



Plumbers Local Union No. 68



ISSUE NO. 217

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2019

LOCAL No. 68 UNION MEETINGS

The next Union meeting in Houston will be held on March 14, 2019 at 6:00 pm at 502 Link Road in Houston, Texas. The next meeting in Corpus Christi will be on March 25, 2019 at 6:00 pm. at 4841 Leopard St., Corpus Christi, Texas. The quarterly Beaumont meeting will be held on April 22, 2019 at 695 Chamberlin, Beaumont, Texas.

Please turn cell phones off, or on vibrate and remove all hats before Union meetings begin.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW OFFICERS

As of February 1, 2019, Brother **Phillip White** resigned as Business Agent to pursue another opportunity with one of our signatory contractors. We wish him the best of luck in his new venture. Brother White will remain active as Chairman of HAPJAC and continue to serve on the other respective committees where he is assigned.

The Executive Board unanimously approved the recommendations of Business Manager Brother **Wayne Lord** at their February 7, 2019 meeting and at the union meeting on February 14, 2019, the following brothers were sworn into office by President Brother **Brian Granger**; Brother **Chato Woodard** as *Business Agent*, Brother **David Bowman** as *Vice-President*, Brother **Tim Sandusky, Jr.** as *Executive Board Member* and Brother **Tim Sandusky, Sr.** as *Inside Guard*.



**Congratulations
Brothers!**

PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION NO. 68 APPRENTICE RECOGNITION

Congratulations to Brother **Matthew Hollobaugh** for being Plumbers Local Union No. 68 top apprentice. Brother Hollobaugh competed in the local, state, and District 3 contest and made it all the way to the national competition in Ann Arbor, MI last August. He competed alongside the UA's top apprentices. Apprentices competing at the national level come from the United States, Canada, Australia, and Ireland. We commend you Brother on a job well done and for representing Plumbers Local 68 and HAPJAC with such integrity. Brother Hollobaugh was awarded his ring and certificate at the January union meeting. Pictured at right are Business Manager, Brother **Wayne Lord**, Brother **Matthew Hollobaugh**, and Training Coordinator, Brother **Sidney Morris**.



RAFFLE WINNERS



*Congratulations to those members who won a Plumbers Local Union 68 Knife, Rockets tickets, Rice Basketball tickets, Sabercats tickets, or UH Basketball tickets at the January meeting. They are: **Moises Castro, Freddy Lopez, Rodolfo Cantu, Michael Amaro, Marco Ramirez, Brian Phipps, Hector Mata, Henry Ramirez, Miguel Gonzalez Jr., Victor Ramirez, Robert Jackowski, Norberto Flores, Neil Hegmann, Bill Venable Sr., Isaac F. Marquez, Ed Crowder, Joe Vargas, Haley Ernsting, John Mata, Ed Miller, Johnathan Alsobrooks, JR Sandusky, and Joseph Vargas Jr.***



*Congratulations to those members who won a Plumbers Local Union 68 Knife, Rockets, Sabercats, UH Basketball, UH Baseball and Rodeo tickets at the February meeting. They are: **Antonio Menindez, Galen Vera, Bryan Hill, Benjamin Rubio, Carlos Rodriguez, Daniel Ontiveros, Ryan Torres, Rodolfo Cantu, Fisher Hampshire, Jeanette Busby, Agustín Ibarra, Diego Rodriguez, Neil Hegmann, Martín Cerna, John Ruiz, Jr., Rashad Price, Tim Sandusky, Jr., Johnny Benitez, Michael Ferrell, Isiah Eller, Richard Martínez, Devlin Alsup, Steve Rosilier, Theodore Vasquez, Isaac Marquez, Eduardo Carlos, David Gillis, Andrew Stasny, Dustin Pyle, Miguel Gonzalez, Jr., Mason Arambula, John Gibson, Eddie Martínez, Brian Phipps, Haley Ernsting, Heber Martinez, Richard Martinez, Ricardo Ponce, Armando Camacho, Tim Sandusky, Jr., Sean Harrison, Jesus Cabrera, Brandon Sanchez, Jesse Cummings, Korashi Malcom, Ivan Torres, Norberto Flores, Charles Carvajal, Steven Cordier, Hector Reyes, Kyle Ernsting, Yesenia Rodriguez, Jeffrie Gonzalez, Hildario Gonzalez, Freddy Lopez, David Gillis and Robert Jackowski.***



*Congratulations to those members who won a Plumbers Local Union 68 Knife or Houston Rodeo Tickets at the January Beaumont meeting: **Ed Steele, Sean Lisenby, Kyle McBerry, Alan Rosenthal, Stephen Stidivent, Phillip Jones, Earl Davenport, and Roger Robinson.***

NEW INITIATES



Congratulations to Plumbers Local Union 68 newest initiate from the January 2019 union meeting in Beaumont, Journeyman Gary L. Mann.



*Congratulations to Plumbers Local Union 68 newest initiates from the February Houston meeting. They are Journeyman **Johnathan Potts** and apprentices **Mason Arambula**, **Rafael Arambula III**, **Michael Bucy**, **Jeanette Busby**, **Jesus Cabrera**, **Isiah Eller**, **John Gibson**, **Nathan Gilmore**, **Jeffrie Gonzalez**, **Christopher Gutierrez**, **Brandon Hatton**, **Koroshi Malcom**, **Heber Martinez**, **Richard Martinez**, **Yadira Martinez**, **Devon Metoyer**, **Matthew O'Connell**, **Lane Ponzio**, **Dustin Pyle**, **Hector Reyes**, **Orlando Rodriguez, Jr.**, **Brandon Sanchez**, **Keagan Solomon**, **Victor Williams**, **Xavier Williams** and **Michael Woychesin**.*

50 YEARS CONTINUOUS SERVICE FOR 2018

Congratulations to the Brothers who made it to **50 Years of Continuous Service in 2018**. We commend you all on a job well done and for hard work and dedication through out the

years. You brothers are a fine example of what Plumbers Local Union No. 68 and the UA stand for. Listed below are the members who received **Lifetime Membership Status**.

Juan Contreras – March
Charles Cooper, Jr. – February
William Evans – February
David Gutierrez – August
Don Hartt – September

William Hester – March
Nolen Hilton – March
Philip Hogue – February
Shirley Horton – July
Frank Lovoi, Jr – July

Keith McSwain – August
Frank Mosquinski, Jr – February
Gerald Owens – September
David Pendleton – March
Ronald Pendleton – February

IAPMO INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND CHAPTER MEETING

IAPMO Texas Gulf Coast Chapter held their chapter meeting on February 5, 2019. This chapter is made up of industry leaders from various fields. At this meeting the experts from our industry discuss codes, products, and relay any information that is vital to plumbing and mechanical industries. DeWalt was the guest speaker and gave a presentation on their cordless tool line and answered multiple questions for the members present. IAPMO Chairman, Brother **Kenneth Borski** recognized 1st year apprentice, Brother **John Andrew Mata** (pictured at right) for attending and requested for him to give a short speech on his current progress with Plumbers Local Union No. 68. During this meeting the election and installation of officers was held.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the IAPMO Texas Gulf Coast Chapter. Brother **Kenneth Borski**, Chairman, **Gordan Copeland** (Senior Mechanical Inspector City of Houston), Vice Chairman, Brother **Ed Bowman** Recording Secretary, and Brother **Kenneth McCorkle**, Treasurer (not pictured). Swearing them in is IAPMO Regional Manager, Brother **John Mata**.

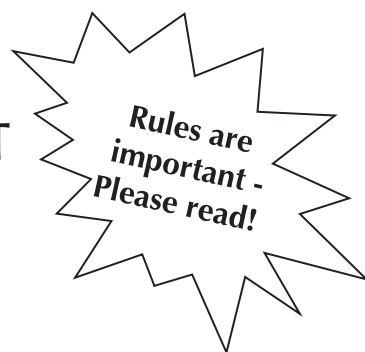


2019 ANNUAL SALTWATER FISHING TOURNAMENT – HOUSTON

We will be hosting our annual Saltwater Fishing Tournament starting Friday, May 3, 2019 with weigh in and lunch served on Saturday, May 4, 2019. It will be held in San Leon, Texas. See flyer on page 4 for all your information **including new times!**



PLUMBERS LOCAL 68 SALTWATER TOURNAMENT



The 2019 Saltwater Tournament is open to Local 68 members and their invited guests. Tournament begins at 5 pm Friday, May 3rd and the weigh in will be held under the tent located at 1817 Avenue K in San Leon at **2 pm Saturday, May 4th**. Food and beverage service will start at **12:30 pm Saturday**. Please bring lawn chairs.

Prizes will be awarded to registered participants for the 1st and 2nd place heaviest redfish (20"-28"), trout and flounder in the following divisions:

Division A - 18 and older

Division B - ages 13-17

Division C - ages 6-12

**In case of tie weight, length of fish will determine winner*

Participants may fish from anywhere in the Galveston Bay area complex (including beachfront from High Island to the Freeport Jetties) and may be done from boat, pier, shore or by wading. **Each person (including children) must hook and reel in their own fish. Adults may assist children in landing fish.** Professional guides are not allowed to enter tournament, but may be hired by participants. All Texas Parks and Wildlife regulations apply. There will be no cancellation due to inclement weather. Each person shall participate at their own risk. All weather warnings and small craft advisories should be observed.

Entry fees are \$20 for Local 68 adult members and their immediate adult family members (spouse, son/daughter, parent, sibling), \$35 for adult NON members and no cost to Local 68 retirees and participants under age 18. **Entry fees are due by Friday, April 19th**. A \$10 late fee will be added to entries received after this date. **No entries will be accepted after 4:30 pm Friday, April 26th**. All registered Division A participants will be entered in prize drawings. **YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!**

Questions? Call Bill Venable at 713-869-3592 or 281-813-8664



REGISTRATION FORM

Contact person/phone #/email: _____

"A" Members/Family \$20	"A" Non Members \$35	"B" Name & Age	"C" Name & Age
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Make checks payable/mail to: Plumbers Local 68 FISH, P O Box 8746, Houston TX 77249

Form and money must be received no later than 4:30 pm Friday, April 26th.

****Please note \$10 late fee is charged for entries received between April 20th and April 26th**

HAPJAC – CONTINUING EDUCATION & JOURNEYMAN CLASSES

Texas Pipe Trades Association in cooperation with Texas State Joint Apprenticeship and Journeyman Training/Education Committee of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry is offering the 2019-2020 six-hour (6) Continuing Education Course to licensed plumbers. This course meets the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners requirements for license renewals. The following classes will be held at the location and time indicated for those licenses that expires September 30, 2019 - August 31, 2020. Contact the **Training Center** at **713-861-3202** or **800-891-8900** or email **KLhapjac@att.net**.

Continuing Education Upcoming CE classes will be held:

Houston - 454 Link Road

March 19 & 21, 20195:30 pm – 9:00 pm
March 23, 2019.....8:00 am – 3:00 pm
March 28, 2019 (Med Gas)6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
April 23 & 25, 2019 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm
April 27, 2019.....8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Harlingen – 1202 Ed Carey Drive

April 27, 2019.....8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Corpus Christi – 4841 Leopard Street

April 27, 2019.....8:00 am – 3:00 pm
April 27, 2019 (Med Gas) 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Beaumont – 695 Chamberlin Drive

April 27, 2019.....8:00 am – 3:00 pm
April 27, 2019 (Med Gas)3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Texas City – 2010 5th Ave North

March 23, 2019..... 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

CORPUS CHRISTI NEGOTIATIONS

Your full-time officers will begin negotiations with the signatory contractors in the Corpus Christi and Rio Grande Valley areas. We will begin negotiating a full contract starting in March 2019. The date for the vote is set for the March 25, 2019 membership meeting

at 4841 Leopard Street starting at 6:00 pm. All members working under this contract will be notified by mail the date, time, and location for the vote.

FROM THE DESK OF BUSINESS AGENT JEFFREY LABROSKI

As you all are aware, times are slow right now with Plumber Local 68. If you are fortunate enough to be employed, keep up the good

work. However, if you are looking to travel to another local union to find employment, please give me a call at the office **(713) 869-3592**.

IMPORTANT INCOME TAX CHANGES

The tax rules have changed recently. We would like to inform you that you can no longer deduct union dues and working assessments when filing your taxes. As per the new ***Tax Cuts and Job Act (affecting tax years 2018-2025)*** anything paid starting January 1,

2018 is no longer deductible for income tax. It has been eliminated as an unreimbursed business expense deduction on your income tax. As always, we urge you to contact your tax professional for more detailed help.

SUNSET ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Sunset Advisory Committee is moving forward with their recommendation to merge the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners into the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. The recommendation is being processed into a bill that should be out soon. Your full-time officers and organizers, along with other industry stakeholders including Texas PAMCA and PHCC, are working to prevent the bill from becoming law. We

will continue to work with our legislative friends including Representatives Senfronia Thompson, Poncho Nevarez, Kirk Watson and Stan Lambert and will let you know what you can do to help via letter, Facebook and/or email. This is an industry issue which will affect ALL licensed plumbers in the state, union and open shop. Updates will be given in future newsletters, apprentice classes and at our union meetings.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 14, 2019 – Houston Union Meeting @ 6:00 pm
March 25, 2019 – Corpus Christi/RGV Union Meeting
and Contract Vote @ 6:00 pm
April 11, 2019 - Retiree's Club meeting @ 11:00 am
April 11, 2019 - Houston Union Meeting @ 6:00 pm
HOT DOG NIGHT

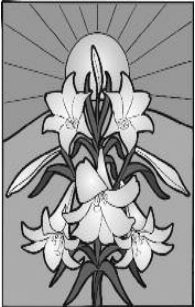
April 19, 2019 – Good Friday
April 21, 2019 – Easter
April 22, 2019 – Beaumont Union Meeting @ 5:00 pm
April 23-26 2019 – State Apprenticeship Contest
May 3 & 4, 2019 – Houston Fish 2019
May 9, 2019 – Houston Union Meeting @ 6:00 pm

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Union Hall	(713) 869-3592
	(800) 798-1074
Fund Office	(713) 869-2592
	(800) 833-2980
Training Center	(713) 861-3202
	(800) 891-8900
Credit Union	(713) 869-9053
Website	www.plu68.com

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Robert "Wayne" Lord..... Business Manager
 William "Bill" Venable, II..... Financial Secretary / Treasurer
 Rick Lord Business Agent
 Jeff LaBroski..... Business Agent
 Chato Woodard Business Agent
 Brian Granger President/Organizer
 Glen Kirkham..... Organizer
 Jeremy Pavlich Organizer
 Robert L. Cross..... Director of Training



In Memoriam

Brother **David Drake** (69) of Trinity, TX passed away December 16, 2018. Brother Drake was a UA Retired member of 22 years, being initiated in August 1996. Brother Drake is survived by his son, Local 68 member and HAPJAC Instructor, **Ronnie Drake**.

Brother **Titus Fields** (92) of Spring, TX passed away January 28, 2019. Brother Fields was UA Retired Life Member of 59 years, being initiated January 1960.

Brother **Alfredo Montalvo, Jr.** (92) of Meadows Place, TX passed away February 14, 2019. Brother Montalvo was a UA Retired Life Member, being initiated in August 1965.



NEWSLETTER
PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION #68
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