

To the members of Local 290 from Business Manager Lou Christian

**Update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact**, August 15th, 2020

**Bylaws Vote Count:** The Bylaws Amendment for filling vacancies of some Officers was counted yesterday by the Election Committee. The results have been posted on the website. The Amendment passed with 499 yes and 86 no votes. [By-Laws Results 8-14-2020](#) The amendment was proposed at the December 20th, 2019 Union Meeting with 54 signatures of members attached. It was read and discussed at the January 17th Union Meeting. The vote was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to the Election Committee members Janet McCall - Chair, Marcie Wichman and Cesar Fernandez who conducted the count with our Auditor Tim Schiller and his staff member.

**Election Committee:** Are continuing to work on the process for our upcoming Officers' Election and UA Convention Delegate Election. [January 27th 2020](#) This is a very large undertaking with both Nominations and Elections happening at the same time. The COVID-19 pandemic has further complicated the process with restrictions on Membership meeting size imposed by three states our Local is part of. The committee is working through this with the guidance from the UA General President Mark Mcmanis and the General Executive Board. [June 19th 2020](#) [December elections](#), [Alternative Procedures for Nominations for December Elections](#), [McManus Letter](#)

**8-21-2020 Union Meeting Cancellations:** I sent a Cancellation and Information Meeting notice to the membership. The first Information Meeting to be held on the zoom webinar platform will be next Friday the 21st at 7:30 pm. The regular Membership Meetings are replaced with Informational Meetings until we can have regular Membership Meetings again. An email was sent out Friday with a registration link to register for the meeting and is on our website. [7-28-2020 Information Meeting Notice](#) In the meeting notice is information on how the Zoom program works and can be downloaded free of charge at [zoom](#) or the App Store. There are tutorials that show how the program works.

## **8-21-2020 Union Meeting Cancellations: Continued**

The best way to participate will be with a computer, laptop, tablet or a smartphone with an internet connection. You will need to have an internet connection to participate. Please register early. The registration period to attend the meeting will end 1/2 hour before the meeting to allow the Inside Guard to verify the members eligibility to attend. We want to start the meeting at 7:30 pm. A confirmation email will be sent after your registration is reviewed and accepted by the Inside Guard. This will contain the meeting ID needed to attend with a password. Each email will be registered for each member. If we have a registration shared with others it will be withdrawn from the meeting. This is to ensure the best we can, members who are eligible are in the meeting.

This meeting will be chaired by our President and Reports will be given. The finances and other sensitive details will not be presented in this meeting. We are following the UA recommendations on these security related issues. The finances are being reviewed by the Finance Committee and after their review I refer them to the Executive Board for their approval. These Finance Reports normally are reviewed at our Union Meetings and accepted by the body. These Eboard accepted reports are available to members who asked to receive them as was the past practice for Union Meeting Minutes and Finance Reports. These Finance Reports for the months of February through May were emailed out last week after requests were received and our Finance Committee, President and Vice President were consulted as to the best way to make this information available. The UA Guidance previously, was to present these to the members at the next regular Membership Meeting. [McManus Letter 7-28-2020](#) I and your Officers agree, this is the best practice for our members to receive the sensitive information before we can have regular Union Meetings again. Additional meeting information can be found at [ua290.org/meetings](http://ua290.org/meetings).

**Safe from Hate:** Meetings to address Job Site Culture continued to be held. This group formed as the result of a noose being found on the 4th and Montgomery job site in Portland by one of our apprentices. This breakdown in responding to this incident has brought a sharp focus on how this must be taken extremely urgency.

### **Safe from Hate: Continued**

Immediate response must be taken. It is not acceptable to take many weeks for the action of someone placing a hate symbol on a job to be addressed by all parties. All jobs should be free of hate. This group of Labor, Management, General Contractors and community members are working to change the culture and bring awareness to the construction industry. We have all said as part of the pledge to "... defend them when unjustly treated or slandered and cultivate for each and every member the warmest friendship and brotherly love."

**Local 290 Scholarships:** Notifications to recipients were emailed to all children and grandchildren by Tuesday this week. Once proof of enrollment is given the scholarships will be processed by the trust office and checks will be sent.

**A Large High-Tech job site in Hillsboro:** I walked the sustaining work with an Owner Rep, General Contractor and four of our Contractor Managers looking at how the COVID-19 safety measures are being implemented and the many ways the job site is adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic. The social distancing, face coverings, frequent cleaning, wipe down and awareness of those around us is being used to help control the virus threat. The members of the UA I saw while on this walk were 100% in compliance wearing face coverings. This shows that the UA can lead the way to work in the new reality this virus has caused. We are constantly working on ways to improve. We work in very difficult places and must be innovative to get the work done.

### **We are essential workers not expendable workers!**

We need to continue to take these practices home and use them in our daily lives to keep our families safe and when we return to work the next day or after the weekend to protect our brothers and sisters in the construction industry.

**PAC Committee:** Met today and we interviewed 13 candidates for Oregon State Legislative races this fall. I want to thank PAC Chair Randall Friesen Committee members Suzanne Scheans, Jeff McGillivray, Zory Hill and Russell Hill who gave up their Saturday to interview and educate these candidates who are running for State Representatives, their recommendations will be posted on our website in the near future.

**Training:** Job posting for the Registrar/COE Liaison was emailed to the membership Friday and posted on the Training Center website. I encourage all interested to apply.

Stay well and stay safe. I hope you can attend the Informational Meeting next Friday at 7:30 PM.

In Solidarity,

Lou A. Christian