

To the members of Local 290 from Business Manager Lou Christian

### **Update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact, July 25th, 2020**

**UA:** Our General President Mark McManus attended the Western States Pipe Trades Zoom Conference Meeting Friday with about 30 delegates from the Western US. General President McManus talked about the UA's strength during this unprecedented emergency. He talked about the UA Convention. Plans are being prepared for 3 different scenarios.

1. The convention can be held in person as usual.
2. Only a limited of number can attend in person and some will have to attend online or remotely.
3. The whole convention is done remotely.

The hotel reservations will have to be confirmed no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>. A go- or no-go decision for the in-person convention at that point has to be made for the reservation money to be refunded under certain emergence conditions. For delegates this will mean you may not want to purchase airline tickets until the in-person convention is confirmed. The number of convention delegates will be set by the March cash sheets. General President McManus also talked about plans to send money saved, if the convention can't be held in person) in the form of grants to the Locals hit hard by the pandemic. The General Executive Board agrees with him on this plan.

**Union meetings online.** Our GP has concerns about confidential information we distribute in the in-person union meetings being put on the internet. For the safety of this sensitive information he feels the online meetings need to deal only with information that shared with the general public and only this type of information be used in the online meetings. He and the General Executive Board have already given guidance on how to bring business to the Local Union Executive board for approvals for monthly finance reports contributions and other normal business the body would do. The UA in short encourages limited business be conducted online.

General President McManus also announced plans for grants to be used for cleaning of training centers due to COVID-19, potential amounts could be \$5,000 to \$50,000 on a sliding scale set by the number of apprentices. Next week he said we could expect more guidance on several issues from elections to online union meetings.

**Oregon COVID-19 New Restrictions:** New Governor restrictions were put in to place 7/24/2020. [New Governor restrictions link](#) These changed large venues Phase 2 capacity from 250 down to 100 and defines "Gatherings" and "Indoor Social get togethers". [OHA Guidance](#) This can limit the number of people we could get in a large venue to hold in person Union Meetings using multiple sites. This would be possible in phase 2. [Phase 2 Venue and Event Operators Guidance](#) In Washington County (where the main Training Center and Union Office are located) we are still under Phase 1 and we don't have a time frame to enter Phase 2, which is dependent on the 3 counties we are grouped with, (Washington, Multnomah and Clackamas) and currently all must enter Phase 2 together.

These trends and restrictions make the possibility of having in person union meetings look very unlikely in the near future.

**August Union Meeting:** With the restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and working with the President Porter we will have a special meeting notice sent out to the membership announcing an information zoom meeting in place of the normal union meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup>. We are planning for the meeting to be held on Zoom as a webinar with the ability to accommodate up to 500 or more. Pre-registration will be required with an email this will allow the screening of the participants by name, email address and book number to verify the member is eligible. The UA requirements of being in good standing to attend the meeting will be met ahead of the start of the meeting, instructions and ways to participate will be made available on the website. Participation can be done by phone, laptop, computer, iPad etc. We will have YouTube videos to help members review or learn how to participate. We will plan to use this platform for the future until we can have regular in person meetings again. This will be a learning process as we move to this type of meeting platform. Any business we can't do due to security concerns will be conducted through the E-board using guidance the UA has given. We hope to be able to progress to where we can conduct union business on this platform when the membership is accustomed to the use of this process. Please check back to the Local 290 [website](#) or to the Locals [Facebook](#) page for more information about how to participate as we plan for this.

**Election Committee Update:** The election committee continues to plan for the Officers and UA Delegate Elections. They are following guidance from the UA General President [GP McManus Letter to Local Unions with December 2020 Elections](#) and the General Executive Board. Because of the pandemic this will be a different process for nominations. The Committee is working through the timelines and new guidance from the UA. [Alternative Procedure for Nominations - December 2020](#). The nomination update meeting is going to use the Zoom Process the Informational Union Meeting will use. Please try the Zoom format ahead of time to get comfortable with it ahead of time by attending the informational meetings. More updates and information will be posted on our website [Link](#).

The Bylaws ballots have been mailed out. Please remember to vote. Ballots are due before 10 am on August 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Reregistration Deadline 7/31/2020:** Reminder the last day is 7/31 to keep your place on the list if you were on the out of work list before May 1<sup>st</sup>. Reregistration must be received before 4:30 pm on the last business day of July which is next Friday.

**Exam Board** Testing is being planned for the September. The board is working hard to accommodate this during COVID-19. So far only a few have applied. If you are interested contact Katelynn at the front desk 503-691-5700

In Solidarity,

Lou A. Christian