



Duke and I wanted to give you an update about organized labor in the area and what we are working on.

This is a rapidly changing situation so it's day to day and hour to hour.

Our priorities as of now are;

1. Fighting the spread of the virus
2. Lowering the numbers of workers that will be impacted
3. Lessening that impact

The Greater Kansas City AFL-CIO & Greater Kansas City Building Trades Council are still open and fully operational. We are at the office every day and leave as necessary. Becky is going to be mostly working from home, only coming in for mail, limiting any face to face. **Please don't come to the offices without calling first.** Phone calls, text messages, video conferences and emails are up and running. We will not be having any in person meetings for the foreseeable future and are looking into conference call platforms.

We are trying to keep as many people employed as is safely possible. We are also assessing who is or will be directly impacted and what that impact will likely be. Several of us have been on conference calls (the new term for meetings) to determine what actions we want the Governor to take. While all this is taking place, we must accurately predict the future needs of those families and plan to provide everything we can. A lot of our members are questioning whether they are essential or not. Talking with officials in the region, our belief is the employer determines this. We have gotten several exemptions that the policy makers had not thought of.

We continue to work closely with elected officials and agencies. We are taking scientific advice from scientist at the CDC and economic advice from economist at the Federal Reserve Bank and not paying too much attention to the politicians.

Please do not start panic buying more than you need, pulling more money out of the bank than you need, or making any long-term financial decision driven by fear. These things always turn out to be a bad Idea. Remember that there is plenty of cash and it's safer in a bank than in your hand.

We also wanted to send out some resources for you and you members.  
Below is a link to the Missouri DOL about Unemployment, Worker's Comp, and  
Discrimination during the COVID 19 crisis.

<https://labor.mo.gov/coronavirus>

The SBA offers disaster assistance in the form of low-interest loans to **businesses, renters,  
and homeowners** located in regions affected by declared disasters.

<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>

Everything we are doing is dependent on getting as much factual real time information as possible. Decisions must be made quickly. Please let us know of members not working at businesses or jobs that are shutdown. Be safe and we are all going get thru this. We have faced terrible times before and we stuck together, let's show that we can do it again.

In Solidarity,

Alise and Duke