Brothers and Sisters,

For the second time in 2 years we have had to cancel the union meeting for a once in a lifetime event. The first cancelation was for a much happier occasion the Eagles Super Bowl parade. The April union meeting has been canceled due to the Coronavirus Pandemic that is now affecting all of our lives. In leu of the monthly union meeting I am sending out this report on Local 5.

**Local 5 has had 2 confirmed COVID-19 cases**. Both members had to spend time in the hospital. One brother is fully recovered and has returned to work. The second member is recovering and hopes to be back to work soon. Many members have had symptoms and self-quarantined. We are doing our best to track any cases or possible cases in our Local. This virus is a serious problem. If you feel sick, please stay home. **Also, it is extremely important that we observe the social distancing rules, especially during lunch and coffee breaks**. We had two scares that turned out to be negative. The problem was if the tests came back positive 6-8 other members would have been affected due to the fact that all of them worked or had breaks together. **Please err on the side of caution, if you think you are sick or came in contact with someone who has the virus please stay home.**

As of Monday April 6, 2020, there are 105 members out of work. That number includes 30 members that took a voluntary furlough. The voluntary furlough option is part of the Temporary Agreement between the International and the companies. The agreement is posted on the Local 5 web page and was emailed to the membership. If you have questions or concerns about the agreement, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Schindler laid off 16 mechanics and apprentices in maintenance and service and they have 15 mechanics and apprentices working reduced hours in maintenance and service. I have to say that Schindler management has been the least cooperative through out the crisis. They wasted no time in starting to layoff our members.

ThyssenKrupp has reduced all maintenance routes to 30 hours per week.

Kone has scheduled all mechanics in contract service to 5 days off in the month of April.

Otis Elevator, to their credit has not laid off any mechanics in contract service.

Construction jobs in Pennsylvania are only open if the jobs have received a waiver. Construction jobs in New Jersey and Delaware have remained open. There have been layoffs in construction depending on where the jobs are located and if the jobs have been able to remain open. The furlough lists change daily based on jobs starting up or shutting down.

Most independent companies have had to reduce hours for all employees.

The CDC and the experts have told us that we are going to see a surge in COVD-19 cases in our region and across the country. **If you can afford to stay home or if you are at a high risk of contracting the Coronavirus, please stay home**. Following the recommendations of the CDC are extremely important.

* **Continue to practice social distancing. This might be difficult when performing some tasks in our industry. We should not be congregating for breaks and lunch.**
* **Wash your hands frequently.**
* **Stay home if you feel sick.**
* **Use proper PPE. If you do not have proper PPE do not go into buildings.**

I want to commend our Local 5 mechanics that have been working through this pandemic in area hospitals, medical centers and nursing homes. The elevators are a vital part of these facilities and our members have stepped up to keep the elevators running.

Over the last three weeks Secretary Treasurer John Cichon, Business Representatives Jack Koch and Eric Rittenhouse, Organizer Joe O’Connor and I have been working tirelessly to make sure we keep our membership informed of everything that is happening. We have been working with the Building Trades Councils in each state to make sure that job sites are safe and when permissible can remain open. We have been in touch with the Mayor of Philadelphia Office and the Governors offices and the Department of Labor of each state in our jurisdiction. We have also been in touch with other IUEC Locals in our region and the International. **Our goal is to keep our membership safe while also keeping as many members working as possible during this crisis.**

Since the start of the crisis I have been holding weekly conference calls with the Executive Board to keep them informed of what is happening in Local 5. The union hall has remained open throughout the crisis. We do ask that if you have to drop off your dues or something else that you use the mailbox so we can practice social distancing.

Speaking of Union Dues, everyone’s second quarter dues should be paid in full by April 7th. The second quarter dues statements went out before the pandemic hit. The vast majority of the Local was working right up to the end of the quarter.

**All members that have been furloughed/laid-off or forced to work reduced hours will receive a discount in the third quarter union dues. The Officers and Trustees will work to enact a discount that is fair to everyone.**

Because your officers believe that we are not entitled to anything more than our members, I will be giving up one week of pay in April. As the crisis progresses Johnny, Jack, Eric and Joe have agreed to make the same sacrifice. We will all continue to work and serve our membership through-out the crisis.

The Executive Board suspended all spending on advertisements, sponsorships and charitable donations until further notice.

We have been sending out a steady flow of information as it becomes available to us. Please go to our web page for information on everything from OSHA recommendations for COVID-19 to unemployment benefits available. [www.iuec5.org](http://www.iuec5.org)

**Brothers and sisters, I cannot say it enough, if you are able to stay home for the next 2-3 weeks, please do so**. If you choose to work, please be safe and follow the CDC guidelines to keep yourself safe. **If you do not have the proper PPE do not go to work without it and call your Business Agent.**

Local 5 and the IUEC will survive this pandemic and our Union will be stronger than ever when we get through this. With a little Luck maybe the Eagles will win another super bowl and we will have to cancel another union meeting for a parade!

Fraternally,

Joe Williams 215-983-4628 c