

International Brotherhood of
BOILERMAKERS • IRON SHIP BUILDERS

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July 10, 2020

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Cir. Ltr. #19/20

**TO ALL LOCAL LODGE PRESIDENTS, BUSINESS MANAGERS
AND SECRETARY-TREASURERS IN THE UNITED STATES**

Re: Waiver of the Meeting Attendance Requirements for Eligibility for Nomination and Election of 2020 Local Lodge Officers and Mail Ballots

THIS NOTICE SHOULD BE READ AT THE JULY 2020 REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS OR INDIVIDUALLY MAILED TO LOCAL LODGE MEMBERS

Brothers and Sisters:

Pursuant to Article 25.4.1.4 of the International Brotherhood Constitution, local lodge by-laws may state that members must satisfy certain meeting attendance requirements to be eligible for nomination and election to local lodge offices. However, the Department of Labor has held that the application of such requirements may be “unreasonable” where they disqualify a large portion of the membership.

Additionally, with the current ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the continued restrictions in some states where gathering in groups and in-person meetings are being prohibited, it’s possible the Department of Labor would order re-run elections.

We would prefer that every local lodge be allowed to abide by its by-laws without the threat of government interference. However, in order to assure that members in good standing are not “unreasonably” denied the right to be nominated and/or elected as lodge officers to the forthcoming elections, the International Executive Council has elected to waive any such meeting attendance requirements with respect to establishing eligibility for nomination and election as a local lodge officer.

Accordingly, per my directive and the unanimous vote of the International Executive Council, no local lodge shall impose the meeting attendance requirements to disqualify any member seeking nomination and election as an officer to the upcoming elections. All other conditions for eligibility, as prescribed in the International Brotherhood Constitution or your lodge’s approved by-laws, shall still apply.

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In addition, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, nominations and elections may be held by mail ballot. This letter provides modified procedures on how to conduct this year's nomination and election of local lodge officers by mail ballot if your local lodge chooses to do so. If your local lodge chooses to hold the nominations and elections as they've done in the past, the instructions provided in my letter dated March 23, 2020 shall apply.

Your local lodge may choose to: 1) Conduct the nominations and elections at the regular or special monthly meetings, 2) conduct the nominations at the regular or special August 2020 meeting and conduct the elections by mail ballot, or 3) conduct both the nominations and elections by mail ballot.

This letter and attachments shall be posted at such locations (e.g. the union office, all job sites, shops, shipyards, website, etc.) and in a manner reasonably calculated to reach all members. Furthermore, if the lodge has not already mailed the nomination notice, such notice when mailed must include language advising that the attendance eligibility requirements are waived for this election only. A copy of this letter should be included with the Nomination Notice. **There shall be no deviation from this procedure.**

For those Lodges that have already held their July 2020 regular meeting or will not be holding the July 2020 regular meeting, you are hereby directed to mail a copy of this letter and my letter dated March 23, 2020 (Cir. Ltr. 10/20) to all members of the local lodge.

Trusting you will be guided accordingly, and with best wishes, I am

Sincerely and fraternally yours,



Newton B. Jones
International President

NBJ:tab

cc: International Officers
International Staff

Interp. 25.4