

To the members of Local 290 from Business Manager Lou Christian
Update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact May 10th, 2020

Brothers and Sisters,

This week has been very challenging. We now have the first and second cases of COVID-19 in Local 290. Fortunately, both have been mild so far. This is a good reminder that this virus could have very few symptoms. If you notice any of the symptoms and have been in contact with someone who has tested positive please notify your supervisor, self-quarantine and get tested. You may have to be very insistent to get it done because testing is still not readily available. The Oregon Health Authority was telling us this week that testing without symptoms was available. But as of Saturday, the 9th the locations given were still requiring symptoms to be tested. If you hear of locations that testing is available without symptoms, please contact us.

UA Update

We have a somber message from our General President Mark McManus. 46 UA members have passed away from the COVID pandemic. Our General President gives an update on the unemployment picture in the UA for the past several months. He then closes the video with the names, ages and the locals these members were a part of. We have been extremely fortunate in this pandemic so far with only two members recently testing positive. Please keep everyone and their families in your thoughts and prayers. www.ua.org

Local Union Updates

High Tech

Base build will be increasing the workforce over 400 workers all trades per month until enough manpower is obtained if social distancing can be maintained. We have unfilled calls for wire combo welders as fab shops are ramping up. We will need more welders and fitters in the coming weeks and months as more areas are opening up to allow pipe installation to proceed.

Tool install is adding a swing shift to help maintain social distancing. All workers will be asked the same screening questions. It is extremely important to answer these to the best of your knowledge, everyone's safety depends on the answers.

Parking is a challenge that is being addressed as more vehicles are added as man power increases.

Oregon's Governor has announced plans to phase re-opening Oregon with phase 1 starting as early as May 15 by each county. The continued easing of restrictions will be based on meeting goals. The governor has also stated that large meetings may not happen until after September. We will be discussing the large events and picnic schedule this summer at the Executive Board meeting May 13th at 6pm next week via zoom.

Dues Relief if you are a non-retired member and worked 40 hours or less in the months of March or April contact the local at cv-19relief@ua290.org with the months you qualify for so we can setup the relief General President McManus and the General Executive board have approved.

Gas Distribution

A bargaining session is scheduled on Tuesday the 12th on the Local 290 Addendum. We will be updating progress in next week's report.

The National Gas Distribution Agreement has been settled and is being distributed. If you have not received one contact Business Agent John Kimberling.

Elections

Oregon's Primary voting is underway. If you look at our endorsements your PAC Committee chaired by Randall Friesen has recommended endorsements based on wages, hours and working conditions. You will vote your conscience on social issues. Thank you to the committee for their hard work. Please vote!

Training

You should have received an email message May 5 with a survey for BCD classes to be taught online using the Zoom App. for BCD credit. The email and our Local 290 website www.ua290.org under Journeyman Training has the information on how to participate. If you didn't receive the email or have questions, please use this email link journeyman.training@290tech.edu for the quickest response. Phone calls will be returned in the order received working remotely. The training center is working very hard to institute a new way to train in this pandemic

I hope all of you have a great weekend honoring the Mothers, who without we wouldn't be here.

In Solidarity,

Lou A. Christian