



THE VOICE OF THE LICENSED MASTER PLUMBER

Volume 2 2026

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- AND MORE!





The Master Plumbers Council of the City of New York, Inc.

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*The Voice of the Licensed Master Plumber,
a membership publication of the NYCMPC.*



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Summer 2026 edition of The Voice! As we move through another busy and productive year, I want to take a moment to recognize the continued strength, professionalism, and engagement of our membership. The Master Plumbers Council continues to build momentum, and it is because of the dedication of our members and industry partners that we are able to keep moving our organization and industry forward.

One of the most significant milestones this year has been the MPC officially becoming an IACET accredited course provider. This achievement reflects the hard work and commitment of everyone involved in strengthening our educational programs and delivering high-quality training. Becoming accredited reinforces our mission to provide members with the tools, knowledge, and resources needed to stay ahead in an evolving industry while supporting the highest standards of safety and professionalism.

This spring also marked one of our most exciting Membership Meetings to date, as we had the privilege of welcoming NYC Department of Buildings Commissioner Ahmed Tigani. Commissioner Tigani's attendance demonstrated the growing relationship and open dialogue between the MPC and the Department of Buildings. We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to work alongside Commissioner Tigani and his team as we continue collaborating on issues that impact our industry, our businesses, and the safety of New Yorkers across the city. Strong partnerships like these are critical to building a better future for the plumbing industry.

We are also excited for one of the MPC's most anticipated events of the summer, our Annual Golf Outing on July 27th. The outing continues to be a great opportunity for members, sponsors, and industry partners to come together outside the workplace for a day of networking, camaraderie, and support for the Council. We encourage everyone to participate and help make this year's event another tremendous success.

As we head into the second half of 2026, the MPC remains focused on advocacy, education, and strengthening the voice of the plumbing industry throughout New York City. Through collaboration and continued engagement, we are helping shape a stronger future for our trade and the next generation of professionals who will carry it forward.

Together we can make our industry better.

Daniel Vessio
President
Master Plumbers Council of the City of New York

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Gas Code Review Program for those seeking Gas Qualification

Basic I and II Gas Appliance Classes *

16 Hour Limited Gas Work Qualification

7 Hour Periodic Gas Piping Inspector Qualification Course

Gas Operator Qualification Task 86/87 Training **

Gas Operator Qualification Task 86/87 In-Person Refresher Course**

* These courses are offered to MPC members only

** These courses are only available to Plumbing Foundation GOQ members

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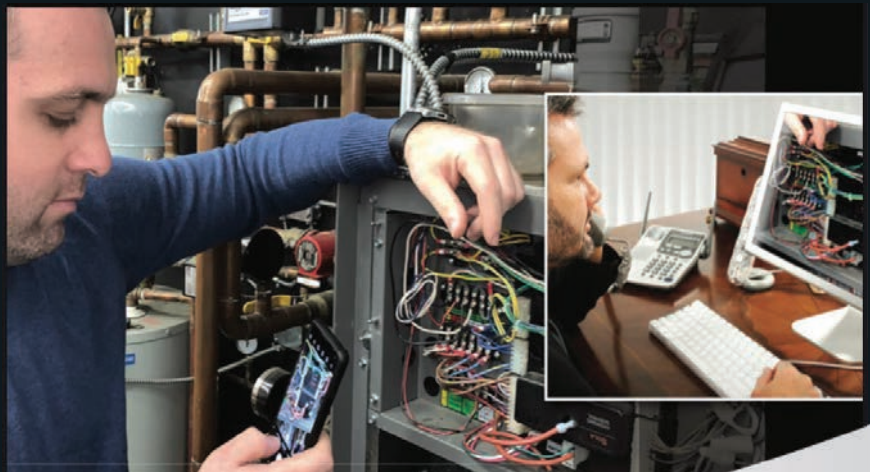


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LL152 INSPECTION UPDATES

At the Master Plumbers Council's May Membership Meeting, members received important updates regarding LL152 inspections and the implementation of Local Law 142 of 2025, which introduces several significant changes affecting gas piping inspections throughout New York City.

Effective February 24, 2026, Local Law 142 establishes new requirements regarding who may perform gas piping inspections. Under the updated law, any qualified individual conducting inspections under the direct and continuing supervision of a Licensed Master Plumber must now hold a Journeyman Plumber Registration issued by the Department of Buildings (DOB). In addition, these individuals are required to successfully complete a DOB-approved training program. Worker Wallet Cards will also play a role in verifying compliance with these updated qualification standards.

The law also expands inspection requirements for buildings containing commercial gas spaces. Any building with commercial gas occupancy must now undergo inspection under LL152 requirements. While dwelling units themselves are generally exempt, any point-of-entry (POE) gas piping located within a dwelling unit remains subject to inspection.

Another major clarification included in Local Law 142 addresses the inspection scope and instrumentation requirements for gas leak detection under NYC Administrative Code §28-318.3.2. The updated provisions provide greater direction regarding how inspections are to be physically conducted and what equipment must be utilized during the process, reinforcing the city's ongoing focus on gas safety and compliance.

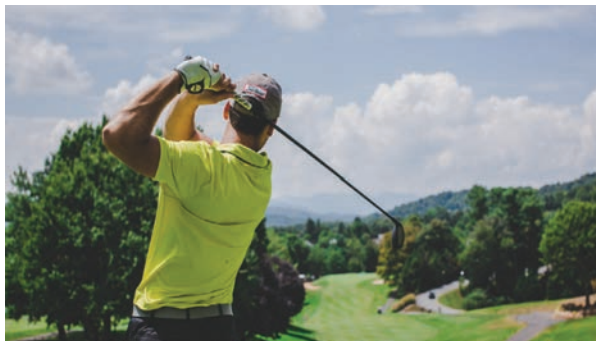
Members were also informed about changes to Rule 103-10, which officially took effect on April 3, 2026, through Service Notice #7. Under the amended rule, inspection entities are now required to provide the DOB with a "2-Day Notice of Inspection" prior to performing any gas piping system inspection.

The notification requirement mandates that inspection entities submit inspection details to the DOB at least two days before the scheduled inspection date. If an inspection needs to be canceled, a separate cancellation notification must also be submitted. The DOB clarified that department inspectors may meet inspectors onsite at the property address listed in the notification at the designated time. However, if a DOB inspector is not present at the scheduled time, the inspection entity is instructed to proceed with conducting the inspection.

The MPC continues to monitor these regulatory updates closely and remains committed to keeping members informed as implementation progresses. As the industry adapts to these new requirements, education and compliance will remain critical priorities for all Licensed Master Plumbers and inspection personnel throughout New York City.



Master Plumbers Council of the City of New York **9TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING**



Monday, July 27, 2026

The Village Club at Lake Success

318 Lakeville Road, Great Neck, NY

Sponsorship Opportunities

- Tee Sponsor
- Hole Sponsor
- Shirt Sponsor
- Cocktail Hour Sponsor

AND MORE!

Schedule:

Breakfast & Check-In	9:00 AM
Shotgun Start	10:30 AM
Cocktail Hour & Dinner	5:00 PM

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The Voice of the Licensed Master Plumber

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES 2026

The Voice of the Licensed Master Plumber, a membership publication of the Master Plumbers Council of the City of New York (MPC), is a quarterly newsletter that is distributed by print and digital to more than **3,000 subscribers**. This newsletter features articles spanning from association and member news, to industry updates, and other valuable resources for those in the plumbing industry.

A special section of the newsletter is the **Product Showcase**. MPC Members who advertise in the **Voice of the Licensed Master Plumber**, have the opportunity to participate in the showcase by sending any product/service of their choosing to be featured! The feature will include a photo of the product or an image to go along with the service, a description and contact information.

ADVERTISING RATES:

Ad Type	Yearly Cost (includes 2 issues)	Specifications
Full Page Ad	\$1,500* - Members (\$750/issue)	8.5" x 11"
	\$1,750 - Non Members (\$875/issue)	
Half Page Ad	\$1,000 - Members (\$500/issue)	4.25" x 5.5"
	\$1,200 - Non Members (\$600/issue)	
Quarter Page Ad	\$650 - Members (\$325/issue)	2.75" x 2.125"
	\$800 - Non Members (\$400/issue)	

All newsletter ads are full color and should be sent in PDF, JPG or PNG file formats.

The third issue of the Voice will be published in September 2026.

Ads must be received by August 10, 2026.

*** Special Offer to Member Companies who Purchase Full Page Ads:**

Full Page Advertisers, who are also MPC Members, will be given free website advertising for 1 year*!

Upon purchase of newsletter ad, company will be offered the best available ad space on the MPC website.

Please contact MPC for more information about this special offer!

**Year ends 12/31/26.*

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Some Things Never Change...

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Practice & refresh your backflow testing skills at the MPC testing facility!
At the MPC facility, you are able to practice on live backflow devices, then take your practical exam all in the same day.

MORE 2026 COURSE DATES AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE!

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NOT A CERTIFIED BACKFLOW TECHNICIAN?

Take the 32-hour New York City Backflow Certification Course (4 Sessions)

This 32-hour course over 4 days is required by NYSDOH to register as a backflow prevention technician for the State of NY and all local jurisdictions within including NYC.

2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Join the MPC for another year of exciting events!

Keep up to date on our website, and keep your contact information current for important email updates.

JULY 27

9th Annual Golf Outing
The Village Club at
Lake Success

SEPTEMBER 8

Membership Meeting
Vetro Restaurant
and Lounge

OCTOBER 6

Membership Meeting
Douglaston Manor

NOVEMBER 3

Membership Meeting
Vetro Restaurant
and Lounge

DECEMBER 1

Holiday Party
Giando on the Water


STAY TUNED TO NYCMPC.ORG FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS!



The Northeast Gas Association is proud to partner with the NYC Plumbing Trades. Together we strive to enhance gas safety and awareness through our training and operator qualifications programs and public awareness efforts.

SMELL GAS?

LEAVE FIRST!
Then call us immediately.



LEARN ABOUT NATURAL GAS SAFETY

IF YOU SMELL GAS – DON'T WAIT!
No matter how slight - leave the premises and call us immediately.

How to recognize a leak:

- Smell**
Recognizing the odor - which is similar to rotten eggs.
- Sight**
Seeing a white cloud, mist, fog, bubbles in standing water or blowing dust.
- Sound**
Hearing an unusual noise like roaring, hissing or whistling.

What to do if you suspect a leak:

- Move** to a safe environment and call us immediately. Do not use your telephone or cell phone in your home.
- Provide** the exact location with cross streets.
- Do not** smoke, light candles or operate electrical switches or appliances. Doing so can produce a spark, ignite the gas and cause an explosion.
- Let us know** if sewer construction or digging activities are going on in the area.

DO NOT ASSUME SOMEONE ELSE WILL REPORT THE CONDITION.

Natural gas has an excellent safety record, but like all forms of energy, it must be handled properly. If improperly handled, it may cause a hazardous condition such as a fire, explosion or asphyxiation.

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Master Plumbers Council of the City of New York

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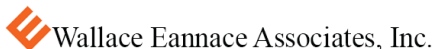
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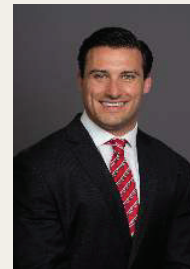
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Contact: Pat Williams
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E: Patrick.Williams@usi.com

[Auto Insurance: Tips to Lower Premium](#)

While auto insurance has always been required in New York, recent market changes have made it a growing concern for contractors. Premiums are rising 15–20% annually, driven by high fraud frequency, increased litigation, and higher repair costs. For contractors with vehicle fleets, these rising costs have become a significant challenge.

For plumbing contractors, one of the most effective ways to reduce premiums is to invest in vehicle safety and driver accountability. Insurance carriers favor businesses that implement risk-reducing technologies such as telematics, inward- and outward-facing cameras, and the NY LENS program.

[Telematics](#)

Telematics systems use GPS and onboard diagnostics to monitor vehicle location, engine performance, and driver behavior. These systems help ensure vehicles are used appropriately, reduce unnecessary idling, and provide detailed data on speeding, harsh braking, and seatbelt compliance. This information allows businesses to coach, discipline, and reward drivers as needed. When actively used, telematics can positively impact a carrier's underwriting view and help lower premiums.

[Inward/Outward Facing Cameras](#)

While telematics improve oversight, cameras add another layer of protection. When installed in a vehicle, outward facing cameras can help fight against potential false claims/fraudulent accidents and accelerate claims processing. According to a study performed by the American Transportation Research Institute, in about

63% of cases, road-facing camera data has exonerated the driver of a commercial vehicle.

Inward facing cameras can offer similar results in terms of preventing accidents and encouraging safer driving habits. Inward facing cameras can be used as a deterrent to bad habits while driving, such as texting. It can also help exonerate a driver after an accident, by demonstrating what the driver was doing at the time of the accident.

Together, these systems reduce claims frequency and severity, which can lead to lower insurance costs over time.

[NY LENS Program](#)

The New York License Event Notification Service is an automated DMV program that allows businesses to monitor the driving records of employees in real time.

Employers receive alerts for violations such as suspensions, tickets, or expirations. This enables companies to quickly identify and address high-risk drivers, helping maintain a safer fleet. By having drivers with cleaner records, insurance carriers will look upon a business move favorably.

Although the auto insurance market is becoming more challenging, contractors can improve their risk profile through safety investments and proactive monitoring. These measures not only enhance fleet safety but can also help control and reduce insurance premiums over time.

For Additional information, contact Pat Williams, Vice President at USI Insurance Services, at patrick.williams@usi.com or (516) 589-4176

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- **Sewer Alarms:** A WiFi connected alarm warns of a sewer issue before it surfaces
- **Sewer Check Valves:** One-way sewer check valves greatly reduce sewer backwater
- **Automatic Flood Gate Valves:** Flood gate valves eliminate sewer backwater 100%

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MPC Annual Holiday Party

Join fellow members, industry partners, friends, and family for an unforgettable evening of great food, networking, holiday cheer, and waterfront views. This year's entertainment features the high-energy excitement of Dueling Pianos!

Tuesday, December 1st
Giando on the Water
400 Kent Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11249
Scan here to register!



MPC QUARTERLY RAFFLE



Bring in a new contractor member of the MPC, and you can enter to win our exclusive raffle!

Here's how it works:

1. Get a contractor to join our membership.
2. Your name goes into our quarterly raffle.
3. First raffle drawing is in December.
4. More referrals = more entries!

If you have any questions, please email us at info@nycmpc.org

The Master Plumbers Council Industry Events

As We Continue to Grow

We encourage all members and industry professionals to attend for what promises to be engaging and educational events that strengthen relationships, enhance skills, and advance our industry as a whole.



The Master Plumbers Council’s industry events continue to build momentum and expand in popularity throughout the plumbing and heating community. As interest continues to rise, additional opportunities are being added, including our most recent June 2, 2026 event held at the Viega Experience Center, and an expanded Fall 2026 calendar, further strengthening opportunities for networking, education, collaboration, and hands-on learning throughout the industry.

Each session delivers practical, forward-thinking presentations focused on real-world applications, emerging technologies, evolving industry practices, and the continued advancement of the plumbing and heating profession.

From interactive demonstrations to insightful discussions led by respected industry professionals, attendees consistently leave with valuable knowledge, new connections, and ideas they can apply directly within their businesses and field operations.

These events reflect the Master Plumbers Council’s ongoing commitment to supporting its entire membership base and fostering meaningful engagement amongst seasoned professionals, newer members entering the industry, manufacturers, contractors, office personnel, estimators, project managers, apprentices, and industry professionals from all backgrounds.

Thank you to everyone involved for the tremendous effort and coordination being put into these events and programs as we continue to strengthen our Association and industry together.

Visit nycmpc.org for more details and future event information.

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As an MPC member, you will be part of a professional trade organization that, for over 100 years, has been dedicated to promoting the licensed plumbing industry and the benefits of hiring a licensed and insured firm. Through our work on the advancement and enforcement of modern plumbing codes, our members remain on the front lines in protecting public safety. The MPC is a professional trade organization that offers membership to licensed Master Plumbers and their affiliates in the City of New York.

To be successful in your business, you need important and timely insights on building codes, technological changes, workplace laws and regulations, and much more - all of which the MPC provides for its members. MPC members are made aware of industry changes and issues as they are happening, allowing for members to have the time and knowledge to make the proper adjustments, so that business can continue to run smoothly.

Member Types

- Master Plumber Member
- Master Associate Member (sub-member)
- Employee Co-Member (sub-member)
- Industry Affiliate Member
- Professional Member

Member Benefits:

Committees to Answer your Questions:

MPC Members has access to contact all association committees for a plethora of resources. These committees are comprised of hardworking member volunteers, who are experts in their given areas.

Network of Fellow Industry Professionals:

Join a network of fellow industry professionals who all have the same goal, to be successful and to promote our industry. Many of our board and committee members have built outstanding relationships with various key persons at city agencies.

Up to the Minute Industry Updates:

MPC offers outstanding resources to members that keeps them up to date on everything related to our industry, such as informative monthly membership meetings and daily emails with the latest industry updates.

Access to Training Resources:

Take one of many training courses at MPC's very own Robert John Daly Memorial Training Center, which opened in 2019. Courses include backflow courses (certification & re-certification), operator qualification courses, gas appliance courses, and more!

Your Voice is Heard:

Various city agencies connect with the MPC and its committees regularly to discuss issues that are important to the plumbing industry. Members are consistently asked to send their questions so that they can be brought to the appropriate party for answers, and MPC's lobbyist works diligently to provide us with the opportunity to have a meaningful dialogue with the appropriate entities that regulate our industry.

These benefits only scratch the surface of what MPC does to support its members and their businesses.

"As a MPC member you never feel alone because you have the support of a unified organization of knowledgeable leaders."

VISIT WWW.NYCMPC.ORG/JOINMPC TO COMPLETE YOUR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION ONLINE!

It's painless and much simpler than renewing your license!

If you have any questions regarding membership, please contact the association office at 718-793-6300 or info@nycmpc.org

Gas Detection For Plumbers

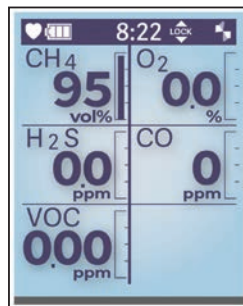
Leak Surveys of Gas Piping Inside Buildings



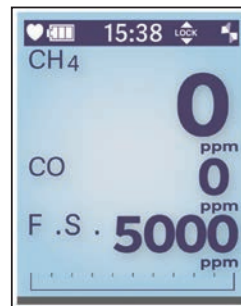
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GX-6100



Normal Mode



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MPC SPOTLIGHT:

ALAN COHEN AND BILL HOFFMAN - RICH-TOMPKINS COMPANY, INC.

In the plumbing and heating industry, the best companies aren't built on just products. They are built on people - the kind who show up early, stay late, and never forget that a handshake still means something. At Rich-Tompkins Company, that philosophy has held true for more than sixty years. Today, that work ethic is still being carried on by Alan Cohen, the company's president, and Bill Hoffman, its newest territory manager covering the New York Metro area.

Their paths to Rich-Tompkins couldn't be more different. One started as a sports writer with zero knowledge of a water heater. The other was a college baseball catcher who turned his competitive nature into a sales career. But the thread that connects them - a belief in hard work, relationships, and doing things the right way - is exactly what makes them successful.

Alan Cohen - President

Alan will be the first to tell you he had no business being in this industry. Thirty-three years ago, he walked into Rich-Tompkins Company as a former sports writer for a Philadelphia-based newspaper. He barely knew the difference between a pipe and a valve.

"I knew nothing about plumbing," Alan recalls with a laugh. "But the owner at the time told me something I've never forgotten. He said, 'We can teach you plumbing. What we can't teach you is how to talk to people.'"

That instinct proved right. Alan started in inside sales, learning the business from the ground up. From there, he moved to outside sales, then climbed through the ranks - director of sales, vice president of sales - before ultimately being named president. He is the sixth person to hold that title in the company's history.

"Here's a detail that says everything about Rich-Tompkins' culture: none of the six presidents share a last name," explains Alan. "This isn't a family-run succession. Every president earned it. That's something I'm really proud of."

Rich-Tompkins Company was founded in 1961 by Stu Rich and Stu Tompkins. For decades, the company built its reputation across Eastern Pennsylvania, South Jersey, and Delaware, representing manufacturers like Bradford White and Jomar Valve with a hands-on, relationship-driven approach that builds customer loyalty in a business. Under Alan's leadership, in October 2024, Rich-Tompkins made a major move, expanding into North Jersey and the New York Metro area.

That expansion needed the right person on the ground. It needed someone who understood sales at a deep level, who could build relationships from scratch in a competitive market, and who would fit the culture Alan had spent three decades helping to shape.

It needed Bill Hoffman.

Bill Hoffman - Territory Manager, NY Metro

Bill Hoffman's story starts on a baseball field. He played from Little League all the way through college on a scholarship at Adelphi University on Long Island, where he was a catcher.

"Baseball taught me everything about competition, teamwork, and preparation," Bill says. "When I couldn't play anymore, I had to channel that drive somewhere. Sales was a natural fit."

And channel it, he did. Bill has spent roughly twenty-five years in sales. Before joining Rich-Tompkins he spent over a decade at Frame America selling interior building products, then close to nine years at Allside selling exterior building products. Along the way, he was awarded Top Vinyl Salesman of the Northeast and Top New Business Salesman at Allside.

But ask Bill about those awards and he'll redirect the credit immediately.

"Every time I won something, I made sure to say the same thing: WE won this award. There's no 'I' in team," he says. "It was never just me. It was the people around me who made it possible."

When Rich-Tompkins expanded into the New York Metro territory, Bill saw an opportunity that checked every box. He joined the company in 2025 and hit the ground running, representing Bradford White and Jomar Valve across New York and New Jersey.

Alan knew right away that they'd found the right guy.

"Bill exhibits the right skill set, the willingness, the open-mindedness, and the drive," Alan says. "He's an extension of our culture."

Building in New Territory

Expanding into a new market is never easy; in a territory where established relationships already exist between contractors and suppliers, being the new name on the block requires patience and persistence.

"One of the biggest challenges is being the second vendor," Bill admits. "Guys already have their people. But I've learned over the years that as long as you're doing the right thing, showing up consistently, and providing real value, good things will come."

That philosophy mirrors what Alan has preached throughout his career. Rich-Tompkins has survived and thrived through every disruption the industry has thrown at it - the 2008-09 recession, Hurricane Sandy, the COVID-19 pandemic - because of a fundamental belief in the resilience of the trade and the people in it.

"This industry is pretty close to bulletproof," Alan says. "People are always going to need plumbing and heating. And the people who work in this business - contractors, wholesalers, reps - they're some of the best people you'll ever meet."

Under Alan's leadership, Rich-Tompkins has also embraced the future. The company is active on social media, leverages analytics to drive decisions, and has even established an AI Task Force to explore how emerging technology can support their business. It's a forward-thinking approach with old-school values - exactly the kind of balance that keeps a 60 year-old company relevant.

MPC: Where Connections Become Community

When Rich-Tompkins moved into the New York Metro territory, joining the Master Plumbers Council was a priority. Bill and his colleague, Greg, began attending monthly MPC meetings, and the impact was immediate.

"MPC has been incredible for us," Bill says. "The connections we've made, the things we've learned just by being in the room with people who know this market inside and out - it's been really impactful to the business. You can bounce ideas off people, learn what's working for them, and build real relationships. That's something you can't get from a cold call."

Alan, who lives near Philadelphia, made the trip to attend a recent MPC meeting as well - a reflection of how seriously Rich Tompkins takes its commitment to the organizations that bring this industry together.

“These groups matter,” Alan says. “They’re where you meet the people who make this industry what it is. Bill being involved in MPC from day one was exactly the right move.”

For Bill, the meetings have become more than just a business development tool. They’re a place where a newcomer to the territory can find his footing, learn the landscape, and start building the kind of trust that takes years to develop on your own.

Free Time

When they are not at work, both Alan and Bill are family men.

Alan is married to Dawn, who recently retired from a career in insurance. Together, they have four adult children - James, Samantha, Cody, and Amber - and two grandchildren, Jackson and Emma. When Alan needs to recharge, his happy place is spending time with them at the Jersey Shore.

Although he has no intentions to retire anytime soon, when he does he has some lofty plans. He’s written a book called “Luck,” which he may try to publish. And, he wants to try his hand at acting with a small local players club.

“I’ve always had that creative side,” he says. “The sports writing, the book, and now maybe the stage. We’ll see.”

Bill’s foundation is equally rooted in family. He’s been married to Melissa for sixteen years. She’s a devoted stay-at-home mom to their two sons - 13 year-old Jacob and Liam who is eight. Both boys have inherited their father’s love of baseball, and Bill couldn’t be happier - he manages both Jacob’s and Liam’s Little League and travel baseball teams.

Good Advice

Rich-Tompkins Company’s expansion into the New York Metro market is still in its early chapters, but the foundation is solid. Alan has spent more than three decades building a company culture that promotes from within, values relationships over transactions, and isn’t afraid to evolve. Bill has brought a quarter-century of sales experience, a competitor’s heart, and a team-first mentality to a territory that’s ripe with opportunity.

When asked what advice they’d give to someone just entering the industry, both men have great insight.

“Be patient. Listen. Work hard. Do the right thing,” Alan says. “You are blessed to be in this industry. It is full of really good people.”

Bill says, “Get ready for an exciting journey. And be a sponge. Soak up everything you can from the people around you.”

Two different paths. Two different generations of experience. One company culture that ties it all together. Alan and Bill represent exactly what this industry does best; it takes good people, gives them a chance, and watches them build something that lasts.



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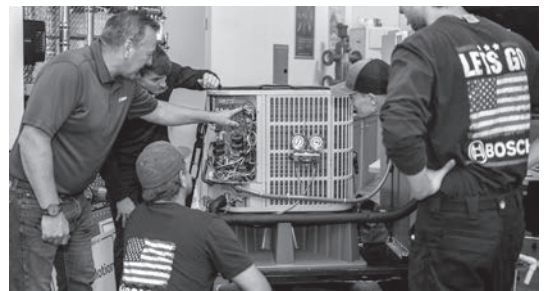
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