

To the members of Local 290 from Business Manager Lou Christian

Update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) April 11th, 2020

Relief to members

[UA McManus Letter 4-8-2020](#)

- Our General President along with General Executive Board approval, starting with April hours non-retired members who work 40 hours or less, the UA will not require the per cap tax of \$27, \$26 or \$20 to be paid to the UA. This amount will be applied to the qualifying members future dues. See UA constitution Section 74 (a)(b)(c) for the amount in relief you would qualify for based on trade classification and age.
- The second is outlining relief regarding suspension and loss of good standing along with the reinstatement fee is on hold. This means a member who gets behind more than 3 months will not be suspended and lose their good standing status until the 6-month period when expulsion will occur.

These measures are in effect until the General President and General Secretary Treasurer decide to remove them. Our staff is looking at how to implement this. We will send a mailing out to the membership when the details are worked out.

New General President McManus video

- [GP McManus with MCAA President Brian Helm new video 4-11-2020](#)

Exam Board

- The exam board met using video conferencing on 4-7. The board decided to postpone and reschedule the building trades test scheduled June to 9-26. This will allow building trades review classes to be held prior to the test. New information will be posted to the website as details are worked out. Training center will post class dates as they can schedule them. All this will be contingent on working within the COVID-19 rules and guidelines.

Executive Board

- The Executive Board will be meeting April 15th 6pm via zoom video conference meeting. If you have business for the e-board contact John Foote through the front desk 503-691-5700

Union Meeting

- A reminder the Union meeting is cancelled for next Friday the 17th.

Trust Meetings

- The JATC meeting will be held by video conference on Monday 13th.
- The Trust Standing Committee meeting will be held by video conference on Wednesday 15th.

Committee Chairs

- A Committee chairs meeting is being held via zoom Monday the 13th at 6pm to review the current COVID-19 meeting cancellations.

Unemployment

[Oregon Unemployment COVID-19 information and FAQs.](#)

[Washington Unemployment COVID-19 FAQs](#)

[California Unemployment COVID-19 FAQs](#)

[California Unemployment COVID-19 information.](#)

- Oregon Employment department COVID-19 pg. Claims by quadrupling staff. To try to dig out of the historic number of new claims 100,700 week of 3-29 as of April 10, 450 staff are available for claims. [For more information click this link to 4-9-20 press release.](#)
- New Oregon employment department press release re CARES act \$600 payments Oregon has started issuing payments for week 3-29-2020 to 7-25-2020 link to 4-10-2020 press release. [For more information click this link to 4-10-2020 press release.](#)
- [For Washington claims experience click this link.](#)
- [For California claims experience click this link.](#)

We heard this week a member who filed in Oregon a new claim 3-22 electronically and received the check after a waiting week on 4-9-2020.

We would like to add California and Washington Unemployment claim filing experiences. Please contact Lou or Joe to share information.

Friday the furlough number was 452 at 10:20 am that have notified dispatch.

Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council

- The Oregon State Building Trades is working to form a C-19 task force with industry partners to look for best practices and will be working with Oregon OSHA to be part of job site visits to help ensure best practices are shared and utilized. Initial training with Oregon OSHA next week with 3 teams to be deployed to visit job sites after that. These will be announced visits coordinated through Oregon OSHA with our industry partners.
- Conference call on Friday 4-10 with Senator Merkley discussing the impacts to construction. Pension reform was cut from the last bill in the senate negotiations. Merkley is fighting to keep prevailing wage and apprenticeship in infrastructure bills. I asked Senator Merkley to include COBRA relief in the next COVID-19 bill.

Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council

- The Columbia Pacific had an Intel update meeting this week. We were shown how they are adapting to COVID-19 using CDC guidelines and social distancing. We are hearing from members good improvements are being made. We need to stay proactive and help with ideas to make these jobs safer.

We continue to experience many changes during the COVID-19 emergency. We are working to establish a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page. Business Agent Dave Burger has been tasked with updating this section of our website. Joe and I appreciate your questions and feedback in this difficult time. The ingenuity from our members in dealing with this situation helps us stand out in the industry we serve. We continue to make things safer for everyone including our customers, contractors and the general public. Thank you for your continued commitment.

In Solidarity,

Lou A. Christian