



Boilermakers Local 128 Ontario

News Update COVID-19

May 29, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I trust that during this time, you and your families are managing as well as possible during this Pandemic. I realize this is a hard time for many and I hope that by now, you have made some positive daily adjustments that help you and your families stay strong together or have built a new routine until things move forward again.

As a number of Provinces slowly re-open and the trickle of life slowly begins to return to a different type of normal, I know that many of you are eager to get back to work. Local 128 has been more fortunate than other Locals across Canada regarding the number of members still employed. As well, we are an essential service with many of our members employed in the essential energy / nuclear sector. Please be reminded however, that while working, this means as Boilermakers, we cannot drop our guard when it comes to the health and safety of everyone around us. Complacency with procedures can have serious consequences, whether it be our family members or while working on the job, so please be mindful.

MONTHLY UNION MEETING

Due to the ongoing Government physical distancing order, please be advised that the June 10th Union meeting is **cancelled**. You will be kept advised of the monthly meeting status in advance going forward.

GOLF TOURNAMENTS

Every year Local 128 is pleased to host area Golf Tournaments for members and friends. Unfortunately, due to the limits on physical distancing / gathering we have a couple of cancellations so far. We will keep you updated with any further changes or cancellations

SARNIA Golf Tournament – CANCELLED

THUNDER BAY Golf Tournament – CANCELLED

TORONTO Golf Tournament – July 4th

HAMILTON Golf Tournament – July 17th

SUDBURY Golf Tournament – August 8th

DISPATCH AND WORK REPORTS

Updated reports can be found on our website under the Dispatch tab. As part of the new normal, when you get laid off and need to put your name back on an out-of-work list, please call your local area representative directly.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG TESTING – NOVA CHEMICAL SITES

Now in effect, at NOVA Chemical Sites, and in particular the new NOVA expansion in the Sarnia region, it is mandatory for all new hires to take an alcohol and drug test prior to starting. Members will be tested at a predetermined, reputable laboratory and your results will be sent to our Local Union office where we are currently implementing procedures to ensure all information is kept confidential. NO results will be sent to the contractor or the owner client.

When this policy was put in place by the company owner, we did our due diligence and immediately consulted our legal counsel. Our lawyer advised us that because NOVA is an owner client and not a contractor, they are not party to our agreements which would make this a very difficult and costly legal battle to fight. Since our collective agreement is with the contractor, there is no legal obligation for the owner to put us to work at this site and they could in fact, use other trades to perform the work. Therefore, based on our legal advice, our priority of retaining this work and acquiring future work for Local 128, we have agreed to testing for this project only.

As you know, it is vital that any member dispatched and representing Local 128 show up on site fit for duty, both mentally and physically. The health and safety of every member must remain the highest priority. I know some will find this to be good news, while others will not. If any member does not wish to participate in testing, or your lifestyle may hinder your results, then you can opt out of the dispatch offer.

If you have any concerns or have questions about NOVA and this policy, please do not hesitate to contact myself or our Sarnia Representative.

MONTHLY UNION DUES

As I stated in my last news update, your monthly Union dues remain an important factor in keeping Local 128 in operation. However, during this time and due to the financial uncertainty many are feeling, I would like to assure you that no Local 128 member will be suspended for late or non-payment of dues at this time and that you will be eligible for dispatch, provided that you have the required CORE and qualifications for the job. This is a temporary measure and will be re-evaluated on a monthly basis. If you would like to make a payment, please consider using PayPal on our web site or by calling your local area office to make a payment by credit card. If you have any concerns about your Union dues, please feel free to contact me.

CORE Training

There is **NO** CORE Training scheduled at this time. However, training will be available to you in order to be dispatch ready. This is by appointment only! Email Ed Wall, Dave Maddison or Kim Quinn if you know that you require training in order to be dispatched and to book a seat as seating is very limited.

Please refer to my April 27th COVID-19 News Update for information pertaining to some extensions of your training tickets or contact the Training Department for information.

Our Trainers can be reached at the following: **Ed Wall:** ewall@ibblocal128.org, **Dave Maddison:** dmaddison@ibblocal128.org or **Kim Quinn:** kquinn@ibblocal128.org

WELD SHOP

The Weld Shop will open on an 'as required' basis for company / contractor testing **only**. All physical distancing, safety and disinfection procedures will be strictly adhered to. Please review the safety measures on the web site under the COVID-19 resources.

ANNUAL Local 128 SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

Our Local 128 Scholarship winners will be announced after the June Executive Board meets and has made their decisions. Good luck to all our candidates!

COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY ON THE JOB SITE

The COVID-19 virus is spread through close contact. **Hygiene** cannot be over emphasized. Hygiene notices (i.e., avoid touching your face, sneeze/cough etiquette and proper hand washing) should be posted on all work sites. You should also have ready access to:

- ✓ Handwashing facilities with soap and paper hand towels
- ✓ Hand sanitizers – with 60% alcohol
- ✓ Non-touch (or open) waste disposal receptacles
- ✓ An enforced schedule that provides time for frequent and thorough hand washing
- ✓ Carry tissues to catch coughs and sneezes
- ✓ Clean commonly touched surfaces/shared equipment (i.e., washrooms, site-trailers, shacks, door handles, hoists, elevator buttons, residential units).
- ✓ Clean at least daily with Ethanol, at 62-71%, 0.5% hydrogen peroxide or 0.1% sodium hypochlorite (bleach).
- ✓ Clean work wear (This includes hand, eye, ear, respiratory and head protection, normally used to protect against work hazards other than COVID-19.)
- ✓ Clean/laundry as soon as possible after use. As an added precaution, workers should change out of their work clothes upon returning home and shower.
- ✓ If you are ill: notify your supervisor and steward/rep immediately, complete the self-assessment and follow the instructions you get from the assessment.

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/#q0>

Social distancing

When possible, keep 6 feet between you and others when you are out.

... and Families at Home should AVOID

Group gatherings	Visitors in your house
Sleep overs	Non-essential workers in your house
Playdates	Mass transit systems
Concerts	Malls
Theatre outings	Workouts in gyms
Athletic events	
Crowded stores	

YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

This is a tough time for all of us. Remember that FSEAP, the Boilermaker counselling and referral service is available to help anytime, day or night. If you or a family member feels they could benefit from speaking to someone, then please don't hesitate to pick up the phone and call any time at **1-866-990-1113**.

- ✓ Marital / Relationship / Family / Personal Counseling
- ✓ Work-Related Counselling
- ✓ Financial/Retirement Counselling
- ✓ Stress Tests and Counselling
- ✓ Teen/Parent Hotline
- ✓ Eldercare Information,
- ✓ Childcare Information
- ✓ Drug/Alcohol Counselling

IBB Local128 web site
www.ibblocal128.org and
 The Boilermaker National website
<https://boilermaker.ca/en/covid-19-updates/>
 both have great information and resources
 about COVID-19.

Be Kind... to Your Mind

Tips for **Coping** with Stress during COVID-19

1. **Pause**, Breath, Reflect
2. **Keep** to a healthy routine
3. **Connect** with others
4. **Disconnect** from fake news
5. **Be kind** to yourself and others
6. **Reach out** for help if you need it

PURPLE RIBBON CAMPAIGN SUPPORTING COVID-19 ESSENTIAL WORKERS



The COVID-19 pandemic has caused uncertainty, unease, grief and suffering. Now more than ever it is important to come together as a Province and a country to support each other. Thanking those risking their lives to help us and giving to local food banks are powerful ways to show gratitude. Wearing a Purple Ribbon symbolizes that support and shows we are thankful.

We are thrilled to announce that the Supporting COVID-19 Essential Workers/Giving to Food Banks: Local 128 and all locals across Canada will be supporting this campaign. The Boilermaker National

H&S is expanding on this initiative started by our sister Local 146 and we are very proud to be a part of this initiative of giving back to Ontario residents in need of help during this Pandemic.

<https://boilermaker.ca/en/purpleribbons/>

SARNIA REP RETIRES

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Brother Dale Quinn a very happy retirement and thank him for his many years of dedication and service as the Sarnia Business Representative. Dale, who initiated into Local 128 in 1976 has protected Local 128 jurisdiction for over 25 years. He also served as a Trustee on the BATC (Boilermaker Apprenticeship and Training Committee) for several years. Thank you, Brother Quinn. Enjoy your retirement years!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW REPS

At the same time, I would like to welcome Brother Dalas Santavy who will move from his position as Industrial Sector Shop Representative and Organizer into the role of Sarnia Business Representative. Dalas comes from a family of Boilermakers and brings almost 10 years of experience as a Rep bargaining with contractors and serving our Industrial sector members.

Welcome to our new Industrial Sector Shop Representative and Organizer, Brother Sean Rea. Sean sits on the Executive Board as the Chair of Trustees. Prior to this Sean also served as the Sergeant at arms on the Local 128 Executive.

I am looking forward to working with Dalas and Sean in their new positions. I know they will do a great job serving the Local 128 membership.

Brothers and sisters, please know that we are here for you during this COVID-19 Pandemic. Our reps and staff are consistently hard at work to ensure this Local doesn't skip a beat. We are mindful and safety conscious and will follow the Provincial Health Authority and Government guidelines. We will live up to the spirit of this organization as always! Let's help each other get through this. ***Be strong, be positive and above all, be safe!***

In solidarity. I am fraternally yours,



ROY GRILLS

Business Manager / Secretary Treasurer
Boilermakers Local 128 Ontario

RG/pff

