

International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 70  
**ONSITE / INSIGHT**

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2722 County Road D East, White Bear Lake, MN 55110 (651) 646-4566  
Local 70 Website: [www.iuoe70.org](http://www.iuoe70.org)



**FOR AND BY THE MEMBERS  
UNION STEWARDS....PLEASE POST AT YOUR JOB SITE**

**FOR OUR FUTURE:**

- Organizing
- Education
- Training
- Experience
- Knowledge

**Dave Monsour**  
Business Manager/  
Financial Secretary

**Mickey Dowdle**  
President

**Ken Wieken**  
Vice-President

**Linda Powers**  
Recording  
Corresponding Secretary

**Skip Metcalf**  
Treasurer

**JANUARY 2021 MEETINGS**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, January 5, 2021  
5:00pm Local 70 Office  
2722 County Road D East, White Bear Lake, MN

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS  
HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

**ARROWHEAD REGIONAL MEETING**

THE ARROWHEAD REGIONAL MEETINGS  
HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

**OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED**

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021,  
to observe New Year's Day.  
We will also be closed  
Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> to observe  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



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## FROM THE DESK OF DAVID MONSOUR, BUSINESS MANAGER

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January 2021

Out with the old, in with the new.....Or so the saying goes.

2020 was a year that many, including myself, are glad to have in the record books. The world was caught ill prepared for the crisis that was thrust upon us.

I am not here to cast blame on anybody. We are where we are for many reasons.

The combination and compilation of all these different interrelated failures caused a major malfunction of the systems that protect us from ourselves and others as well.

How in the world did we allow the serious shortfalls that we were subjected to, how did we get to the point that so many people denied the crisis was even real.

I am not here to talk politics, I am here to speak about moving forward, protecting our future and protecting our livelihood. Protecting good UNION jobs from those that would work to demonize UNIONS, to act against their own self-interests and attempt to dismantle a system that created the middle class and has allowed so many of the people that are reading this newsletter the opportunity to seek a better future, to better the future of not only themselves but of their families as well.

When we work together as a UNION, we work to improve the lives of everyone. Hopefully 2021 will be a safer year than the year we are leaving behind. I for one have already implemented my New Year's resolutions.

1. Wear a mask in public.
2. Wash my hands often using soap and water, lather up, personally I recite my ABC's that takes about 20 seconds and should be adequate for lathering up and then rinsing off the soap and drying my hands with a paper towel and disposing of it correctly.
3. Practice social distancing.
4. Avoid crowds.
5. Restrict gatherings to immediate household.

I could go on, but I believe this will cover the basics. Personally, I take this situation quite seriously. When it is my turn for the vaccine, I will get vaccinated. I will encourage all to do the same. Some occupations will most likely require it just as Hospitals currently do for the flu vaccination. This situation will not just go away unless the world takes it seriously.

Negotiating contracts has been an awakening experience this past year, the entire process has gone in a new direction. Meeting in person with groups of members is no longer possible. Virtual is the way we conduct most of our meetings now. Virtual proposals, Virtual negotiations,

Virtual grievance procedure, dropping off ballot boxes for remote ratification of contracts. Here at the Local 70 office, we are working to adapt to an ever changing environment. Working to stay in communication with the members that we represent and the employers that employ our members.

As time moves forward, we can expect employers to implement policies and procedures to adapt to the world and the crisis we face. Hopefully, the employer's actions are well thought out, discussed with the UNION so that the UNION can respond to the members questions when the policies and procedures are rolled out to the membership. Too often that is not the case and we are left in a position of trying to catch up after the employer has acted. Not always a desirable position to be placed in but none the less it is the world that we live in. Sometimes we must pause and catch our breath as we consider what has happened, how it affects us and how to move forward from that point.

With these words of wisdom, I will close with this, I just pray that 2021 is better than 2020. That the membership had a safe and Happy Holiday and are recharged for the ride going forward.

In Solidarity,

David B. Monsour  
Local 70  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary



## Statewide and Proud

### ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

Please make sure you notify the Local 70 office at 651-646-4566 with any changes in your home mailing address, job location, hours you are working and wage information. We want to maintain accurate information on our members so you receive important mailings and other information pertaining to union membership, pension information, proposal meetings and contract votes for your job site. Office hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.



***FROM YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS  
AT LOCAL 70!***

**PROUD  
to be  
UNION**