April 1, 2020

Brothers and Sisters,

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Union Hall has been closed to non-essential personnel. Office staff only at this point. The Office Staff for Local 119 has been taking this issue seriously, and has been looking for ways we can keep our members informed in this unusual circumstance.

Here are a few of the changes that are being instituted while we deal with the pandemic

The Office Staff for Local 119 has begun to work remotely. However, for now, there will be one person at the Hall each day.

You can still get in touch with anyone in the office by calling the Hall and following the prompts in the menu. When you make your selection, you will be automatically forwarded to that person’s direct line. Please listen to the menu carefully as the options have changed.

The Hall doors will stay locked throughout the day. No non-essential personnel will be allowed in. If for any reason you should have to come to the Hall, please ring the doorbell located to the left of the glass doors.

If you are laid off and need to get on the books, you can now do that without coming by the Hall. Please email a copy or picture of your separation notice to dispatch@ualocal119.org. You will be put on the books by the time stamp on the email.

As information becomes available, we will try to get that info out as best as possible. Our first option is always our website. Visit ualocal119.org for all of the latest news and updates. There is already information on there, and we will continue to post any new information we get.

The easiest way to reach out to each member individually is through the text option in our operating system. When you receive them, they will come in from a strange number, 797979. Please let us know here at the hall if you are not receiving these messages. We have sent out several texts to all members in the last week, so if you have not been getting them, please contact someone in the office to see if we can get that corrected.

We also need to make sure we have good contact information on everyone. Please make sure we have up to date phone number, address, and email address on you by calling in and speaking to someone, or email that information to 119p@bellsouth.net.
We are also working on an addendum to our call out procedures to allow for call outs during this pandemic. We cannot have our members coming to the hall and being in close contact with others due to guidelines set by the CDC and the UA. The Staff and the Executive Board are working on that now, and should have those guidelines out to the membership very soon.

There has already been guidance put out by the UA and the Training Department on upcoming events. The 2020 Apprentice Contest has been cancelled. All locals that have upcoming negotiations (as we do) have been told to reschedule and push those dates back. If you were signed up for any Regional Training Courses, please check your email for updates as those are changing quickly.

Your Office Staff and I would like for you to know that just because we are working remotely does not mean that your business is not being conducted. To the very best of our ability, all business is being run normally.

Please bear with us as we make this transition, and we will get through this together and come out the other side stronger together.

Office Staff contact info

Business Manager, Eddie Sellew- bm@ualocal119.org
Dispatcher, Sam Bankester- dispatch@ualocal119.org
Office Manager, Brianne Vandegrift- brianne@ualocal119.org
Training Coordinator, Mark (Mullet) Burnett- tc@ualocal119.org

Please feel free to reach out to any one of us on the phone or through email

Sincerely,

[Signature]

UA Local 119
Business Manager