

To the members of Local 290 from Business Manager Lou Christian

## **Update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact, June 20th, 2020**

**UA Election Guidance Letter:** I received a letter from our General President Mark McManus Friday the 19<sup>th</sup>. This letter is giving guidance for our upcoming Officers and UA Convention Delegate Elections. The link will take you the local 290 website members section where the letter is posted. [Letter Link](#)

The Letter outlined the process that can be used to hold nominations if we can't meet in person for both elections. The General President also permitted the moving of the nominations to October.

I forwarded this letter to the Election Committee and our President Friday, they are reviewing this information. The second page outlines the procedure for the alternative nomination process.

I have called an officers meeting for next week on Wednesday to conduct building association business and our officers will have a chance to discuss this letter with the Election Committee.

**Trust Items:** We have seen a higher use of video conference medical visits during the pandemic. There are some limits in the self-funded program to these visits. The trustees are removing the number of visit limits for the rest of the year, we will reevaluate if the limit at that time. We are also seeing new costs from dental offices for PPE. The dental offices are passing these added costs on to insurance plans. Our trust will be reviewing these new costs to see how we should address them. The video conference medical visits updated coverage and any changes to dental PPE coverage will be communicated in notifications through the trust office to the membership.

The Health and Welfare plan investments are recovering and are up 3% for the year, this money is conservatively invested.

The Pension and Retiree Wealth and Welfare plans, which are invested long term and are more aggressively positioned are continuing to recover and are down about 2% for the year after the wild market swings of the last several months.

**Executive Board 6-15-2020:** Brother Shawn Mask has resigned his position as the Region 2 Executive Board member. Thank you to Brother Mask for your service to the Local.

Brother Brad Archuleta was appointed by President Bob Porter and confirmed by the E-Board to finish the remaining term. Brad had the next highest number of votes for this seat. Brother Archuleta was sworn in at this meeting.

I proposed to our Executive Board to buy face coverings for our members using the Industry Advancement Fund. These will promote our local with a Local 290 design printed on them. A committee is working on this project now [Contact Joe Neely](#) with any suggestions or comments. We want Union made and printed.

We discussed a recent noose found on a job 3 weeks ago and the steps it took to get the incident to be addressed seriously on the job. The Executive Board and Officers are working on a letter to support our Brothers and Sisters who have been affected by racism, discrimination or harassment.

**Executive Board 6-15-2020 Continued:** The Local's finances previously approved by the Finance Committee were reviewed and approved for the months of March and April. The industry advancement 1<sup>st</sup> quarter report was reviewed. The link should be active Monday by the end of business for the E-Board minutes in the Members area of the website.

**UADC:** Our Diversity Committee met on June 18th and it was 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 first hand to understand the hurt, fear and pain caused by these experiences. It took great courage for our Brothers and Sisters to share their experiences. Hearing these firsthand experiences gave us a greater understanding of the hurt caused. Our Brothers and Sisters who shared their experiences received support from the group.

The noose incident on the downtown Portland project is being thoroughly addressed.

We must make our local a better place for all. I want to thank again our Diversity Co-chairs Anthony O'Neal and Ashley Haysom for making our local a more inclusive place.

**Gas Distribution:** The tentative agreement was ratified Friday night by the Gas Distribution Members attending the zoom meeting. Thank you to the Election Committee and the Members attending. The new contract has a 3% base wage increase and maintenance of benefits. There is new, On Call Pay and you can see the rest of the new changes which are posted in our website. [Information Link](#)

**Local 290 Office Status:** The Tualatin Local 290 office and Training Center are closed due to the COVID-19 virus. The phones are forwarded to our staff and most are still working remotely. We will work with you to provide the services you need remotely. If what you need can only be done in person, we will set up an appointment to facilitate your need. Contact the main office number for help 503-691-5700. A face covering is required to enter the office for our staff's safety. If you don't have one with you, we can provide one for you.

We anticipated being in Phase 2 next week in Washington county. The governor on the 18<sup>th</sup> announced we were being grouped with Multnomah and Clackamas counties. Now the earliest we can enter Phase 2 is the July 10th if everything goes well. [Reopening Guidance Tool link](#) [Phase 2 Reopening Guidance – Gatherings](#)

**Harder Boot Policy:** We will be filing a grievance over the implementation of this safety policy. Safety PPE items are furnished by the contractor. This policy is being called necessary for safety reasons. We will be seeking reasonable compensation.

**Face Coverings:** Intel announced this week that face coverings will be required to and from your vehicle and while on the work site. Safety considerations and medical conditions will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Intel Construction managers were very complementary of compliance using face coverings on the job. They took this step to stay ahead of the virus spread. We all must work together to keep the Construction Industry working. We have seen the almost total shut down of construction work in Seattle when the virus spread unchecked there. This step can help ensure we keep construction jobs open and our members working. Yes, the masks can be hot and uncomfortable. We are asking our contractors to furlough or give a voluntary layoff's due to this new job requirement. I will be wearing a face covering, first for everyone around me so I lower the risk of accidently exposing my brothers or sisters if I was asymptomatic. Second this will lower the chances that I bring this virus home to my family. I hope everyone will look out for their Brothers and Sisters by wearing theses face coverings. We have a 3<sup>rd</sup> case of COVID-19 that's one of our members on a job. If you don't feel well don't go in and if you think you may have any COVID-19 symptom get checked and tested if your medical provider feels it's warranted. We all can help flatten the curve and help lower the risks to others.

[County Specific Mask, Face Shield, Face Covering Guidance](#)

Wishing all the 290 Dad's a wonderful Father's Day.



In Solidarity,

Lou A. Christian