



International Union of Operating Engineers

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

October 31, 2020

To All Local Union Business Managers:

As the winter months are approaching, many of our Local Unions are anticipating holding their regularly scheduled Semi-Annual General Membership meetings. In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, I feel it necessary to reissue the guidance I provided to Locals in my email of March 16, 2020. This is intended as a reminder of the International Union's position with respect to this matter, and to provide further clarity. That email is provided directly below in its entirety, and in pertinent part states therein:

“(T)he International Union encourages all Local Unions to comply with their state and local governments’ restrictions, and take necessary measures to prevent putting members at risk. In this regard, please be advised that each Local Union is authorized to postpone any upcoming Membership Meetings, as the Local’s Business Manager deems necessary. For Local Unions operating under a District Form of Government, this means that the Semi-Annual General Membership Meeting and quarterly district meetings may be postponed, if deemed necessary by the Business Manager.

Please be advised that the International’s guidance with respect to this matter remains in effect and unchanged in its entirety. Locals are still permitted to postpone membership meetings, as deemed necessary by the Business Manager. In addition, you are further advised that the International Constitution does not provide for membership meetings to be held by tele-conference or other means besides in-person meetings.

As well, the International Union is aware that several Locals have found success in conducting membership meetings by moving them to large outdoor venues such as sports stadiums or member training sites. It is reported that this approach has afforded full membership participation while remaining compliant with state and local requirements on social distancing and crowd sizes. It is understood that such options may not be possible for all Locals, and the decision to explore similar solutions or continue to postpone meetings is the individual choice of the Business Manager.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, or related issues not addressed by this email, you are encouraged to contact Andrew Bucci, Associate General Counsel, at 202.778.2632, or at abucci@iuoe.org.

Fraternally,

James T. Callahan
General President

JTC:as

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