

To the members of Local 290 from Business Manager Lou Christian

Update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact, May 23rd, 2020

This week we are starting to see some loosening of the “Stay at Home Order”. Here in Washington County we have not entered the first phase yet but hope to see this happen soon. Many Counties around the State are in the first phase of re-opening. With the slow re-opening the virus should be slowed as more normal activities are resumed. I think we are all eager to see a return to a more normal life. The following is an update of activities for the week.

Gas Distribution Negotiations: We have reached a Tentative Agreement with our Gas Distribution contractors today. We are preparing for a meeting with our members interested in this field. The meeting will be held remotely and available by phone or possibly video for all 290 members who normally work in the Gas Distribution sector. Please get with your Steward or Agent John Kimberling for more details. We will be planning a ratification vote following our bylaws Article 20 Section 4.

A video conference meeting with the President, Election Committee and the Negotiating Committee will be held next week to work out details.

Picnic and Golf Updates: Due to availability and COVID-19 group sizing limits, it is very disappointing we have had to cancel or postpone the following events. Please check our website for further updates on future events.

- Coos Bay Picnic **Cancelled**
- Springfield/Eugene Picnic **Cancelled**
- Salem Picnic **Cancelled**
- Medford Picnic **Cancelled**
- Golf Tournament **Tentatively postponed to 8/9/2020 to see if enough services will be available.**

Oregon State Building Trades COVID-19 Organized Task Force: I participated with four other members of the COVID-19 Task Force on an Oregon OSHA consultation visit at a large High-Tech company in Hillsboro on Wednesday. This diverse group is composed of Labor, Industry Associations like the AGC, Oregon Home Builders, the PMCA (represented by Charter Company President Cordell Tietz), General Contractors Hoffman Construction, O’Neal Construction, Oregon OSHA along with the following area Building Trades Councils, Southern Oregon, Lane Coos Curry Douglas, Central Oregon, Salem and Pendleton have also been involved. The Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters, Oregon Tradeswomen and Oregon Labor Education and Resource Center (LERC) are participating. These group consultations have made many job sites visits to both union and nonunion job sites. Our purpose is to give feedback on how the construction industry is working to promote the best practices. [COVID-19 Safety Photographs](#)

Oregon State Building Trades COVID-19 Organized Task Force Continued: During the walk we observed how this job site has worked to implement social distancing and to protect the construction workforce. On this walk we saw the largest number of signs reminding social distancing of 6 feet. There were also provisions for hand sanitizing stations. We were shown a lunch room/break room area with tables moved to allow the 6-foot rule. When using a table, the workers could use butcher paper to place on the table for their items rest. The tables were being cleaned and the chair was being leaned against the table to the note that it was ready for the next use. The OSHA member of the group made an observation for improvement by spacing portable restrooms 6 feet apart. The areas walked had the most signs of any job site we have seen to date. Something to remember is to keep the 6-foot distance while walking, it is easy to bunch up. This was a good walk with many best practices being used and new ones being observed. Check out the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council for some best practices. [COVID-19 Safety: Best Practices](#)

Election Day: Oregon primary was Tuesday. It is becoming clear who will be running this fall. With many tight races every vote counted. Some Construction Bond measures passed which can mean future work opportunities. Thank you to our volunteer PAC Committee for their time, effort, and recommendations. Thank you to all who voted!

Local 290 Pension: The trustees for the plan have approved a three-month extension to the current Waiver of Suspension of Benefits Rules for retirees returning to work. The old waiver was set to expire on June 30th. It will now be extended to the end of September due to the demand for workers to man our High-Tech work. A letter will be sent soon to our retirees from the Trust office. This letter will also be posted in our Local 290 website next week.

Memorial Day Weekend: We honor our military members who gave their lives for our Country. Without their ultimate sacrifice and the sacrifice our men and women who served this Country we would not have the freedom we enjoy today!

Enjoy the long weekend and stay safe!

Sisters and Brothers,

In Solidarity,

Lou A Christian