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For more information, visit the following web-sites:West Central IL Building Trades Council - www.westcentralbtc.orgGreater Peoria Contractors & Suppliers Association - www.gpcsa.org*Also see pages 4-25 to 4-27 for contractor websites*

Tri-County Construction Labor-Management Council -

www.TRICONPeoria.org Better Built Network - www.better-built.us**For more information on Economic Development in the region,***please visit the web-site: <http://greaterpeoriaedc.org/>*

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PLUMBERS LOCAL 63

Water. The building block of life. Without fresh water we would all waste away. Without effective sewage and water treatment systems the supply would dwindle and stop development. The members of United Association (UA) Plumbers Local 63 perform professional installation, repair and maintenance of water delivery systems, piping systems, hydronic floor heating and solar panels.

With a concentration of world class medical care and research facilities located in Peoria, many members have also completed certification for the highly specialized Med-Gas installation and maintenance. "Paying attention to details is critical for the members who work in that field," says Training Coordinator for Local 63 Dick Branch.

Whether commercial, industrial or residential, customers continually compliment the quality of work provided by the superior skills displayed by the members of Local 63. Translation: VALUE for the signatory contractor and customer.

Coupled with a sense of service the members of Local 63 produce professional results which brings customers coming back. When planning a development or construction project signatory contractors and customers remain confident the extensive training program maintained by Local 63 assures the members both utilize the latest techniques and processes as they deliver consistent quality.

"We work with the signatory contractors to ensure we teach the skills necessary for our members to understand and perform the latest techniques and processes," says Business Manager Mike Doolan of Local 63. Branch says, "We teach the trade the way it has been done for the last hundred years mixed with all the new techniques, materials and processes."

Apprentices undergo a rigorous five-year program designed to provide the combination of 800 hours of classroom instruction enhanced with hands-on experience of real world applications. "The apprenticeship program is designed to expose them to all facets of the trade," Doolan says. All apprentices also complete 8,500 hours on the job.

Illinois maintains a strict Plumbing Code and as a professional career all members of Local 63 who have completed an apprenticeship hold a state license and they earn annual

continuing education credits in order to maintain their license. Training programs span the spectrum of the trade ranging from basic first-year apprentice classes to advanced classes for experienced members. The emphasis on strict adherence to the Illinois Plumbing Code has earned Local 63 the honor of UA certification testing for its members.

Safety plays a pivotal part in both the training regimen and daily work activities of the members of Local 63. All apprentices must complete the OSHA 10-hour class and the school conducts the OSHA 30-hour class for members who seek the certification. The safety classes, "Protect the members and help the contractors keep the cost of Worker's Comp down," Doolan says. Branch adds, "We don't want to see anyone get hurt. Contractors count on us to do our job the right way and that includes safety."

The emergence of "Green" technology and materials has pushed professional construction in new directions and the

Local 63 training curriculum embraces the latest equipment, materials and processes. "Technology has swept through our industry as a whole and if we want to keep pace with the times we have to move with it and offer the highest quality and latest training available," Doolan says. Branch adds, "We train our members to be able to handle any task asked of by our contractors and successfully complete any piping arrangement drawn by an engineer."

To ensure the highest quality training Local 63 sends its instructors to the UA annual summer courses offered at Washtenaw College in Michigan. Contractors and customers should note in just the past few years the quality of instruction at Local 63 has produced a first place finish by Alex Vlachos at the statewide apprenticeship contest as well a top five finish for three other Local 63 apprentices, Kevin O'Brien, Brian McGrath and Mike Burger.

The pursuit of professionalism by members of Local 63 ensures every project they work on reflects the quality of construction which will ensure a satisfied customer. Quality exceeds customer expectations. Branch says, "We take pride in performing our work as good as it can be done."

Customers in West Central Illinois seeking to build or renovate a structure, industrial plant, school, hospital, apartment complex, retirement home, medical facility, single family home, or any water delivery system project can call on the members of UA Plumbers Local 63 and the signatory contractors. The customers will enjoy the confidence the plumbers will provide the highest quality skills as they deliver value.

