



SMART Local #55 Update

Volume I Issue II

June 2020

Special points of interest:

- June Meetings
- Wage Allocation & Health Care Costs
- NW Regional Council/ 55 meetings
- Boise area Negotiations.
- **Update Your Contact Information**

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

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SMART #55 Business Manager– Kolby Hanson

COVID-19 Impact on June Meetings:

Unless restrictions are reversed we will plan on having Local #55 membership meetings to extent we can safely hold them. Limited to under 50 people are the guidelines at this time for Washington & Idaho. I remain hopeful that we will be able to hold allocation meetings in July. As reported last month the contractual wage increases will go on the taxable rate of the check on June 1st, until such allocation meetings can occur. We learned on May 26th the plan increase will be \$.30 for Plan A & \$.025 for Plan B. Extended Benefits \$0.01

Please note some changes to the regular scheduled June Meetings; Boise June 10, Spokane June 23rd, Lewiston June 24th & Pasco June 25th. Please note that the Spokane, Lewiston & Pasco meetings are pushed back one week from normal. *Covid restrictions apply

***Boise Special Contract Ratification meeting 6/8/20 6pm.**

Northwest Regional Council (NWRC) of SMART: Regretfully, the news of the NW Regional Council came out just as the COVID-19 virus broke out. We will have International Representative John Christiansen attend our June meetings. Council President Tim Carter and FST Dennis Katsel will also attend and make introduction.

Since this will be the first meeting of the newly created NWRC it will largely be an informational meeting.

Again, I want to stress that we will have a normal allocation meeting hopefully in July. Along with our normal membership schedule.

There will continue to be updates and any new information on the www.smw55.org Fraternaly, Kolby Hanson



Health Care Update for August 1st 2020 Increases
Plan A- \$.30
Plan B- \$.025
Extended Benefits \$0.01

SMART #55 President Bill Palmer message to members

To all SMW Local 55 Members, Officers, Organizers & Staff.

As we finish this chapter of local 55 and prepare for the new Regional Council, I'd like to express my gratitude to the members of the local for the privilege of serving for the past 10 years. It has been a privilege to serve as your Trustee, E Board member and President and I can look back with great satisfaction on what we have accomplished. We have all built this local from one that was said wouldn't survive one year to the financially sound strong local we are now. It has been a great experience to work with all of you to help create a strong local.

While serving I have had the chance to travel around to the areas of the local and meet members. I have made new friends and I hope to be able to maintain those friendships moving forward. I will continue to support our local by at least attending meetings and will try get to Lewiston, Boise, Tri-Cities when I can. It was my intention to make all the meetings one last time but circumstances dictated otherwise.

I write this with a touch of sadness mixed with anticipation for what lays ahead. Best wishes to you all and I'll see ya when I see ya.

**Union Wages
and Benefits
are Family
Values**

SMART #55 Pasco Representative Sean VanPelt

Work in the Tri-City Area remains steady despite the Covid-19 pandemic. We should see the workload continue to increase as the summer progresses. Workers are heading back to work at the VIT plant as phase-I reopening has been put into effect on the Hanford Site. The VIT plant should slowly ramp up over the next few months.

Our contractors have a large number of HVAC and Architectural projects on the books for 2020 and into 2021. Total

Energy Management will be starting on the Health Science Building at Central Washington University this summer, along with several school projects that are currently underway.

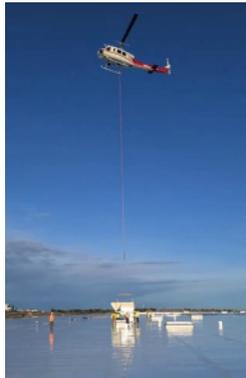
Apollo should remain steady with Data center projects, schools, and upcoming work at PNNL.

SMK and Apollo industrial are steady with food processing projects and should be getting busier toward fall. Several projects were put on hold due to Covid-19, as restrictions lift we

are hoping to see these projects resume.

Scott Hart and I recently met with 2 contractors that are very interested in becoming signatory with Local 55. We will be tentatively having a Pasco union meeting June 25, and hopefully by then we will have 2 more union shops to work for. Please give me a call if you are interested in working in the Pasco area

Fraternally,
Sean VanPelt



Recent pick in Local 55.

SMART #55 Boise Business Representative JR Finlay

Currently in the Boise area work has continued to remain busy with near full employment. We have had a few new projects postponed or cancelled prior to starting due to covid-19. Hope to see that trend rebound soon.

Building Trades Contract— At the end of April we exchanged proposals with the contractors and SMACNA. Since then we have been meet-

ing consistently through the month of May. Timelines have been somewhat delayed with the current events, the Health Trust decisions etc. but we continue to move forward.

Production— With our ongoing contract negotiations we are still unable to complete with the current travel restrictions for the corporate officials.

We have proposed possible

alternatives to hopefully resume and complete negotiations.

Stay healthy and be safe!

Fraternally,
JR Finlay
Local 55
Business Representative



Hayden Idaho

SMART #55 Spokane Representative John Little

There are currently 3 journeymen available on our out of work list which is 5 fewer than last month. The apprentice list is empty and we have begun signing up new applicants for this year's hiring cycle. We tentatively have our union meetings scheduled for June 23rd in Spokane and June 24th in Lewiston. These dates are a week later than the regularly scheduled meetings to help facilitate having our international representative present to

answer any questions regarding the formation of the new NW Regional Council. The work outlook for this summer/fall remains very good as several employers have recently requested out of work lists to begin manning upcoming work. Upcoming larger prevailing wage projects coming up to bid this month include Moses Lake school districts' Groff Elementary and a remodel at Royal Middle School. Our office is currently open 8:00am—

12:00pm Monday through Friday. 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

Work has been picking up even during the COVID-19 pandemic and we have brought on four new apprentices and will be looking to add a few more in the next couple of weeks. Two former journeymen also reach out to me about joining back up as they realized the benefit of being union. I have started working in conjunction with Local#66 as they are renaming an app for smart phones that will reflect our new Regional Council. The app will allow you to see reminders for Union Meetings, receive

updated information that the locals are posting along with having access to the contracts in a search format. I have been looking into more wage claims against the non-union contractors and waiting for Labor and Industries to finish their investigations.

Fraternally,

Brian D. Walter

Organizer



WSU Global Animal Health II Krueger Sheet Metal

Boise Organizer Jeremy Treat

As we approach June work looks to be steady. There have been delays on some jobs in the valley due to the Covid-19.

We have wrapped up our mask nose clip efforts and I am very proud of our local for stepping up and helping the community. As I have said before we are all organizers so if you have a friend that is in the trade have them give me a call and please let them know why you like working Union.

I am starting to get back out to job sites with precautions in place reaching out to open shop workers and trying to talk to new contractors. I also have the local 55 action van in town and using it on job visits.

On a final note we do have new swag in the offices feel free to check them out.

Thanks for letting me serve.

Your Role In The Union

The decision you have to make, as an individual represented by a union, is really no different from your obligations as a member of society. You can choose not to keep informed about union issues and not to participate in the daily life of the union. Then, just as with what happens in the larger society, you can gripe about who's running the union and the decisions they make. But there is an alternative, of course: since your union is nothing more than a collection of individual members, you can choose to become involved, and in so doing shape what your union is and what it does.

So if you want to "own" your union and to share in the members' responsibility of running it, what can you do?

- Educate Yourself
- Be a Set of "Eyes and Ears"
- Show Solidarity
- Be a Union Emissary
- Get Involved

The union is you and your co-workers; you have it within your power to make your union an ever-more-effective fighter for workplace rights and justice.

We are all Members and Organizers for our Industry

Pasco Organizer Scott Hart

Brothers & Sisters:

In the Tri-Cities area we are still in phase I of Covid-19 Pandemic with numbers still rising. I know you are tired of the restrictions in this area me too!!! Hopefully all our members are staying healthy and staying safe. We have had some members getting sick but all have recovered.

I am still meeting with non-union workers and a couple non union contractors, hopefully future employers for our members. I remain optimistic on growing our future market share.

We are still giving out nose pieces for masks, but the requests have slowed down. Remember as of June 1st we are part of NWRC.. *The picture is of Prosser High School -Total Energy.*



**SMART
SHEET METAL
WORKERS
LOCAL #55**

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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

Thank you for your patience during the COVID-19 restrictions.

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>

Boise Building Trade Contract Negotiations

Just to recap events in Boise relating to contract negotiations. After a vote of the membership to open the contract we held steering committee meetings as well as distributed surveys for contract items the negotiating committee to consider.

After initial exchange of offers with management in late April (delayed due to COVID-19) the negotiations team has met several times with management. I want to thank brothers JP Riley, Ed Smith and Business Representative JR Finlay for their diligence in this process.

***Boise Contract Ratification Meeting is set for Monday June 8th @ 6pm. In the Boise Union Hall. Look for a post card notification going out soon.**

This will be a single item Special Order of Business Meeting.

Fraternally,

Kolby Hanson

Business Manager