

UA Local 190

Plumbers - Pipefitters - Service Technicians - Gas Distribution

of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the plumbing and pipefitting industry of the United States and Canada



Randall Whitaker

*Business Manager
Financial Secretary*

03/25/2020

Here is the transcript of the phone message that was sent out Wednesday, March 25th:

Good afternoon Brothers & Sisters, this is Business Manager Randall Whitaker.

The events that have unfolded in the last few weeks are something that none of us could have predicted. I have been trying to gather as much information as I can to help keep all of you informed but as you all know, this information has been changing almost by the hour.

First off, I want everyone to know that the union hall will remain open but is closed to all foot traffic so please call instead. The benefits office will remain open as well and will continue to handle the needs of the membership. The April union meeting is cancelled, along with the gas distribution meeting scheduled for April. The training center will remain closed through at least the middle of April, but we are working on getting our on-line training up and running.

Anyone that has been laid off during this outbreak, be sure to call the hall and let Karen or Melissa know. Due to the call volume, if no one answers, please leave a message, they will receive it. When signing up for unemployment, the most efficient way to do so is online and just know that the deadline to file has been extended. The links for the unemployment website can found under the Top News section of the Local 190 website which is ua190.org

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There are a lot of questions out there regarding the Executive Order by Governor Whitmer about what identifies an essential critical infrastructure worker. Service, gas distribution, and nuclear work have been recognized as critical infrastructure work but as of now, there isn't a definitive answer on new construction so it's up to the end users and contractors to decide what work is essential critical infrastructure work and what is not. The bottom line is this, if you are currently working and are comfortable doing so, then continue to work. If you are currently working and not comfortable doing so, ask for a clean lay-off. **DO NOT QUIT, DO NOT DRAG.** Let me repeat that, **DO NOT QUIT, DO NOT DRAG.** If you do, you will not qualify for possible benefits as it relates to the Families First Care Act. I will have a link on the website, which is ua190.org, so that anyone interested can view it. Any member that asks for lay-off due to the virus outbreak and is not given one, call me or one of your BA's about the issue before you quit.

Gas Distribution work in Michigan and Ohio, apart from DTE, has continued up to this point.

There will be temporary benefit changes coming that include waiving the \$100.00 self-payment to continue Health Insurance for members that work less than 100 hours in the month of April. Correspondence will be sent to all of you highlighting these temporary benefit changes near the end of this week.

Brothers and Sisters, tough decisions will need to be made in the coming weeks, but I want to reassure all of you that these decisions will be made in the best interest of this Local Union. Now, as much as ever, we need to continue to be a Brother and Sisterhood and when the time comes, help our communities, contractors and this great state to get back on its feet and show everyone why we cannot be broken.

Thank you, Brothers and Sisters, and please stay safe

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