



SMART Local #55 Update

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2020

Special points of interest:

- May Meetings
- Wage Allocation & Health Care Costs
- NW Regional Council Formation
- Boise area Negotiations.
- **Update Your Contact Information**

<https://www.smw55.org/update>

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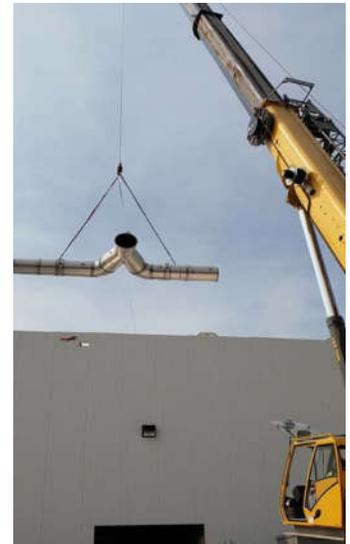
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SMART #55 Business Manager– Kolby Hanson

COVID-19 Impact: As we all well know the COVID virus has impacted each of our lives some how. Including the ability to conduct union meetings and normal communications with our membership. So I would like to use this Newsletter as a resource to update membership.

May Meetings: We all hope the “Stay Home” orders are lifted in time for local #55 to have regular union meetings in May. It would be ideal for the business of wage allocation to be conducted in May so we can update wage sheets as required for June 1st. And give updates on the NW Regional Council (more on this later).

Wage Allocation and Health and Welfare: If necessitated by the COVID-19 restrictions on public meetings we will have to default the 2020 wage increases onto the taxable rate for the time being. Thereby, postponing an actual wage allocation meeting (special order of business) until the restrictions are lifted. The next part in this equation is the NW Sheet Metal Health Care Plan (H/W). The Trustees met earlier this month trying to decide what increases if any would be determined. Due to the down turn of work hours the Trustees and plan consultant thought to defer any decision on funding until May 26th after the full impact of March, April & May hours can be reviewed. The hope is that the spike in unemployment is short term with normal work hours resuming sooner than later. The Trustees are doing their best to be mindful of making an accurate calculation on H/W needs. Without burning down the plans reserves which membership has built up over the past 3 years. Nor raising plan costs that would not be needed. In summary, this would mean that any H/W increase or wage allocation would not go into effect until later this summer. In the short term at least any negotiated wage increase would go onto the taxable rate.



N.W. Regional Council Formation as per General President Sellers

The COVID-19 virus cut short our ability to hold regular March & April meetings where our International Representative John Christiansen was scheduled to visit and speak on the creation of the NWRC. When COVID-19 & Travel restrictions are lifted we will work to get John scheduled at local #55 meetings.

Just to review, the letter we were all sent from General President Sellers on February 18th along with a copy of the new SMART Constitution & Ritual; he announced the creation of the NW Regional Council of SMART. Consisting locals 16, 23, 55, 66 & 103. At the February: Pasco, Lewiston, Spokane & March Boise meetings we were able to highlight the council and its initial start date of June 1, 2020. A link to this letter and draft by-laws was posted in March and can be found on the local #55 web site www.smw55.org and logging into the member only section. The council is on track for June 1, start as there have been several planning meetings underway amongst the Business Managers and Executive Committee members.

**Union Wages
and Benefits
are Family
Values**



Recent pick in Boise area.



Hayden Idaho

SMART #55 Pasco Representative Sean VanPelt

Work in the Tri-City area has been fairly steady during this COVID-19 virus break out. Moving into May the work load is picking up with calls for HVAC and Architectural.

The COVID virus impacted the VIT Plant and work force going into a state of minimum safe. The Central Washington Building Trades Council was very active to secure payroll protection for workers of the prime and sub contractors. Funding was helped secured by the efforts of Senate and Congress-

sional representatives; Senators Maria Cantwell & Patty Murray and Congressman Dan Newhouse.

Looking forward this summer Total Energy has large book or work. Kollmar, Leslie & Campbell remain busy. Data centers look to be steady source of work hours.

We also expect food processing to pick up some as well. Even though the McCain's plant expansion in Othello has been put on hold.

Its safe to assume that what work was pushed back this spring will create a rush for late 2020.

Just a reminder we are in year three (3) of our cba with the slated increase of \$2.75

If you have not updated your contact information in awhile please call the office or leave a message with your updated phone number and e-mail.

Fraternally,
Sean Van Pelt

SMART #55 Boise Business Representative JR Finlay

Currently in the Boise area work has remained busy with near full employment. We have had minimal shut downs or delays of current projects and new projects continue to be on the up for bidding.

Building Trades Contract— We met with the steering committee on March 5, 2020 and again on March 12, 2020.

Since then the Negotiating Committee has met a multiple

times and we plan to continue moving forward with normal time lines as much as possible.

Production— We were able to negotiate and ratify one agreement this year.

Unfortunately, negotiations have been paused midstream on the 2nd Production agreement. We hope to continue and complete negotiations as soon as possible when compa-

ny corporate officials are able to travel. Stay healthy and be safe.

Fraternally,
JR Finlay
Local 55
Business Representative

SMART #55 Spokane Representative John Little

There are currently 8 journeymen available in the Spokane area which is 2 fewer than last month. Several of the projects which shut down due to the Covid-19 pandemic have resumed construction. Total Energy hired several journeymen and apprentices recently for ongoing school projects in Colfax and Brewster. Hurliman Heating also has hired multiple hands for upcoming work. So far there is one larger prevailing wage project out

for bid this month which is a library in Okanogan. June 1st will begin the final year of our current 3-year contract which includes a \$1.75 increase to the total package. If our membership meeting is cancelled again in May, the entire increase will be added to the base wage until an allocation vote can be held at a near future membership meeting. Although our office remains closed due to the virus, I am always available by phone to answer any questions

you may have. My cell number is 509-995-3304.

Fraternally,
John Little, Spokane Business Representative

Spokane Organizer Brian Walter

Just as we are about to get into the busy season with winter coming to an end we get hit with stay at home orders due to the COVID-19. As construction workers in the commercial, industrial and service industries deemed “essential workers” we have not seen as much of an impact for our members here locally.

With our offices closed to the public and work beginning to pickup, it will be challenging to recruit new apprentices while maintaining social distancing.

We have been receiving lots of requests for Nose Clips from individuals sewing masks and donating them. I want to give a big thanks to our JATCs for the help in not only cutting them but also delivering and shipping them.

It is a crazy scenario out there and everyone’s health is important and remembering that each individuals situation is unique and the important thing is to stay safe.



Brother Josh Graeber helping deliver nose clips in the Action Van.

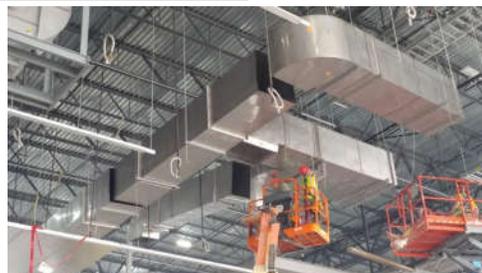
Boise Organizer Jeremy Treat

With all of the stay at home orders and jobsite tightening up I am currently not doing jobsite visits for precautions. With that being said I would like to ask all members working on jobsite with union and non-union worker on them to let the organizer know what’s going on at your jobsites or the location of a non union jobsite. We are all organizers. We have the new digital campaign out so if you see the videos let us know. We have been working

on community out reach and calling member to check up on how everyone is weathering the storm. The local CLC could us donations for the food bank and even other local food banks have shortages too.

Remember we are a brotherhood lets respect each other and keep our friend and family safe with good practices.

Thanks for letting me serve.



Boise Youth to Youth 2020
And members working in the field.

Pasco Organizer Scott Hart

Brothers & Sisters:
Hope you are all healthy and taking care of you and family in this time of COVID-19 Pandemic. Since we have been in Stay Home position, I have been reaching out to members by phone to relay the message about our Website and Covid-19 information to members. I am currently working on that list.

So far this month we have been working with the officers & JATC on making Nose Clips for the masks. We have cut out about 25,000 pieces and have distributed them to the groups and individuals making the masks. I still am taking calls from non-union workers. Our outreach efforts continue and I keep coordination with Sean Van Pelt and the JATC to grow our union.



Brother Andrew Cook –with the JATC shearing out nose clips for the masks.

**SMART
SHEET METAL
WORKERS
LOCAL #55**

1718 W, Sylvester St
Pasco, WA
99301

www.smw55.org

Phone Pasco: 509-542-8700
Spokane: 509-922-1232
Boise: 208-362-5303

Visit www.smw55.org

Union Wages & Benefits Are Family Values

During the COVID-19 outbreak local #55 offices are being staffed on a limited basis. If you do call an area office messages are check each day and someone will return your call. To reach and Agent or Organizer please call them directly on their cell phone.

Pasco Rep: Sean VanPelt 509-952-7144

Pasco Organizer: Scott Hart 509-792-4259

Boise Rep: JR Finlay 208-995-4305

Boise Organizer: Jeremy Treat 208-971-0115

Spokane Rep: John Little 509-995-3304

Spokane Organizer: Brian Walter 509-919-0062

Business Manager: Kolby Hanson 509-590-6958

**Please help us by updating your contact information
by visiting the link below.**

<https://www.smw55.org/update>

SMART #55 Volunteers with other locals to produce nose clips for COVID-19 Facemasks

In April SMART International and locals around the country were asked to help produce aluminum nose clips for use in face masks to help in the effort against the Corona Virus outbreak.

Local #55 received requests from individuals and sewing groups from around our jurisdiction. We were able to produce and deliver thousands of 3003 Aluminum nose clips going to Eastern Washington, North Idaho and the Boise SW Idaho areas.

