



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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TO ALL LOCAL UNIONS, DISTRICT COUNCILS AND STATE/PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATIONS

Re: 40th Convention Update

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The public health crisis created by **COVID-19** has created challenges impacting everything from how we build projects to how we carry out the business of the union. With your help and support, our United Association has stood tall in the face of these challenges and demonstrated that we are not just an essential organization, but a resilient and dynamic one as well.

The purpose of this letter is to address one such challenge that looms large on the horizon a little over a year from now: the 40th General Convention of the United Association. Rest assured; the United Association General Officers have no intention of letting the important business of our five year convention go unaddressed. We recently discussed this matter with your General Executive Board at its meeting earlier this month and we are all fully committed to meeting this challenge—just as we have the others. The Convention will go forward, and it is our utmost intention of holding this convention as we always have before. We understand, however, that there are outside circumstances that may dictate a modified form in which the Convention will take place.

We continue to stay apprised of the data and trend lines on **COVID-19** cases, timelines for a vaccine, and restrictions being imposed by state and local governments; but even with all that, it isn't realistic to know where we will be in a year from now. Our ability to do in-person business will be primarily dictated by the safety and well-being of our delegates, and the state and local government restrictions and limitations on travel and gatherings.

What we can do is be prepared. With the approval of the General Executive Board, we have developed three alternative convention options: 1) a fully in-person convention in San Diego, CA that is similar in most fundamental respects to the 39th Convention held in 2016; 2) a partially in-person, partially virtual convention, in which some delegates participate in-person at the Convention site and/or a satellite location, while other delegates participate virtually through an online platform; and 3) a fully virtual convention in which all delegates participate through an online platform.

Where we are today: the UA General Office is planning to proceed with a fully in-person Convention and we are sharing all options and information with the Canadian office in Ottawa. We are still ensuring that we have all the necessary arrangements in place should a partial or fully virtual convention be required.





Any decision to change our existing convention format can't reasonably be made until late spring/early summer 2021. We want to take all the data, trend lines and state and local government restrictions into consideration that will be available to us at that time.

You should continue as you otherwise would, in your preparations for the 40th General Convention. For example, your plans to elect delegates should proceed as scheduled and with the understanding that, while the ability of your delegates to attend the Convention in person could be impacted, the number of delegates elected to represent your affiliate will not change.

Moreover, the August 23, 2019 guidance on resolutions sent to you by General Secretary-Treasurer Kellett and me remains in full force and effect—with one notable exception: I am authorizing Local Unions that are unable to convene membership meetings in light of COVID-19 to approve Convention resolutions by majority vote of their Executive Board. Similarly, I am authorizing such State and Provincial Associations and other recognized and affiliated bodies (e.g., District Councils) to approve their resolutions by a majority vote of the delegates, a majority vote of the body's Executive Board, or, if there is no Executive Board, by a majority vote of its officers.

Additional details on our plans for the Fortieth General Convention will be provided in due course, including in the Official Convention Call, which will be mailed to you later this year and then published in the January 2021 UA Journal.

The pride and dedication of our members will be more evident than ever at our Fortieth General Convention. There is no doubt in my mind that however we must conduct our business next August, it will encompass the innovative spirit of this great organization. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to reach out to Assistant General President Pleasant.

Fraternally,

Mark McManus
General President

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cc: General Secretary-Treasurer Patrick H. Kellett
Assistant General President Michael A. Pleasant
General Executive Board
International and Special Representatives
Department Heads