

To the members of Local 290 from Business Manager Lou Christian June 6th, 2020

United Association letter from General President Mark McManus on George Floyd Murder



Founded 1889

United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada

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United Association Condemns the Murder of George Floyd

June 1, 2020

Statement from United Association General President McManus:

The members of the United Association of Union Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA) have watched in horror and agony as once again the death of a black man, George Floyd, came at the hands of law enforcement.

We have since seen thousands of peaceful demonstrators: first in Minneapolis, then across our nation, and even in different cities around the world. These demonstrators come from all backgrounds: Black, white, young, old, man, woman. They represent a diverse America, united against injustice.

Peaceful demonstrations are an American institution, and one the labor movement believes in to its core. We do not support any of the violence, destruction, and looting that we have unfortunately seen in cities across the country.

The UA has always stood strongly with those seeking civil rights, no matter what race, gender, religion, or who you choose as your partner. We will continue to speak out on the jobsite and on the street for all human beings to be treated equally, fairly, and justly.

America is a nation in real pain right now. It is long past time our elected officials, in all branches of government, stepped up to help us heal – no matter what political party they belong to or what state they represent.

We must not let destruction and unrest distract from both mourning George Floyd's death and seeking the institutional change we need.

The members of the UA will continue to join citizens around the country in seeking change and standing up against injustice. Please join us to reflect and be a positive force for your family, your community, your union, and your country.

It has to start with all of us.

In memory of George Floyd.



Our general President McManus letter from this past Monday was a heartfelt statement that the UA has strongly stood with those seeking civil rights. America is in pain because change has not gone far enough, fast enough to make sure all are “treated equally, fairly and justly”. We have had our members experience racism, discrimination and sexual harassment. We must do better. Every UA member has the right to be treated the same as does every person in America!

UADC: Our Local 290 Diversity Committee has scheduled a short film titled “Sista in the Brotherhood” it is a film about a black woman in construction. This short film will be followed by a discussion of what we saw and how we can step up when we see someone treated badly. This has been in the works since the body voted to fund this showing at our February Union meeting. If you would like to join us, please reply to diversity@ua290.org and you will receive a login the night of the video.

Our Diversity Committee is scheduling June 18th as a night for members to share with us 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 keeping the group focused on making our local more inclusive.

We have a Diamond Law diversity training, train the trainer coming up at the end of June and first part of July. Five of our contractors are also participating with us in these classes.

Diversity@ua290.org

These classes will train our members some of our contractors how to teach how to understand our own biases that we may know we have or aren’t aware that we have. Some of these subjects may challenge us to see them in ways we can better understand our brothers and sisters.

Update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact,

Oregon Reopening: On 6-5-2020 Oregon's Governor signed the new [executive order 20-27](#) replacing 20-25. **Phase 1** (Washington County is where our main office is located) we are now limited to group meetings of 25 or less (with physical distancing) and local limited travel is also in effect. When we go to **Phase 2** ([Phase 2 announcement link](#)), we will be able to have a group up to 50 ([Gathering link](#)) members with physical distancing. Meeting rooms are being set up to accommodate physical distancing. This severely limits the number of members that can attend at one time. We will need to find venues ([Guidance link](#)) that can accommodate more people than we could bring online. This will be needed to accommodate our members who will be attending. It is possible we will need to host the meeting with a limited number at our main meeting room and use remote communication to link all who want to attend from various locations set up for this meeting with notice to our members. With this executive order it is clear we cannot hold the June Union Meeting in our main hall and accommodate the usual number that attend. I will form a committee of the President, Vice President, Executive Board, Inside Guard and the Election Committee to plan our first union meeting since the pandemic hit. I have linked the information in the report that gives us the newest guidance as of this week ([Reopening Guidance tool link](#)). There is a lot of information needing updating on many COVID-19 websites with this new information being posted Friday.

Gas Distribution Ratification: The vote is being planned by the election committee. The addendum is nearing completion with language. The members who normally work in this field having worked 40 hours or more in the last 2 years will be eligible to vote. The committee has been looking at options on how to proceed with this vote. The new Oregon Addendum and the new National Gas Distribution contract will be mailed soon to those members. It will also be posted on our web site.

Election Committee: Has had several meetings looking at the worst-case scenarios with this pandemic. Several other locals having June Officer elections have been given direction from the UA on how to proceed when nomination meetings can't be held in person due to restrictions in meeting sizes caused by the pandemic. The committee is hoping for the best but being prepared for the worst. They received firsthand information from Jeff Thomas, Business Manager of UA Local 403 San Luis Obispo California. He explained the guidelines the UA sent them. A nomination was done by Zoom or Go To Meetings type of internet or phone conference. Members nominated were to send an acceptance letter to the committee and after verifying eligibility a mail ballot vote was being held. They hope to do our nominations in person at our meeting the way we normally do but will be prepared if the pandemic prevents it.

Finance Committee: Has been able to review the local's finances through April and is up to date on their review. We have been fortunate as a local that our members have been able to work during this pandemic. Our brothers and sisters in UA Local 32 Seattle Washington experienced over 90% unemployment before construction opened back up in Washington state.

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](#)) High tech work is continuing to be strong with travelers from sister locals helping fill these calls. We are seeing many specialty calls.

Dispatch: Is very busy while working remotely. This has made keeping up with the large volume of calls very challenging. Thank you for your patience. If travelers have questions, please contact Business Agent Ramon Ramon (ramonr@ua290.org 503-616-8246) or Eastside/Pipeline/Gas Distribution Business Agent contact John Kimberling (jkimberling@ua290.org 971-284-5594).

Workers Helping Worker: Our donation from Local 290 helped fund this event put on by NW Oregon Labor Council, Labor's Community Service and UFCW 555. LiUNA 737 hosted the event. A partial list other locals and a of organizations participating IBEW 48, OPCMIA 555, IATSE, ILWU, IUOE 701, OSBCTC, CPBCTC.



In Solidarity,

Lou A Christian