

To the valued members of the Local 487 family,

Your health and well-being are our highest priority. We are purposefully monitoring the sudden and unpredictable landscape of COVID-19. It is important to have confidence in the information being given. The need for knowledgeable and trusted leadership is required. We are following the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and our local health officials.

To help protect others in our community, our office will remain open to staff yet closed to visitors. We value a safe workspace for our staff and offer the flexibility to remain personally vigilant. Your leadership will be available throughout this crisis.

David O'Ferrall and I will communicate regularly to monitor the situation as it continues to evolve. We will work together to be the main source of information and give regular updates when we have real information. We will not speculate on this matter as we insist on providing real information from the proper sources. We will provide information through email, as well as set up an information page in member resources on our website, providing all pertinent information regarding the COVID-19 virus; along with potential work return if we receive that information.

Local 487 has nearly 900 members in multiple states engaged in broadcast, and motion picture and television production. Any work stoppage may have a profound and long-lasting impact on you and your families. We appreciate the burden that the sudden and absolute loss of work will provide. Your composure and support are indispensable as we move forward together as a community. There will not be one solution that works for, or is right for everyone.

This situation is ever evolving and having a plan is necessary to make it through the work stoppage. If you anticipate missing a mortgage payment or any other payment, contact the creditor right away. If your savings is low or non-existent, you might wish to apply for additional credit cards. If you are a home owner, try applying for a home equity line of credit. Do your best to avoid high-interest charges unless absolutely necessary. Do not spend frivolously. As soon as you resume working, cancel the extra credit cards and pay off the home equity line of credit. Consider taking care of major medical needs while your health insurance is at its peak. Consult with friends, family members, community services and other resources that could help in an emergency.

Look for an alternative source of income. Many of your skills translate to domestic needs outside of our industry. Childcare, home improvement, landscaping, etc. Large retail is being

overwhelmed with panic buying and the staff cannot handle the workload. There are many labor friendly retailers in need of additional workers. I understand this is not ideal but the fact is our industry has stopped working and we can not change that. Moving ahead in this reality is our only option.

Plan your use of discretionary time as carefully as you would plan your use of discretionary income. You might find this a great opportunity to re-connect with your family and other meaningful aspects of your personal life. Self educate while you have free time. We have access to LinkedIn learning, Safety First!, and IATSE MPTV online training.

I have more questions than answers right now but I will keep looking for them. The moment something changes, I will inform you regardless of sensitivity. We will rise stronger from this, like we have every single time Local 487 has been challenged. I am as confident in this membership as that.

Edward Hohman
President
Local 487 SM&BT