



March 16, 2020

**RE: APRIL 1, 2020 MEETING CANCELLATION AND RESCHEDULING OF THE COMMERCIAL METRO ALLOCATION MEETING DUE TO COVID-19**

Dear Member,

I am sending this letter out as a notice that our **April 1, 2020 Union meeting is cancelled**. Local 539 had previously sent out a Notice for Allocations to happen at this meeting.

**The new date for the Metro Allocation Meeting will be May 6, 2020.** This date is subject to change depending on where things go. If it does change again there will be notification sent out from this office.

I have made this decision based on information I have received from the Center for Disease Control, the United Association General Office and the Building Trades Offices. The Residential Contract Allocations for April 7, 2020 and the St. Cloud Contract Vote (and allocations if ratified) for April 30, 2020 are still scheduled as planned. I have discussed this with the Contractor Associations who have agreed that the raise will be paid retro actively. Please check our website and look for mailings on any future changes if needed.

I am also sure you are aware that Governor Tim Walz has shut down our public schools until March 30, 2020. Our Apprenticeship Policy on school closures is that we have school unless the Governor shuts down the public schools. Since this has been done our school will be closed for that time period as well. The Training Director along with the school staff is working on issues and ideas on how to complete this year of training

I have been receiving a number of calls from members and employers regarding COVID-19. If you are showing symptoms of illness, it is best to stay home and not risk infecting others. If the symptoms are severe, please contact a medical professional for advice and possible testing. As we are in prime flu season, there are things you can do to protect yourself and others from coronavirus and other contagious illnesses.

- **Wash your hands frequently.** Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with 60% alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and warm water for 10-20 seconds.
- **Maintain social distance.** Maintain at least 3 feet of distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.

- **Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth.** Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and make you sick.
- **Practice respiratory hygiene.** Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the tissue immediately.
- **If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early.** If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, you should stay home and seek medical attention. Follow the directions of your local health authority.
- **Minimize Contact with others.** Avoid handshaking. Use a fist bump or elbow bump, if necessary, to politely greet others.

You can find up-to-date facts and information regarding coronavirus and other illnesses on the following websites:

- CDC (Center for Disease Control) [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
- WHO (World Health Organizations) [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

I have directed the Business Agents to work from their offices until further notice to prevent them from undo exposure. They will still be available and can come out to jobsites if there is a need for it.

In closing, the Officers and Staff of Local 539 wish for your safety and ask that you please take whatever precautions you feel necessary for the safety of yourself and your families.

Fraternally yours,



**Russell J. Scherber**  
**Business Manager**