

To the members of Local 290 from Business Manager Lou Christian

Update on the CoronaVirus (COVID-19) March 28 2020

Brothers and sisters, this week has seen a large number of issues that are being addressed by the UA and our staff. Below you will find updates and issues we need your help to address. Our staff is working remotely as much as possible to continue the priorities of keeping dispatch open, working to resolve jobsite issues, providing information updates and posting new information to help with the COVID-19 emergency.

UA

- [General President Mark McManus 3-26-2020 video.](#)
  - 2 Trillion dollar stimulus package passed by Senate unanimously.
    - 25 Billion to the unemployment insurance system.
  - Membership relief
    - Waiving of suspension fee for 3 months until the point of expulsion.
  - **We are essential workers not disposable workers.**
  - Weekly update meetings with all UA Local Business Managers and UA Staff
    - Monday had 600 participants on the call!
  - Reach out - call a retiree, call an apprentice. Ask them how they are doing.
  - Plan for financially stressed members information coming 4-7-2020.
  - [New UA Covid-19 Resource Center Page](#)

Local 290

- **COVID-19 emergency CDC and state guidelines.**
  - New info from this week
- **Federal Legislation**
  - [Gathering information on each component](#)
- **Unemployment**
  - Changes with federal legislation update soon.
  - [Oregon Unemployment FAQs as of 3-28-2020](#)
  - [Washington Unemployment FAQs as of 3-28-2020](#)
  - [California Unemployment FAQs as of 3-28-2020](#)
- **Signatory contractors** - Our 290 staff is in communication daily as situations arise. We are using our Business Agents, Stewards and members to address issues with contractor representatives.
- **Resolved furlough issue with contractor.**
- [Washington residents working in Oregon 3-25-2020.](#)
- **Working conditions** - Local 290 and the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council is advocating for members with General Contractors to follow CDC and

State guidelines for jobsite safety. We can help improve social distancing with innovative ideas from members on the job. [COVID-19 OSHA link.](#)

- **New critical infrastructure project** - This project is near Mist Oregon topping out at 20-25 UA jobs. Manpower needs starting next week. This project is under a National Maintenance Agreement signed on 3-27-2020. [Jobsite requirements and conditions click here.](#)
- **Liability waivers** - Some of our members have been asked to sign a liability waiver for the potential of getting sick on the job. This issue appeared in Washington state this week. This is an item that requires negotiation and approval from Local 290. Do not sign, contact your steward/ business agent first.
- **COVID-19 assessment prior to start of work** - We are reviewing these on a case by case basis. They could be subject to bargaining. [EEOC link](#)
- **Union Meeting for April** - There will be a discussion this week between the executive board and the President on whether the meeting will be cancelled. We will notify members as soon as we have a decision.
- **Building Trades Exam** - The Exam Board will be meeting soon to discuss potential rescheduling/cancellation of the June Building Trades exam. We will post the decision on the site when we get it.
- **Training Center** - More announcements starting tuesday the 31st. [Please visit the training website.](#)

We are continuing to work on the issues as they arise. Your business agents/organizers are working to address the myriad of issues caused by this COVID-19 emergency. Please contact your steward, business agent as issues arise so we can address them. We have been using the [website](#) and the local's [facebook page](#) to keep you informed. The extremely rapid pace of the information coming out would make mailed information outdated well before it could reach you. Due to the large number of calls, your patience is appreciated. We will continue to post information as we receive it during this emergency. Your feedback is appreciated. I can't overstate the importance as members we need to work together to be part of the solution to accomplish the vital work we do in a manner that follows the CDC and State guidelines while protecting our members and the public in the war against the COVID-19 virus. Remember as our General President Mark McManus said, "**We are essential not disposable**".

In Solidarity,

Lou A. Christian

