

WEST SUBURBAN ASSOCIATION of PLUMBING CONTRACTORS

June 12, 2013

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WSA – Who and Why?

Dear Local Union 130 Plumbing Contractor:

We know that many of you are being bombarded by messages making insinuations about the WSA – who we are, and why we were created.

First of all, we'd like you to know that the WSA is not new. The organization was formed in 1933, and this year marks our 80th year. WSA has kept an eye on the industry, as a small group of contractors, for many years.

However, when we felt that the industry leadership was lacking with respect to labor relations – perhaps the single most important role an association plays in representing its contractors – the WSA needed to act.

“If we hadn't acted, we would have let down the Local 130 plumbing industry,” said WSA Secretary George Treutelaar of Great Lakes Plumbing & Heating. “Under the current PCA leadership, prior to this round of negotiations there hadn't been a labor relations meeting held since November 2011.

“That's unacceptable from an organization in a leadership capacity.”

Who is the WSA?

Formed in 1933, the West Suburban Association of Plumbing Contractors is comprised of Union plumbing contractors signatory with Chicago Journeyman's Plumbers' Local 130 U.A. The WSA serves its membership by fostering and maintaining a cooperative, collaborative relationship with its union partners. WSA members are represented by association member trustees who serve on the Plumbers Pension Fund, Plumbers Welfare Fund, and Joint Apprentice Committees.

Our board (listed to the left) is comprised of some of the most respected individuals and companies in the plumbing industry. Collectively, they have more than 200 years of experience running some of Chicago's best plumbing contractors.

Many board members have experience with the Plumbing Council itself – so they are attuned to the needs of Local Union 130 contractors.

The New WSA Contract and What It Means to You

WSA was the first association to complete its negotiations with Local Union 130, signing with the Local on Sunday, June 2.

What does the WSA agreement mean for the industry? **For one thing, it was WSA who secured an extremely favorable new wage/benefit package for contractors that is only \$0.85 per hour higher than the package that was in place when the prior CBA expired on May 31, 2013.**

Any other industry agreement is a “Me Too” agreement where these terms are concerned.

WSA was a leader, too, with Industry Fund contribution rates. Our \$0.39 per hour contribution rate represents a 34% cost savings for our contractors.

The WSA led the charge in lowering the industry fund contribution rate, securing these new terms before any other association or company (and as a result, benefiting all the associations and companies who came after us and followed our lead).

WSA wants you to know that, were it not for our organization, Local 130 contractors would likely not have received these favorable contract terms – and certainly would not have received a 34% reduction in the Industry Fund contribution rate.

Think about that. That’s cutting your Industry Fund contribution by a third.

Think that might have a positive effect on your company’s bottom line in today’s trying times?

We did too.

So, when someone asks “why WSA?” We say “because the WSA Board views good labor relations as key to its purpose.”

And for that, we feel there is no substitute.

The 2013 WSA agreement is attached to this email as a PDF. Contractors are encouraged to sign the WSA Agreement with Local Union 130 and fax it to Local 130 at (312) 421-6705.

For information about WSA, contact WSA President Steve Marquardt at (630) 833-2255, or by email at steve@lvstutz.com.