

To the members of Local 290 from Business Manager Lou Christian

Update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact, July 18th, 2020

JATC: Monday the JATC voted to go to an I-Pad assisted, learning system for our apprentices. The platform will facilitate the bulk of our classroom training and reporting. We will need different systems for some classes, but for most this will streamline the way classes will function. Details are being worked out and the goal is to have the system in place for the start of the fall term. This will be of great value whether we have classes on line or in the class room. Most of the books through the UA are available as E-Books. When the students buy their regular books, they get both.

High Tech Site Job Walk 7/14/2020: On Tuesday I walked a large job site with the Site Construction Manager looking at how the site is addressing COVID-19 safety concerns. We walked through a large number of buildings and work areas along with break and lunchrooms. This site owner is taking COVID-19 concerns very seriously. I observed approximately 95% of our UA Brothers and Sisters were following social distancing and using face coverings. The lunch and break rooms also were set up to make sure social distancing can be followed. I was able to talk with quite a few members to get their perspective about how the site is minimizing the chances of spreading the virus. I did pass along the concerns that vendors need to comply with these best practices.

We are hearing about a few more positive cases of COVID-19 on this site and a different job site in Hillsboro that has a larger cluster. At this job site the general didn't require face coverings to be mandatory and didn't make sure all best practices were followed. So far, our UA members have been fortunate but other crafts have been hit hard. Face covering compliance would have made a big difference. [Oregon Health Authority Face Coverings Guidance link](#) Please remember what we do in our personal time can have a devastating impact to our coworkers on the job. Use the best practices we use on the job to help keep our coworker's, friends and families safe and well.

Executive Board Meeting: Wednesday the Eboard met in person and via zoom. During the COVID-19 emergency the Eboard is acting for the body reviewing and approving items that would have come before the body. [UA constitution sect 113](#). One exception is Charges, which only can be excepted by the membership and referred to the Executive Board for trial. This month the Eboard reviewed and accepted the finance report I presented for May. The Finance Committee had reviewed and signed as our normal procedure. I referred the PAC Committee report, endorsements and contribution requests for the Eboard's approval which was given. [For the Eboard minutes see the link](#)

Election committee: The committee is working on the Bylaws vote. You should have or be receiving the ballot soon. The committee is planning the Officers and the UA Delegate Election. The UA has given guidance in several letters to the Election Committee and Business Manager. [GP McManus Letter to Local Unions with December 2020 Elections](#), [Alternative Procedure for Nominations - December 2020](#) Committee will post information on the local 290 Website under Members – Election Information- Elections 2020. [Or follow the Link](#)

Scholarship Information: Award letters are anticipated to be sent out before the end of the month. The notification is delayed because of the deadline being extended by the COVID-19 emergency. Students have had difficulty getting required information due to schools being closed. Thank you for your patience.

Registration: 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. Reregistration will need to be completed by July 31st. ([Registration Rules link](#))

In Solidarity,

Lou A. Christian