



PLUMBERS LOCAL 75

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April 28, 2020

Brothers and Sisters,

Due the current extension of the “Safer at Home” guidelines our April 28, 2020 membership meeting is cancelled.

We are however planning to hold our Local Union Officer Election and wage package allocation meeting the week of our regularly scheduled May 26th membership meeting. Please watch for a membership meeting notice in the mail informing members of the dates, times and procedures that we will plan to employ to accomplish our business. *With so many unknowns and variables regarding in person meetings, our best laid plans may be deemed unsafe or inappropriate to meet our needs for our May meeting schedule.*

Our plan is to hold our officer election and wage package allocation as safe, informative, open and interactive as possible in compliance with the mass gathering and social distancing requirements of the day.

The current work situation for us as essential workers remains steady. In the Milwaukee area our contractors remain busy and cautiously optimistic. Our Madison area contractors are experiencing more of a work slow down. With the uncertainty in the economy, our contractors are running up against much tighter bid numbers from our non – signatory competitors. At this time, we have less than 25 members on our out of work list. Our March member hours worked are up 9% from March 2019. April 2020 work hours will likely not hold that upward trend. We are aware of some members working short weeks and some that are waiting for work to pick back up for their current employer. Many parts of the country have experienced a greater impact of the COVID – 19 Pandemic. Many UA Locals are experiencing high unemployment. Many UA Locals in our eastern states are getting hit with serious unemployment ranging from 40% – 90% of their members. The Pandemic is of great and global concern, we are fortunate that the pandemic has not hit us as hard as in many other parts of our country. As of last Friday, April 24th, between the 8 UA Local Unions in Wisconsin we are aware of 2 UA Members that have contracted the Coronavirus in Wisconsin. We are aware that one of our Local 75 members is diagnosed, hospitalized and being treated for COVID -19. Please keep these members in your thoughts as they battle this cruel virus.

We have been in communication and coordination with our Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association of Milwaukee and SE WI and the Mechanical Contractors Association of Wisconsin. We have jointly developed some agreed upon jobsite safety and sanitation protocols. These protocols are a guideline that will work if we honestly communicate deficiencies and continue to develop best practices in jobsite safety and sanitation practices. PPE is becoming more readily available. These protocols have been developed, approved and accepted by our UA Locals and Contractors Associations. It is important for our health and our ability to remain working that they are adhered to. If you are having issues with

Business Manager
Steve Breitlow



getting proper PPE and/or have other safety concerns on your jobsite, please notify your immediate supervisor and/or contact one of our Business Agents. Issues and concerns can best be addressed if you send an email to us with the name of the General Contractor, your immediate supervisor and a description of the issue at hand. If the issue is of eminent danger, go to a safe place and call one of our agents.

There are many factors that play into the spread, mortality and duration of this pandemic. Until there is more available testing, a vaccine or an effective treatment for COVID – 19 our risk and consequence of exposure and contraction of the Coronavirus is a serious concern. Other related factors and fears of the pandemic outside of the physical health and safety of humans are being brought more front and center. Everything and everyone matters in some way to our economy. Public policy and governance to balance business operations, jobs, schooling and public health and safety have never been more challenging. The act of just going to work every day or going to the grocery store have never been so unsettling. These are challenging times at best. Being smart, safe and thoughtful are attributes that need to be applied every day on every action on jobsites with new meaning and serious ramifications if not practiced. Please take every precaution to protect yourself and your co – workers as we work through this period of uncertainty and as our scientists and medical professionals strive to effectively test, treat and develop a vaccine for this terrible virus.

Be smart and stay safe,

Steve