International **Association of** Machinists and **Aerospace Workers**



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OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

DATE:

April 1, 2020

MEMO TO: All Grand Lodge Representatives, Directing Business Representatives and

General Chairs, District and Local Lodge Recording Secretaries

FROM:

Robert Martinez, Jr., International President

CC:

General Secretary-Treasurer, General Vice Presidents, Chiefs of Staff, General

Counsel, Directors, Membership Services

RE:

Unemployment Stamp Dispensation Through September 2020

Pursuant to Article G, Section 3 of the IAM Constitution, members who are laid off and who wish to retain their membership rights normally must request an unemployment stamp from their local within two months of their lay-off. Failure to do so results in a lapse of membership. As a result of the Coronavirus crisis, many of our members face layoffs. Moreover, it has become a burden for members to apply for, and to continue to pay for, unemployment stamps, and it has become burdensome for our local and district lodges to process unemployment stamp payments.

Accordingly, Local and District Lodges are directed to post monthly unemployment payments for each member laid off during the months of April through September without requiring payments or notifications from laid off members. These postings should continue up to and including payments for the month of September, at which time the lodge should notify the members that their obligation to pay for unemployment stamps shall resume. At that point, these laid-off members will have two months, through the month of November, to begin paying unemployment stamps before their memberships lapse. The Grand Lodge hereby waives the \$1.00 monthly charge normally transmitted by the Lodge for these laid off members pursuant to Art. G, section 2.

This dispensation is effective immediately and applies to dues delinquencies that begin during the months of April through September. Laid-off members whose membership dues become delinquent during these months will automatically receive unemployment stamps up to and including the month of September.

Local and District Lodges that are conducting elections between June 1st and December 1st are hereby required to include in their notice of election the following statement: "Members who are delinquent in dues payments starting on April 1st and extending through September 31st as a result of lay-off please be advised that in consideration of the Coronavirus pandemic your

membership and voting rights have been extended through November, and not only for two months as set out in Art. I section 14 of the IAM Constitution."

These are extremely difficult and challenging times for the entire membership — particularly for those who have been laid off by their employers as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic. This is a small but important gesture to let our laid off Brothers and Sisters know we stand in solidarity with them. Please let laid off members know that the IAM is fighting for them and their families every single day — they are not forgotten!

Stay safe, stay strong, stay united - together in solidarity we shall overcome.