

To the members of Local 290 from Business Manager Lou Christian

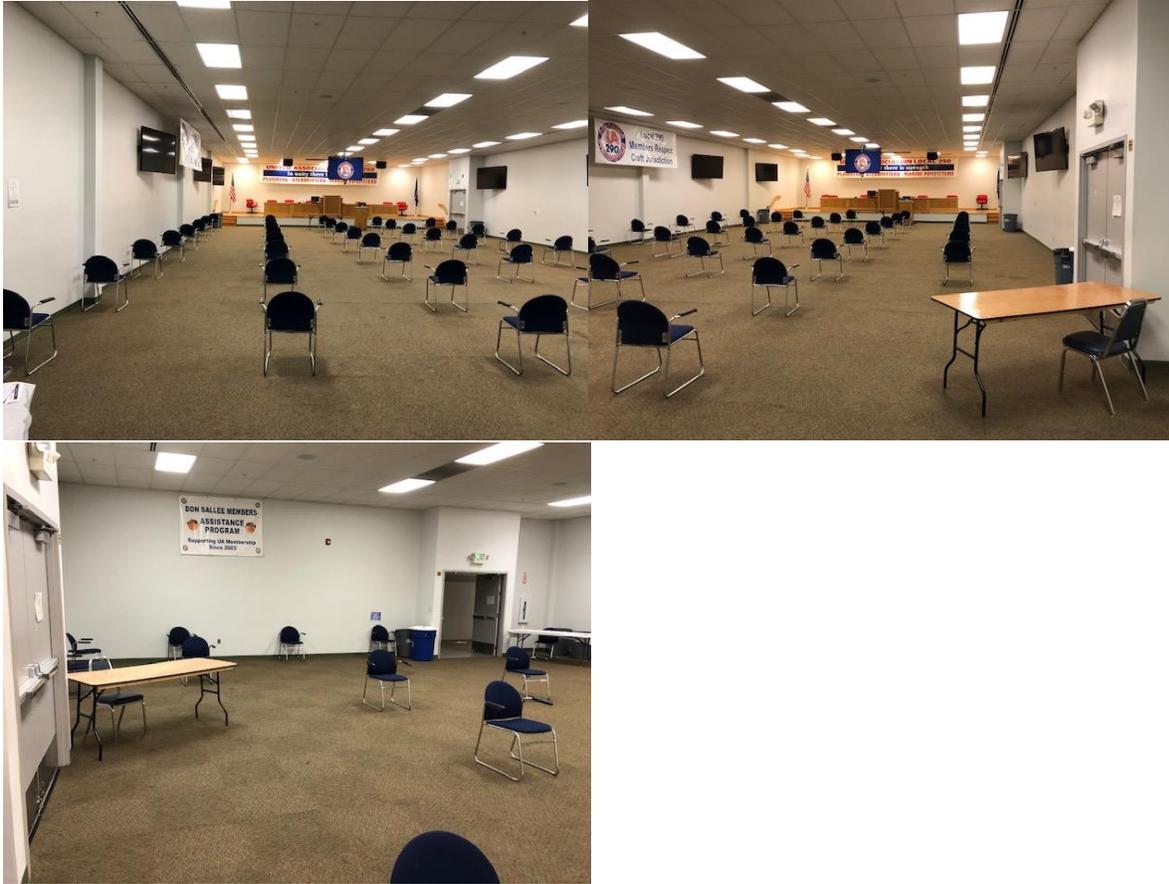
**Update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact**, June 13th, 2020

Sisters and Brothers,

**Union Meeting for 6-19-2020 is cancelled:** Under phase one we can have up to 25 people in a group meeting with physical distancing. Washinton county where the union hall is located will now remain in phase one at least a week longer with the Governors Pause, issued on June 11. We were set to enter phase 2 on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

The pictures below show the meeting room in Tualatin with the chairs set at 6' spacing. With the President Bob Porter, myself, Assistant Business Manager Joe Neely, Recording Secretary Justin Turner and Jacob Cooper running the remote communication system. There are 47 chairs in this configuration. This means in Phase 2; we would have to remove 2 chairs to get down to the 50-person maximum. If we were to seat more in a future Phase, we could seat another 6 to 9 people using the stage behind the podium. As you can see in the pictures physical distancing severely limits the seating and attendance at future meetings with physical distancing.

Our outlying areas will be likewise impacted. When set up the seating is 25 or less. Some long narrow rooms will be less. We are exploring the possibility of renting larger convention or fairground type facilities to connect remotely to accommodate a meeting. Our combined meetings run from a little over 100 to one of our largest meetings, 368 last November. The larger venues we have contacted were not able to give any specifics on what number we could expect to seat in their venues. We would also need a good internet connection to allow multiple sites to connect. I am in contact with the UA exploring other ways to accommodate our meeting needs.



**Portland Picnic:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Metro Parks notified us that picnic reservations at Blue Lake park are cancelled until further notice which unfortunately means we will not have the August 23 date for the picnic. It appears unlikely at this time we will be able to find a large enough venue to hold our largest picnic this year.

**Executive Board Meeting:** 6/17/20 6:00 pm will be held by zoom. If you have business for the E-board or wish to attend register here. [Meeting Registration](#). The information will be sent out an hour before the meeting for guests to attend. Please get signed in early for the meeting it will get started promptly at 6:00 pm. For more information please contact Assistant Business Manager Joe Neely [JNeely@UA290.org](mailto:JNeely@UA290.org) or 503-616-6106.

**Gas Distribution:** The gas distribution ratification vote will be held through Zoom next Friday. All members normally working under this contract are eligible to vote. The information was mailed this week to these members and a letter to the membership with other information. Review and questions starting at 5 PM the vote starts at 7 PM. The election committee will conduct the vote. [NDPA Language Changes and Revisions NDPA 2020-2025 5-15-2020 MOU](#)

**Work:** We are seeing future projects being pushed out. This week we heard the hospital towers at OHSU in Portland have been pushed out until July 2021. We are also seeing building permit staffing issues slowing down project start dates in several municipalities. We will continue to push for staffing levels to get this critical process completed for work to start.

**Reregistration:** If you were on the Hiring Hall out of work list before May 1st you need to reregister with the dispatch office to maintain your place on the list. ([Registration Rules link](#))

**UDAC:** We watched "Sista in the Brotherhood" last Tuesday night with 20+ members. On a Zoom streaming of the short film that was filmed in the Portland area and is about racism and discrimination that a black woman who was an apprentice in the Carpenters Union. During the discussion afterwards we learned how racism, discrimination and sexual-harassment has affected many members lives. The racism was jarring and some of the other forms of harassment were more subtle. But were obvious when these were brought up in the discussion. We took away a much better understanding of how these things affect our members. Offering support to any member experiencing this can make a world of difference.

We continue to confront forms of harassment. There was an incident with a noose at a downtown site a couple of weeks ago. We still don't know how it got there but it took several weeks to get this addressed by the job site. Finally getting the property owner involved made sure this was addressed. If you are the victim of any harassment contact the Hall, we do take it seriously! There is no place for this in our Local. Everyone has the right to be treated equally and fairly. All of us have taken the same oath and part of that oath reads "I will at all times assist members of the United Association to the extent of my ability, defend them when unjustly treated or slandered, and cultivate for each and every member the warmest friendship and brotherly love".

Our Diversity Committee has scheduled June 18th as a night for members to share their experiences of racism discrimination or sexual harassment on the job or in their life. For most of us we have not experienced these things firsthand to understand the hurt, fear and pain caused by these experiences. I encourage you to join us for a chance to listen to our members firsthand experiences. We must make our local a better place for all. I want to thank our diversity Co-chairs Anthony O'Neal and Ashley Haysom for making our local more inclusive.

In Solidarity,

Lou A Christian