

To the members of Local 290 from Business Manager Lou Christian

Update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact, May 16th, 2020

Sisters and Brothers,

We are seeing the loosening of the restrictive rules that are in place. The process to move forward in Washington, Oregon and California is becoming clearer. This is a cautious and slow process to keep the gains made in the fight against the Coronavirus.

Building Codes Licensing

The Oregon State Building Codes Division has extended the expiration date on the individual Plumbing, Boiler, LEA and LEB license expiration dates to January 15, 2021 due to the COVID-19 emergency. Be advised that the grace period past January 15, 2021 for continuing education may not be extended in combination with this new ruling. For more complete information follow the link. [View the new temporary rule and access a list of affected licenses.](#)

Reregistration

Hiring hall rule section 1.6

If you are on the out of work list before 5/1/2020 You must reregister to keep your position by 7/31/2020 4:30 PM see the hiring hall rules link. [Reregistration Rules](#)

Gas Distribution

The negotiations continue. We met again with the contractors Friday using video conferencing after meeting with gas distribution members on a GoToMeetings conference call Thursday night. We have extended the MOU for 7 more days. The contractors and the union negotiating team meet again on Thursday the 21st for the next bargaining session. Progress is being made during this pandemic using video and phone conferencing.

Executive Board Meeting 5/14/20

The E-Board Members Vice President John Foote, Denny Tynan, Robert Taylor, Dominic De Piero met at 6 PM on Wednesday the 14th. Guests present were President Bob Porter, Recording Secretary Justin Turner, Assistant Business Manager Joe Neely (hosting the video conference), David Stahly Membership Assistance and myself were in attendance. We discussed the Oregon governor's new phased re-opening. We looked at how the continued limits on meetings or group size would affect the Membership meetings, Picnics, Local 290 Golf Tournament over the summer and into the fall and the election of officers and the Election for the 2021 UA convention delegates. We were advised by the UA letter dated January 27, 2020 to hold the officer's election and delegate election for the 2021 convention at the same time. [June 2021 Elections and Delegate Credentials.](#)

Executive Board Meeting 5/14/20 continued

The Executive Board and President Bob Porter agreed we need to plan for the many scenarios that could happen with this pandemic. Meetings with the election committee were discussed to plan for future possibilities. With the Governor saying large meetings may not happen after the end of September. It is looking more likely future Membership meetings would need to be canceled. We will explore ways to hold meetings using multiple locations to meet the size limitation required by the governor's order but at the same time making sure all who want to attend can.

The Election Committee has also had initial discussion of the multiple elections for this fall. I will ask the election committee to meet again using video conferencing to plan for possible scenarios.

Unemployment

- Oregon Updates

[Oregon Unemployment Update 5-14-2020](#)

- Washington Updates

[Washington Unemployment Update 5-15-2020](#)

- California Updates

https://edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm

<https://unemployment.edd.ca.gov/guide/benefits>

[California Unemployment Update 5-15-2020](#)

Trust Meetings 5/14/20

The Pension and 401k Trusts met Wednesday the 14th. We were given reports by our consultants and money managers.

- **Pension** The plan had rebounded from March market lows of about -16.5% to an estimated -7.2% for mid-May year to date loss. The pension plan is estimated to be 94% funded with this mid-May date. The funding percentage we are required to use for the year is figured on 12/31/2020. We continue to monitor our pension funds with our advisors and money managers.
- **401 K** The Trustees had previously approved a coronavirus related hardship distribution for a maximum of \$25,000. These provisions are in place. As of Wednesday, the 14th, nine withdrawals were completed. Four more are pending.
- **Health and Welfare** The surplus unassigned reserves dropped from 14.09 to 12.86 months due mostly to investment losses.

Training

The training center now has online BCD credit classes. [Link to classes](#)

We sent a text message, reminding members to vote in the Oregon primary with a link to our PAC Committee endorsement list. If you didn't receive one please check your cell number on file at the Hall.

I am planning to be on one of the jobsite consultations with the Covid-19 Task force the Oregon State Building Trades is coordinating with Oregon OSHA next week.

With the long Memorial Day weekend coming up please stay safe as we Honor the men and women who died while serving our country protecting our freedom!



In Solidarity,

Lou A Christian