

To the members of Local 290 from Business Manager Lou Christian
Update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact, August 1st, 2020

UA Update 7-28-2020: General President Mark McManus sent a letter to all Local Union Business Managers updating guidance for **Local Union Elections, Membership Meetings, Approval of Expenditures and Allocations of Collectively Bargained Increases.** [McManus Letter 7-28-2020](#) This letter was forwarded to the Election Committee, Executive Board and our President. The Election Committee now has this information, previous guidance and is working to ensure our elections are following the UA recommendations.

Local Union Elections

[January 27th 2020](#), (The following 2 links were for other Locals. These procedures didn't apply to our December elections. [March 23rd 2020 unions with June 2020 elections](#), [Alternative Procedures for Nominations for June Elections](#).) [June 19 2020 December elections Alternative Procedures for Nominations for December Elections](#)

Membership Meetings

This information was discussed with our Executive Board see my report below.

Approval of Expenditures

I have been referring expenditures the membership normally approves to the Executive Board and are in their minutes, while the Union Meetings have been cancelled and these will be reported again when membership meetings can resume.

Allocations of Collectively Bargained Increases

I am working with the Election Committee, our President, and we are planning for a distribution vote by the membership. If we can't vote due to the pandemic, I will follow this UA guidance and use the Trustee's recommendations for an interim distribution. This would be in place until membership meetings resume when the membership could affirm my recommendation or pass a new distribution proposal that would go into effect moving forward.

[UA Business Managers Updated FAQ](#)

Union Meeting August 21st, 2020 Cancelled, Special Information Meeting Notice:

I have cancelled the August meeting due the pandemic. A letter to the membership is at the mailing service and should be mailed Monday 8/3. **The letter also notifies the membership that a Special Informational Membership Meeting is taking place at the same date and time as our normal Union Meeting would have been held, using a Zoom webinar.** The reasons are laid out in the letter. [Letter link](#)
The letter outlines how to participate in this meeting. We are planning to use this system to hold future informational meetings. As we get more information, we will post it on our website at ua290.org/meetings. We plan to send a pre-registration email to your email on record.

This email invitation for the meeting a week ahead of time is for our members to register early. After registering online an email will be sent back to the member confirming registration. Before the meeting a second email will be sent with an individual link for the meeting with the password. This is to prevent copying and sharing of a registration. Pre-registration is needed to make sure each person requesting to attend the meeting is eligible. I encourage you to register ahead of the meeting.

Union Meeting August 21st, 2020 Cancelled, Special Information Meeting Notice: Continued

We will be starting the meeting at 7:30 PM. You may not be able to get in if you do not pre-register early. To receive the registration invitation, we need your correct email address on file. We plan on sending out a blast email this coming week to all members on file to verify we have the correct address. If you haven't received an email from Local 290 by Monday 8/10, please call the front desk or email the [membership secretary](#) to verify we have the correct email address.

Special Executive Board meeting:

This was held Wednesday evening, 7/28/20 on zoom and in the boardroom reviewing several past trials and procedures with Brother Scott Smith our International Representative.

I shared the new Guidance letter from our General President Mark McManus 7/28/20 that is in the UA Update section above.

I reviewed with the Eboard the letter I was preparing to send to the members announcing the August Union Meeting cancellation due to the COVID-19 pandemic and giving **notice of Informational Meetings** until we can resume regular meetings. We reviewed information we had from other locals that tried the Zoom meeting webinar platform. A lengthy discussion on the problems and successes the other locals had. Our UA Rep Scott Smith said the General President had no issues with informational meetings keeping in mind information of very sensitive nature like finances should not be shared in that forum due to security concerns.

A Large High-Tech Company in Hillsboro:

A meeting was held with construction managers, IBEW local 48 Business Manager Garth Bachman, Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council Executive Secretary Willy Myers, Myself and High-Tech Business Agent Ramon Ramon by Zoom. The meeting was about their efforts on the job sites to ensure a safe working environment. We were told the sites over all are having a high rate of compliance. They asked us to help ensure the messages of keeping 6 feet apart and wearing face coverings and also "Take It Home". All these procedures/messages help keep the job safer reducing the chances of the COVID-19 infecting our members. That Take it Home message is a way to keep the focus on everything we do can impact others, whether it is being exposed by others at work and then exposing our families or friends off work. Or we are exposed off work and bring it to work exposing our coworkers. The UA has been doing a great job at following all the things to protect each other. I saw this firsthand a few weeks ago. We must keep this up. Everyone working together helps keep the construction industry working. We don't want to see the progress we have made keeping this virus at bay in construction lost because of a few, regardless the reason. Local 290 is working very hard to find the manpower to fill these jobs. I want to thank the dispatch office Bubba and Chloe for their hard work and Business Agent Ramon Ramon for fielding many of the UA brothers and sisters' calls inquiring about work. Their combined efforts are helping to fill current and open calls in these trying times.

Election committee update:

The Election Committee met with our International Representative Scott Smith through zoom on Wednesday. Reviewed their progress on the upcoming Officer and Delegate Election. Brother Smith thinks they are doing a great job.

Bylaws election ballots need to be returned to the post office box by 10:00 AM August 14th, 2020 to be counted.

Scholarship Award Notifications:

Emails started going out Thursday and notification should be complete by Tuesday.

Building Trades/ Metal Trades Testing:

The Exam Board continues to monitor the numbers applying to take the tests.

In solidarity,

Lou A. Christian