



TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A Publication of The Independent Master Plumbers of Westchester

April, 2023

**The Independent
Master Plumbers of
Westchester**

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President's Message

Tic-Tok-Tic-Tok....

That's the sound of a clock ticking down to the end of a major portion of most Plumbing AND Heating businesses - like our businesses - in New York! Our leaders in Albany are directing a major push to stop the installation of any appliances that use fossil fuels - no natural gas, no propane, no fuel oil ... 'Nada' - by 2030. That means no gas or oil-fired boilers, no gas or oil-fired furnaces, no gas stoves, no gas water heaters, no tankless heaters (and soon no gas grills, too)! Oh, and they claim that solar, wind and other 'climate friendly' electrified system installations (mostly solar, windmill and heat pump installations) will provide the new jobs to replace those jobs that will be lost due to this 'transition' to cleaner energy. This might sound good 'on paper' but sounds pretty ominous to Plumbing AND HEATING companies and tradespeople that have been selling and installing gas and oil heating appliances all their lives. Are you installing solar? Windmills? Heat pumps?

It should also strike a sensitive nerve with utility customers (especially Con Ed Westchester customers) that have already experienced big increases in their electrical costs. As all the new heat pumps are installed, where will all the electricity needed for these Heat Pump installations come from? Solar? Windmills? What will it cost?

Lots of questions to be answered. Don't expect Albany to provide them or look out for YOU. They have their eyes and minds set on making New York State the poster child for electrification and independence from fossil fuels.

So, the question for us is: if our companies now install gas and/or oil heating appliances and piping, what will we be installing after 2030 when new oil and gas appliances are banned in New York?

The clock is ticking. Will your company need an alternative to these installations? Come join us at our monthly meetings where we discuss this and many other topics of prime importance for YOU.

Next meeting: April 27, 6:30pm, Cabin Restaurant, Knollwood Rd, White Plains.

I hope to see you all there!

Sincerely,

Mario Bruni, President, IMPW

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, April 27, 2023
6:30pm

The Cabin Restaurant
1172 Knollwood Rd
White Plains, NY

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You
To
Our
April
Sponsor**

Special Thank You To Our April
Sponsor:



WOLVERINEBRASS®

Presentation by Nick Parlante

Raffle Items!!

Please visit their website:

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



Purchase State residential water heaters for your chance to win!

Eight winners and guest will get a 4 day/3-night trip to Nassau, Bahamas.

PLUS One winner each month will get 20,000 bonus points.

How do I participate?

1. Purchase State residential water heater units from now until December 31, 2023.
2. Enter the codes online at **ContractorRewards.com**. In addition to the points you receive, every code is an entry for the monthly drawing.
3. Once you hit your assigned goal, you will receive a bonus point payout and a grand prize trip entry.
BONUS: Every upsell water heater code entered are additional grand prize entries.
Login to ContractorRewards.com to view your goal.

Trip includes round-trip air transportation for two travelers from home city within the 48 states to Nassau, Bahamas, three nights' standard accommodations at The Coral at Atlantis Resort, and round-trip transportation between the Nassau airport and the hotel.



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</u> <u>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 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

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**

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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, May 16, 2023
3:00pm

In-person MOB1 Room 527 & Webex Meeting

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

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

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

NEXT MEETING

DATE:

Thursday, April 27, 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.

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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.