

To the members of Local 290 from Business Manager Lou Christian

### Update on the CoronaVirus (COVID-19)

The situation is evolving rapidly. Last week meetings or groups were limited to 250, then 50, 25 and now the preferred number is 10 or less. We have a new term “social-distancing” which started at 3 and is now 6 feet. There are new emergency orders and laws almost daily. We are working tirelessly to keep up and address the myriad of changes required by this situation, some of which are listed below. Your patience has been very much appreciated.

- Union Offices: The union hall went from fully functioning to limited entry and now I am closing the building. This is an effort to prevent the virus from disrupting services to our members we must provide. Agents are working remotely. Their desk phones are being forwarded to their cell phones and they are receiving emails. We are addressing jobsite concerns and conditions and conducting pre-jobs where changing conditions warrant. Working with our contractors, we are addressing COVID-19 driven changes to protect our members safety. In the office we are practicing “social-distancing” for all staff and we are preparing to work remotely as these events dictate.
- Dispatch: We have implemented remote dispatching capabilities to prevent catastrophic disruption that would prevent our members from returning to work. Our skills will be needed during this emergency and into the future. I want to thank the Dispatch office for their efforts in these challenging times. We are adapting to address this emergency.
- Ongoing Activities:
  - We are actively lobbying to get our voice heard in state and federal legislation, defining essential worker language. We posted the new Families First Coronavirus Act (FFCA). The Trust will be looking at gaps in this new legislation.
  - We sent a text message out last friday letting members know where to find updates on the 290 website and Facebook page “@UALocal290”. If you didn’t receive a message please call the front desk to have your contact information updated.
  - Oregon Unemployment: New changes were found today. This change addresses workers who don't feel comfortable in a crowded setting the choice to self distance and not go to work. (see #7 on linked pdf) [COVID-19 Scenarios & Benefits Available](#)
  - All UA conferences and travel have been cancelled until May 1. This will be evaluated as conditions warrant. The UA is continuing to share information and updates regularly. [General President address to the membership.](#)

- Meetings: March union meeting was cancelled. A decision on cancelling the April meeting will be made on April 3rd. Committee Meetings have been cancelled for March and will be rescheduled in the future.
- The Executive Board will continue to meet either in person or by zoom to conduct the business of the local during this emergency. Minutes for these meetings will be available in the members section News & Events shortly.
- The By-Laws committee has postponed the by-laws vote due to the COVID-19 emergency. The election committee will reschedule when safety concerns permit.
- All Local 290 Training Centers have been closed and all Journeyman Training classes have been cancelled until further notice. Training Center staff is working on a limited basis. Journeyman classes will be rescheduled, when possible, to a later date. [Training Center Website](#). Thank you to all of the training staff for all the work they are doing in this unprecedented emergency.
- If you are interested in volunteering opportunities to help members let us know. There will be a lot of help needed.

During this unprecedented COVID-19 emergency we continue to work on behalf of our membership. I want to thank the Union office staff, agents and organizers for their extraordinary efforts. There are many challenges facing all of us. The membership of Local 290 make an amazing difference every day doing UA work.

We need to look out for each other. If you know of members who are being affected due to physical limitations, whether active or retired, please reach out and share the spirit of UA brotherhood. We are all being tested and the strength of the UA will help keep our infrastructure and country moving forward to a better future.

In Solidarity,

Lou A. Christian