-1200

Las Commercial Training - Day 1

3/28; 9am-4pm; lunch included

Offered by Rathe Associates:

Contact Rathe Associates; 631-822-1200

Lara's Commercial Training - Day 2

3/29: 9am-4pm; lunch included

Contact Rathe Associates; 631-822-1200

EDUCATION AND TRAINING (continued)

Virtual (On-Line) Business Training Offered by Ferguson Supply:

March:

Leadership Practices

Payer: Grow your sales with Financing and Proposals

Hiring New Workers

April:

Dispatching for Profit

How to Price and Grow a Residential Maintenance Program

Panzer: Make 2023 More Profitable

**Contact: Ferguson Supply (Middletown Branch): 732-530-7256
(Haverstraw Branch): 845-429-5361**

NYS
Backflow
Testers
Association

NYS BACKFLOW TESTERS ASSOCIATION

We have a third teaching location in Mt. Vernon, NY. By having this third location we will be able to reach out to the people in New York City/5 Boroughs better since there will be a train stop not too far from the school.

Besides the Backflow classes, NYSBTA will be having CPR/AED, OSHA, and other classes in safety.

Depending on the class size, the lead will be John most of the times. There will be times when John is teaching a Certification class upstate on a day of a Re-certification.

Re-certifications will be done by Chris Casa unless more than 10 students are in attendance.

John E. Cimino, Founder of NYSBTA

Please do not forget to have your test kits calibrated!

You can also purchase testing equipment on our website.

***PLEASE SEE SCHEDULES ON
FOLLOWING PAGES ...***

NYS Backflow Testers Association
NYSBTA 2023 Classes

Portchester, NY

Certification Classes

~~Feb. 27 – Mar 3~~
Mar 20 – 24
Apr. 3 – 7
May 15 – 19
June 12 – 16
July 17 – 21
Aug. 28 – Sept. 1
Sept. 25 – 29
Oct. 23 – 27
Nov. 13 – 17

Re-Certification Classes

~~Jan. 30~~
~~Feb. 13~~
~~Mar. 6~~
Apr. 10
May 2
Jun. 26
Aug. 1
Sept. 8
Oct. 2
Dec. 11

Depending on the class size, the lead will be John most of the times. There will be times when John is teaching a Certification class upstate on a day of a Re-certification.

Re-certifications will be done by Chris unless more than 10 students are in attendance.

Mt. Vernon, NY

Certification Classes

~~Jan. 16 – 20~~
~~Feb. 13 – 17~~

Re-Certification Classes

~~Jan. 7~~
~~Feb. 11~~
~~Mar. 4~~
Apr. 1
May 15
Jun. 3
Jul. 17
Sept. 2
Nov. 4
Nov. 18
Dec. 2

Depending on the class size, the lead will be John most of the times. There will be times when John is teaching a Certification class upstate on a day of a Re-certification.

Re-certifications will be done by Chris unless more than 10 students are in attendance.

Waterford, NY

Certification Classes

~~Jan. 23 – 27~~
~~Mar. 13 – 17~~
May 8 – 12
Aug. 21 – 25
Sept. 11 – 15
Oct. 16 – 20
Nov. 27 – Dec. 1
Dec. 11 – 15

Re-Certification Classes

~~Jan. 9~~
Apr. 24
Jun. 5
Jul. 10
Aug. 7
Nov. 6
Dec. 18

All classes are taught by John and/or David Hahn.

Cortland, NY

Certification Classes

~~Feb. 6 – 10~~
Apr. 17 – 21
Jun. 19 – 23
Aug. 14 – 18
Dec. 4 – 8

Re-Certification Classes

Apr. 3
May 22
Oct. 30
Nov. 20

All classes are taught by John and/or David Hahn.

NYS
Backflow
Testers
Association
Schedules

Westchester County Board of Plumbers
Examiners March 2023 Meeting
(Licensing Board)

[The IMPW strongly encourages our members to attend the Westchester County Board of Plumbing Examiners Meetings \(Licensing Board\)](#)

Next Meeting :

Tuesday, March 21
3:00pm

In-person MOB1 Room 527 & Webex Meeting
Meeting number (access code): 2435 544 0845
Meeting password: 2vMEm6wFZG2

Join by phone: +1-415-655-0001 US Toll and enter
the meeting number when prompted

Location:

148 Martine Avenue
White Plains, NY
Room: 527

Contact: John McGlinchey at 914-995-2657
or jmmd@westchestergov.com

Please see following pages for February meeting
minutes and March agenda.

If you need additional information, please visit:
events.westchestergov.com



County of Westchester

Board of Plumbing Examiners

Agenda

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

3:00 PM

MOB1 Room 527

[https://westchestergov.webex.com/westchestergov/j.php?
MTID=m819e585f303a27e65d322c5e6a9b513d](https://westchestergov.webex.com/westchestergov/j.php?MTID=m819e585f303a27e65d322c5e6a9b513d)

Call to Order

Approval of the February 21, 2023 meeting minutes.

Hearings

1. Jimmy Rojas of JJ Plumbing & Heating Corp. (C-1270 expires 12/31/2023) regarding 2 Overlook Road, White Plains.
2. Carlos Jaramillo (C-1412-Expires 12-31-2023) and Andrzej Czechowski (unlicensed) regarding 43 Holland Avenue, White Plains.

New Business

1. Jason Soma to discuss an application for the Master Plumber Exam.
2. Christopher Von Stein to discuss an application for the Master Plumber Exam.
3. Discussion regarding development of a practical exam.

Subcommittee Updates:

1. Update from the subcommittee to discuss continuing education requirements for all Master and Journey-Level Plumbers.

Public Comments:

Adjournment

Executive Session to discuss hearings and exam applications.

Motion to Adjourn

George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Consumer Protection

James Maisano
Director

John P. Gaccione
Deputy Director
and County Sealer

DRAFT MINUTES
WESTCHESTER COUNTY BBOARD OF PLUMBING EXAMINERS

The meeting of February 21, 2023 was called to order by Chairperson O'Grady at 3:05 p.m.

Members Present: Mr. Bartolini
Mr. Griffin
Mr. Kilkenny
Ms. O'Grady
Mr. Pesco
Mr. Punnoose
Mr. Rotundo

Members Absent: Mr. Alonge

Members Excused: Mr. Giordano
Mr. Williams

Westchester County Employees:

John Gaccione- Deputy Director, Consumer Protection
John McGlinchey- Senior Inspector, Consumer Protection

A motion was made by Mr. Pesco to approve the January 24, 2023 meeting minutes.

Seconded: Mr. Rotundo
Approved: Unanimously



County of Westchester

Board of Plumbing Examiners

Agenda

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

3:00 PM

MOB1 Room 527

[https://westchestergov.webex.com/westchestergov/j.php?
MTID=md0d90690698b36e1c3486708096a4a09](https://westchestergov.webex.com/westchestergov/j.php?MTID=md0d90690698b36e1c3486708096a4a09)

Meeting Called to Order

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Approval of the January 24, 2022 meeting minutes.

Hearings

1. Thomas Costin and Steven Barbot/Barbot Construction Group Ltd. regarding work performed at 307 Hardscrabble Road, Briarcliff Manor.
2. Jimmy Rojas of JJ Plumbing & Heating Corp. (C-1270 Exp. 12/31/2023) and Mr. Rooter Plumbing of Westchester (unlicensed) regarding 2 Overlook Road, White Plains.

New Business

1. Representatives from the YMI Group to discuss Westchester licensing requirements.
2. Discuss language limiting the amount of time that a passing exam grade is valid to one year.

Old Business

1. Subcommittee updates.

Correspondence

Public Comments

Executive Session

Discuss hearings.

Motion To Adjourn

Executive Session:

A motion was made by Mr. Pesco to go into Executive Session to discuss hearings.

Seconded: Mr. Griffin
Approved: Unanimously

A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Mr. Pesco

Seconded: Mr. Rotundo
Approved: Unanimously

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Pesco.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

DRAFT

File A
Complaint
With
Westchester
Consumer
Protection

File a Complaint With Westchester County

Consumer Protection

The IMPW represents the Independent Master Plumbers of Westchester to give them a voice on issues and events and to present a unified front for input on the Local and County level. Many of our members have expressed concern for covering and/or unlicensed plumbing work being performed within Westchester County. If you are aware of covering or unlicensed work being performed, contact us via a confidential email on our website IMPW.net. You will find a link on the first page at the bottom labeled "Have Concerns?" and we will assist you in completing the complaint and forwarding it to the Consumer Protection Department/Westchester Plumbing Board. It is important that you provide as much information as possible for your complaint.

For more information, please visit:

<https://consumer.westchestergov.com>

Your consumers/customers/homeowners/residents should file a complaint within Westchester County Department of Consumer Protection by one of the following methods:

Click this link:

<https://consumer.westchestergov.com/contact-us/file-a-consumer-complaint>

Email: conpro@westchestergov.com

Phone: 914-995-2155

COMPLAINTS FOR ILLEGAL PLUMBING WORK

If you see something, say something!

IMPW HOTLINE: 914-287-IMPW

What to do to submit complaint for illegal plumbing work (Plumbing being done by an unlicensed individual/company or work illegally being "covered" by a licensed plumber)

Call IMPW HOTLINE: 914-287-IMPW

Please follow-up with as much information as possible:

- Name of person(s)/plumber(s) doing possible illegal work
- Address where work is being performed
- Number of plots/helpers on the job
- Date(s) work is being performed
- Description of work being performed
- If known, name of plumbers illegally "covering" this work
- Your Name (this is for IMPW purposes only, in case we need to obtain more information.

Your identity will be kept strictly confidential.

What to do to submit complaint for Municipality Complaint (Plumbing being done that deviates from the NY State or Local Plumbing Code)

Call IMPW HOTLINE: 914-287-IMPW

Please follow-up with as much information as possible:

- Municipality involved
- Inspector involved
- Work that he/they are requiring that deviates from Code (short explanation)
- Your Name (this is for IMPW purposes only, in case we need to obtain more information.

Your identity will be kept strictly confidential.

All complaints reported to the
Westchester Plumbing Licensing Board or Municipalities
will be attributed to the IMPW
and your name will never be divulged.

IMPW COMMUNITY PAGE

The Independent Master Plumbers of Westchester prides its success on building business and personal relationships with all our members.

We would love to hear from you!

If you, a family member, or staff have personal news they would like to share this is the place to post ... i.e., births, marriages, graduations, awards, events, special items of interest, etc.

Please contact Karen @ karen.dimitriou@gmail.com

Operator Qualification Questions:

If you have questions regarding Operator Qualifications, please send email to:

impwoq@nympc.org

Or via phone @ 718-793-6300



2023 Meeting Dates

Mark
Your
Calendars

~~January 26~~

~~February 23~~

March 23

April 27

May 18

June 22

September 28

October 26

No meetings held in:

July

August

November

December

Space is limited!
Contact Karen to make your
reservation
karen.dimitriou@gmail.com

[Sponsorships are available for 2023!](#)

[Please contact
Karen Dimitriou for details @:
\[karen.dimitriou@gmail.com\]\(mailto:karen.dimitriou@gmail.com\)](#)

NEXT MEETING

DATE:

Thursday, March 23, 2023

6:30 pm

The Cabin Restaurant

1172 Knollwood Road

White Plains, NY

General Disclaimer Statement

This information provided in this newsletter is to be used only to educate businesses and the general public on plumbing and related construction issues that may affect their daily business or personal lives.

All opinions expressed herein are those of the individual IMPW newsletter or its editors. The IMPW does not guarantee the accuracy or the correctness of advertising articles or references to information sources herein, or does the IMPW intend to endorse, rate or otherwise officially comment on products available. Therefore, the readers are cautioned to rely on information contained herein at their own risk.

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The information contained in this newsletter is believed to be correct and accurate. However, the IMPW cannot and will not assume responsibility for the consequences of errors contained in the articles or misapplication of any information provided.

IMPW expressly disclaims any liability for any special, incidental or consequential damages, including without limitation, lost revenues, or lost profits, resulting from the use or misuse of the information contained in this newsletter.

The Independent Master Plumbers of Westchester Mission Statement

Our Mission:

It is the mission of the IMPW to represent the Independent Master Plumbers in Westchester, to keep them apprised of issues and events that impact their trade and livelihood and to provide them with an opportunity to take part in, provide input, and impact the decision-making process that effects the plumbing trade, and to strive to create and maintain a level playing field for Independent Plumbers. .

History:

In the mid-1990's, a few local plumbing companies got together with a shared a vision: They felt it would be to the advantage of everyone in the county (county residents, master plumbers, tradesmen, legislators, etc), if an organization was formed to represent the Independent Plumbers in Westchester County. Up to that point, Independent plumbers were fragmented and each operated with little exposure to their counterparts and competitors and with absolutely no opportunity to take part in the decision-forming processes at the local or County level. In fact, an early catalyst for their vision and the formation of the IMPW, was the impending adoption of a new local law that would establish a County-wide plumbing license. This new 'County' license would replace the 35+ local licenses required throughout Westchester County. Up to that point, Independent licensed Plumbers had absolutely no input into the formation of the initial rules and requirements that were to be adopted and that would ultimately have a dramatic impact on the plumbing trade (and their ability to continue to be a part of it) in Westchester County.

The three initial companies contacted every Independent company listed in the county, held multiple meetings that included all these companies, and ultimately formed the IMPW. From the outset, the first impact of the new IMPW was to provide representation for Independent Master Plumbers at the County level where we found legislators that, literally, had no idea just how many Independent plumbers existed in Westchester. This was understandable since up to that time the only Plumbing representation at that level was by the Plumbing Union(s).

The fledgling IMPW quickly impacted the proposed/impending Plumbing License Law and was instrumental in making last-minute necessary modifications to some of the proposed 'rules' that protected the livelihood of Independent Plumbers and their ability to continue working in Westchester County.

Today:

Since then, the IMPW has worked hard to gain more representation at the County level. The IMPW is currently working with the Westchester County Plumbing License Board to help create a better Plumber's and Journeyman 'testing' system, to provide more training for plumbers, journeymen and apprentices, and to continue to strive for a more level playing field in the legislative and decision-making process at the County level. We have monthly meetings and publish a monthly newsletter. We've worked with other organizations (Like the New York Alliance for Fair Competition) to represent Westchester Master Plumbers at the State level and before the Public Service Commission to stop unfair competition by Utility companies in the plumbing & heating area. Our numbers have grown from the first three companies to over 100 Master Plumbers today. As of this writing, two members of the IMPW are now seated as members of the Westchester County Plumbing License Board and a 3rd seat is available for an Independent Journeyman.