

# Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters



*Affiliated with the  
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America*



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April 2, 2020

TO: All Local Unions Affiliated with PNWRCC  
FROM: Evelyn Shapiro, EST, PNWRCC  
RE: Local Union Meeting Cancellations and Council Updates



Brothers and Sisters,

## Meeting Cancellations

To alleviate the overwhelming requests being sent into the General President's office, the Council will be collecting all requests for dispensation for any cancelled Local Union meetings or Local Executive Committee meetings and will group all together to send in as one request to the UBC. Please submit those requests to Dani Plong [ESToffice@nwcarpenters.org](mailto:ESToffice@nwcarpenters.org) by April 7<sup>th</sup>, even if it is a retroactive request. At this time, we are only looking for cancellation dispensation requests for April and March (March cancellation requests would be retroactive due to highly unusual circumstances).

The Council will again offer the use of our Mix 20/20 Robo Dial to send out messages to local members advising them that you are cancelling your next meeting. Communication via the hustle texting app is also available. Please have the local president contact our Communications and Education Director, Ben Basom, via email at [bbasom@nwcarpenters.org](mailto:bbasom@nwcarpenters.org) to make arrangements on either communication assistance.

Please continue to follow the advice and recommendations as outlined on the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Page](#) and your state's Health Department website so that you, your administrative staff, and your co-workers remain healthy.

## Council Operations Update

Council staff have continued to rotate between working at council offices and working from home to reduce exposure to themselves and the community. We've had few to no walk-ins at the Council offices and will be reducing in-person staffing further next week and focusing on remote services by phone and email. While we have members on the jobsites, we'll have representatives in the field. Council representatives continue to make job site visits, prioritizing union jobsites, and staff also continue to take calls from members, as well as proactively reaching out to members over age 65.

## Communications

We have communicated with members most heavily by social media and text alerts when there have been changes, updates, or information to share. Our text alerts go out to several thousand members. If you are not receiving those messages, text "organize" to 91990. Council staff receive

daily updates so that they can best serve our membership. If you have more ideas on expanding our direct member communications and ways to strengthen our Union Carpenter Community please send them to: [comms@nwcarpenters.org](mailto:comms@nwcarpenters.org)

Our Council website [www.nwcarpenters.org](http://www.nwcarpenters.org) COVID-19 page is a centralized resource for members. It houses information on updated legislation, communications, benefits, and policies affecting our members. We also have a COVID-19 response line and email address for members' concerns about jobsite safety and health related to COVID-19: **877-284-7936** or [COVID19@nwcarpenters.org](mailto:COVID19@nwcarpenters.org) It is crucial that we know about unsafe jobsite practices related to COVID-19 so that we can either advocate for better safety practices or encourage the sites to shut down. **Member safety is number one.**

The health of our members, member families, and communities is the most important factor in COVID-19 response. **Any decisions made must centralize safety and health.** The Council is in frequent collaboration with the UBC, other councils, unions, and community groups to best respond to this crisis. Our staff is also working closely with legislators and agencies to advocate for short term and long-term solutions for our members whose jobs have been affected by COVID-19.

We are facing unprecedented times and forced to navigate uncharted territory. People are scared and developments are coming fast. These events could have the effect of dividing us or slowing down our mission to build solid careers, safe workplaces, strong benefits, and dignified retirements for working people, but I believe that **together we will get through this and come out even stronger together.**

In service,



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