March 19, 2020

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 7

TO: ALL OPCMIA STATE AND PROVINCIAL CONFERENCES, DISTRICT COUNCILS AND LOCAL UNIONS

FROM: GENERAL PRESIDENT DANIEL E. STEPANO

RE: MEETINGS OF LOCAL UNIONS, DISTRICT COUNCILS AND STATE/PROVINCIAL CONFERENCES DURING THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Dear Sister and Brother Members:

As you know, the United States and Canada are confronting the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. One significant measure that state/provincial governments and local governments have taken is to impose restrictions on the number of people who can gather at any one place at any time. These restrictions on mass gatherings vary in type and from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. They also differ in terms of their length, from just a couple weeks to several weeks.

All of these restrictions affect the ability of our Local Unions, District Councils and State/Provincial Conferences to conduct their business, including the holding of executive board meetings, along with regular and special-called membership meetings. The International Association has received questions from affiliates about whether meetings should be held in light of the restrictions.

If a Local Union, District Council or State/Provincial Conference has the ability to conduct meetings online, then it should continue to hold its meetings. There are a wide range of providers – including Zoom.com, GoToMeeting, Cisco WebEx, Skype, Google Hangouts, and others – whereby a Local Union can conduct a meeting over the Internet. Some of these services are free, others require a monthly fee. Many of these applications can be used on a laptop, iPad or tablet, or a smart phone.

If a Local Union, District Council, or State/Provincial Conference does not have the ability to conduct meetings online, then it is strongly encouraged that the affiliate at least conduct its executive board meetings by conference call. This would enable the leadership of the Local...
Union to remain in communication and take any necessary actions in response to changing circumstances in turbulent times.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Administrative Assistant to the General President assigned to your area.

Fraternally yours,

[Signature]

Daniel E. Stepano
General President

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cc: All International Officers