



LIUNA!

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL OFFICE

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April 13, 2020

TO: Every Local, Council, Training Fund, LECET, LMCC and every
Affiliate in the Great Lakes Region

RE: Thank You

Dear Sir and Brother:

These past few weeks have been uncharted territory for our organization, our country, and our families. The course ahead is not yet clear, and guidelines and recommendations change by the minute. What has been clear from the start however, is that both our members and their local leaders have performed admirably in these trying times, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for the jobs you are doing.

I must first say thank you to all of our Locals, District Councils, Organizers, Trainers and all affiliated Funds. But I especially and enthusiastically want to say thank you to all of our members, whether they work in construction, road building, industrial, environmental, the public sector or elsewhere. Every day these members put themselves and their families at risk by performing vital services, work that is often overlooked in everyday life, but is truly essential to maintaining a civilized life at home for the general public.

Feel the Power



Our Public Employee members maintain the water infrastructure that allows people to have access to clean drinking water, and collect the refuse from people's homes, making sure that home can be a habitable place.

Across our 5 states, Laborers are maintaining the sewer systems that move waste out of people's homes, keeping gas lines running to ensure people have heat in their homes, working at power plants that generate the energy needed to run this country, even when others are told to stay home. Laborers are building and maintaining our roads and infrastructure to ensure that people and products can safely reach their destination. Laborers are on the front lines with industrial and environmental cleaning companies that make sure the virus does not spread in workplaces. They are at work in the manufacturing and industrial sectors ensuring that our supply chains stay functional. They are making sure building work is still performed safely, and they are retrofitting factories to make sure the needs of this country are met during this crisis. These laborers are heroes. At a time when most of the country is being told to stay home, that their work is "non-essential", our government and communities are looking to the Laborers, among many other skilled union workers, to make sure essential services continue uninterrupted.

Unfortunately, this does not mean that our members have not felt the devastating effects of this virus as it spreads across the country and across the globe.

Projects have been sidelined because there is no way to perform the work safely. Members have lost their jobs because of the economic uncertainty brought about from this virus. And worst of all, the virus has struck many of our members and members of their families. Although it feels like we have been dealing with this situation for months, the reality is we have a long way to go before things are back to normal.

If there is a silver lining to all of this, it is that I have seen Locals, District Councils and other leaders stepping up in incredible ways to make sure our members stay informed and stay protected on the jobsite. General President Terry O'Sullivan has fought each and every day to make sure that Congress knows that the men and women of the union are what keep this country running, and need to have their voices heard and their needs met by their elected officials. It is more important than ever to make sure our membership has a voice at the jobsite, and that they know that every reasonable precaution is being taken to make sure they are treated fairly and safely.

For those who have lost their jobs, Councils are informing their leadership about how to navigate an increasingly complex and overburdened unemployment insurance system.

We have been maintaining lines of communication with state and local governments across our Region, making sure they understand the vital work that we do. COVID-19 has hit parts of Michigan, Detroit specifically with unsparing cruelty. The City of Chicago has seen drastic surges in cases as well, and truly no corner of this Region will be left untouched by the devastating effects of this virus. Although it is important to keep everyone informed during these uncertain times, we cannot answer every question a member may have, as much of this is new to everyone. Not every question has a certain answer. My staff at the Great Lakes Regional Office throughout this time has been working diligently along with the leadership across all 5 of our states, to communicate with each and every one of you, and providing you with the resources you expect and need.

Each District Council, along with the International, has updated their websites to include important and up to date COVID resources and information for our members and their families, with District Council pages giving local area specific information.

I encourage you to read up on these resources so that you have the information handy when a member asks.

<https://www.liuna.org/covid-19-resources>

<https://wilaborers.org/covid-19-resources>

<https://www.liunaminnesota.org/COVID19>

<https://www.mi-laborers.org/covid19>

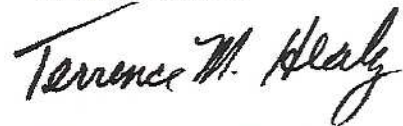
<https://www.liunachicago.org/coronavirus-updates>

I again would like to thank the leadership at all of our Locals, District Councils and affiliated funds for stepping up and contributing when needed. The health and safety of our membership has always been our top priority. In times like these, I think about a quote I read long ago; "The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails." Today, on Monday April 13, 2020 our organization will enter the 117th year of it's existence. We have made it this far by adjusting the sails, through boom times and bust. Our challenges today are unique, but we will come out of this united as one.

If you have any questions regarding these issues, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you all, stay safe, stay strong and stay united

With kind regards, I remain

Fraternally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terrence M. Healy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end of the name.

TERRENCE M. HEALY
Vice President and
Regional Manager

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Enclosures