

To the members of Local 290 from Business Manager Lou Christian Update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact, November 15/2020

**COVID-19 Update:** Governor Kate Brown is placing the state of Oregon in a freeze due to the COVID-19 infection rates surging. [Governor Kate Brown Announces Statewide Two-Week Freeze to Stop Rapid Spread of COVID-19](#) The freeze is starting November 18th and continuing to December 2nd. The Governor has also said Multnomah County will be held in this status two additional weeks due to the spike seen in this County. More Counties may be added if infection rates continue to climb or do not return to lower numbers. Social get-togethers both indoors and outdoors must be limited to no more than six people from two households. Oregon has been averaging over 1000 cases per day now with 5177 new cases in the past week. The previous week was 3500. Tragically 42 lives were lost last week, and the positive test percentage is 11.9% with 35,000 being tested. Friday 1067 new cases and sadly 7 deaths were reported. The statewide number is 54,937 positives with 753 deaths. Private social get-togethers will be limited to six people with two households. There is also a travel advisory now for Washington, Oregon and California [Oregon, Washington and California issue travel advisories](#) to quarantine for 14 days after travel in between these states. [Two Week Freeze Press Release](#) This does not apply to essential workers, which we are for work related travel.

Construction will continue. This is possible by all the efforts made to make construction sites safer by using the best practices, hand washing, cleaning frequently touched surfaces, social distancing, face coverings and designated travel paths to reduce close contact, reducing carpooling and many more best practices that have been developed on our job sites. These best practices have evolved overtime. Now mandatory face coverings have become a major part of keeping you and your coworkers safer. Some job sites are now sending workers home for not following repeated warnings to properly wear face coverings. Our largest High-Tech job site confirmed they are tracking workers who are repeatedly failing to properly wear face coverings. These workers will be asked to leave the job site. This key best practice to protect our coworkers and ourselves is to wear a face covering, the Governor has mandated face coverings in public and now at home with social gatherings limited to six people and two households. [Oregon Face Covering Requirements](#). If we can continue to have far lower infection rates for Covid-19 positive cases then the state is experiencing this will help to keep us working on construction. At this week's meeting with the High-Tech owners the trend is rising, but still significantly lower than the states rate. Our jobs depend on all construction workers following the best practices to prevent the spread of this virus. Please protect your brothers and sisters on the job by following these best practices on the job and off. The increase in infection rates, if we don't flatten the curve this can cause construction in Oregon to stop! Please encourage your coworkers and other crafts to follow the best practices to keep our job sites open and keep us working. The UA will continue to lead the way!

The pause and now the freeze doesn't affect essential workers. Our lobbyists have confirmed that with the Governor's office.

**COVID-19:** The Oregon pause this is placing restrictions on work in our offices we will be complying to reduce possible infections this means the office will remain closed. We are working with minimal staff and many working remotely. We can take care of most of the needs of our members through the Phone, Internet, or Mail. If something must be done in person an appointment can be made. We require face coverings, signing in, temperature scans and successfully completing a health survey for admittance. The pause is requiring more procedures and processes to be implemented.

**Meeting Update:** We are still planning for the Eboard and Informational Meetings next week to go on as planned using zoom. [Register Here](#). Go to the meeting section of our website to pre-register for the information union meeting which is this next Friday at 7:30 PM. At the meeting I will be reviewing the Trustees distribution recommendation for the Master Labor Agreement raise that will be effective on 4/1/21. This was previously mailed to the membership. At this meeting we will be listening to the members comments on the recommendation. The recommendation will be in place until the membership can meet at a regular or specially called meeting to vote whether to continue the Trustee's recommendation or change it going forward as the guidance from the UA outlines that was mailed with the distribution recommendation to the members. At the information meeting I will be reporting on our extremely healthy Pension plan, our Health and Welfare plan, Pre-Paid Retiree Medical trust.

The Pension Plan through September had a 4 1/2% return for the year this return would take us from 105% to 106% funded if that 4 1/2% was the number at the end of the year. We received an update at the trust meeting that the estimate as of November 6th the plan had approximately a 9% return for the year double what we just looked at. The number is great news but remember the number that we have to use for the plan is from the year end which will be 12/31/20. So we will continue to monitor our investments in this volatile time.

Our Health and Welfare continues to be well funded and the COVID-19 effects have limited the medical access that our members can use. The lower costs because of limited access have created increases in the unassigned assets to give us 16.65 months of unassigned reserves. This is why we don't need additional money from the raise to go into this plan.

The Pre-Paid Retiree Medical Trust continues to see high costs for Pre-Medicare Participants we are making adjustments to the plan to make sure that the plan is picking up the costs incurred by this group, at the end of the year the cost in excess of the projected numbers will be trued up at a time set at the end of the year. This will make sure that we are fully paying the retiree medical costs with this plan when costs spike. In the past the active members have shouldered this subsidy. The new 2021 medical rates for both active and retiree are being finalized and I hope to be able to present them at the Information Meeting.

**Election Update:** We will be receiving an update from the PAC committee on the general elections at the Information Meeting. Randall Friesen will be reviewing the election outcomes. Thank you to the pack committee for their hard work

**Officers and UA Convention:** The ballots mailed last Friday and you should be receiving those soon.

**The Building Association:** This summer repainting the sign at that Tualatin Building was approved. This has been repainted and now represents the four Apprenticeships we have. The colors are similar to the original sign when completed and displayed at the Local 235 Union Hall on Holman Street in the early 70's.

New Look.

Prior to new paint.



