

To the members of Local 290 from Business Manager Lou Christian

Update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) April 18th, 2020

Updates from the UA

- **General President McManus FAQ** from Business Managers Part A is job related Part B is internal questions. [FAQs for BMs 4-16-2020](#)
- [COVID-19 Flier keeping you and your family safe](#)
- **UA training opportunities** These are online training opportunities. [Incident Response Strategic Plan 4-9-2020](#)
- To take advantage of the above classes follow instructions in this link. [ICRA letter to membership 4-16-2020](#) The Training center is working to get these classes approved for BCD credit.

Local Union Updates

While the union meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 emergency the following remote meetings were held:

- **Monday:** The **JATC regular meeting** was held using Zoom. A **Committee Chair meeting** discussed how meetings might be able to be held using video conferencing.
- **Tuesday:** PAC committee met, 7 interviews were conducted, endorsements and contributions were voted on. I referred these to the E-Board Wednesday. [Primary Endorsements 4-17-2020](#)
- **Wednesday: Trust Standing Committee** met and a 401k proposal was referred to the trustees to vote to incorporate the new Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act provision to allows eligible participants to make withdrawals from their 401k accounts. If a long period of unemployment from the COVID-19 results the trustees will review and may increase the \$25,000 amount. [John Hancock 401k COVID-19 4-18-2020](#)

E-Board Meeting 4-15-20 [E-Board Minutes 4-15-2020](#)

The executive board approved the PAC committee recommendations for endorsements and contributions. [Primary Election Endorsements 4-17-2020](#)

I reviewed the General Presidents letters dated 3-23-2020 and 4-8-2020 with the Board. We are working on procedures to implement the dues relief using our membership software system. We will be sending letters to the membership letting them know how to request this relief. Active members working 40 hours or less in the month of March would qualify for relief and will be credited for April to defray dues cost. See the link for more information. [UA McManus Letter 4-8-2020](#)

The mailing will contain the process qualifying members will use.

Please make sure your current contact information is on file with us.

The UA has given direction that charges will have to be placed on hold until a regular membership meeting can approve or reject them.

The May General Membership meeting status will be reviewed at the 4-29-2020 Executive board meeting.

Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council

- C-19 Task force job site visits with Oregon OSHA started this week. The first two jobsites were in Eugene at the U of O Hayward field and the new science building. The first metro area job was visited Friday was MOD 3. The jobsite consultations are helping to promote Oregon OSHA recommendations for safe work practices and gather best practices to share on other jobsites. This is very important to protect our members and the public.
- A meeting with Turner Construction was held to review concerns with COVID-19 rules for on-site access. After hearing concerns by numerous business managers and union representatives, temperature readings for access will be done with medically trained personnel on larger job sites.

Training Update

- Apprentices are 100% online with their classes now. Journeymen classes are being formulated to be placed online for our members to receive the needed BCD hours for their licenses. As these classes are finalized the schedules will be announced. These classes will be online through Zoom if you have not used this platform here is a link to show how it works [What is Zoom? How do I join a meeting?](#)

Thank you to all our Training Center staff for their hard work!

Unemployment

- The governor announced this week the waiting week will be paid retroactively. We are working to get more information on the exact time frame for this benefit.

CARES Act UPDATE 4-17-2020

- The Trustees have voted to include COVID-19 provisions into our 401k plan. This provision removes the 10% penalty excise tax and has other provisions to help participants that are eligible. The distribution will be up to \$25,000 to meet the immediate needs but not encourage participants to withdraw more than they need. This amount will be revisited if there is a long period of unemployment. [John Hancock 401k COVID-19 4-18-2020](#)

Finalized plan details coming soon.

We continue to experience many changes during the COVID-19 emergency. We are continuing to work on establishing a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page. Business Agent Dave Burger is working to bring the information together for the website. Assistant Business Manager Joe Neely and I appreciate your questions and feedback in these difficult times. Thank you, President Bob Porter, Vice-President John Foote, Executive Board members Robert Taylor, Shawn Mask, Dominic DePiero, Denny Tynan and Recording Secretary Justin Turner for all the work that you do for the membership during this emergency.

In Solidarity,

Lou A. Christian