

To the members of Local 290 from Business Manager Lou Christian

Update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact, August 8th, 2020

UA Convention Update: On Wednesday we received General President Mark McManus letter to all local unions providing an update on the UA 2021 Convention planning to ensure the convention scheduled for August 2021 is held regardless of COVID-19. The law requires these Conventions be held each five years. Several International Unions have had to hold their conventions this year. The UA is learning from them and preparing for our Convention. Three different plans are being prepared.

1. Full in-person regular convention in San Diego CA.
2. Partially in person, Partially Virtual, a combination of an onsite and online Convention.
3. Fully online.

The letter addresses Convention Resolutions that normally require a vote at a regular union meeting, can be passed and put forward by a majority vote of our Executive Board as noted in this letter. [McManus Letter](#)

Election Committee: The committee continues to work through the complicated process of our upcoming Local Officers, Delegates and MLA Wage Distribution vote complicated by COVID-19. The committee members are Janet McCall-chair, Marci Wichman and Cesar Fernandez.

COVID-19 Task Force: This Task Force continues to conduct on-site consultations with Oregon OSHA helping to gather and promote best practices for the construction industry. This group is made up of Building Trades, Contractor Associations, various General Contractors and Oregon OSHA. A new area of concern was discussed, Mini Shields and Transparent Face Masks are appearing and are not compliant with the guidance from Oregon Health Authority.

[OHA Face Shield Requirements pg. 2, 3rd bullet point](#)

[OHA FAQ pg. 1 Definitions Face Shields](#)

Samples of non-compliant face shields.

[Transparent Face Masks](#)

[Mouth Shield FaceMask](#)

[Ultra-light Clear BPA-free Mouth Shield/Anti-fog](#)

High-Tech: I will be walking a large High-Tech job site next week with Skanska to review COVID-19 safety measures. All the hard work keeping our members safe can be undone if we don't "Take it Home". We can best protect our coworker's, friends and family by following good Hygiene/ Hand Washing/ Hand Sanitizer, 6-Foot Distancing, Face Coverings and keep the Construction Industry Working.

Work continues to be very strong. Hiring is expected to continue for two to three more months or longer. If you can take advantage of the good times, build your insurance and pensions it helps when work slows. With this strong hiring, we will be looking at extending the Suspension of Benefits Waiver for our Local 290 Pension Plan at our next trust meeting this month.

There have been several very serious injuries on construction sites in the past several months, including one fatality last week. Please consider your safety and those around you! These accidents bring home how, in a blink of an eye an accident can change lives forever, please keep these workers in your thoughts and prayers!

In solidarity,

Lou A. Christian