WEBEX UNSCHEDULED UNION MEETING

MARCH 23, 2020 AT 7:00PM

This meeting was called due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the repercussions it has faced us, as a Union.

Several topics were addressed in light of the Governors request to limit social gatherings.

COVID-19 and how NDCS and FOP 88 is coping with the restrictions that are being asked of us all was the main topic of discussion. We, as your Union, feel all of you, our members, and your families health, is our number one priority. We want no one to be at risk of contracting or carrying this virus to anyone we may have social contact with, therefore, we will be holding many unscheduled meetings, via WEBEX, to keep the E-Board informed on all updates from the CDC and our Governor as to how these updates will affect you at work and at home.

It has been announced that NDCS inmates will be manufacturing hand sanitizer for all NDCS facilities, as well as distributing the sanitizer to DAS, for distribution through-out the State to assist in the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 amongst its Teammates and their families. The CSI Shops will be charged with the manufacturing of the sanitizer, as well as masks and gowns, to be used through-out the entire State of Nebraska.

At this time any grievances that are in the works are currently being pushed back, or postponed, until further notice. We, apologize for the delays but, as I’m sure you understand, we have to prioritize at this time and grievance hearings via telephone and video would not have the impact, or outcome, that we desired if they were held in person. So, please be patient, we are not giving up. We have been granted extensions, and will pick up, full force, where we left off when we can resolve these issues face to face. This is not to say that if you have a grievance you should wait to file it. Contact your Steward or Trustee and inform them of your grievance. The filing time frame is still the same. It is when it goes to Step 2 or beyond that we will have delays.

Josh Oseigner is working with our Web Designer to incorporate Mailchimp to distribute our Newsletter. Look for your first one around the 30th of March. It is looking great and Jerry Brittain and Josh have been working very hard on it. You won’t be disappointed!

When E-Board members now attend labor management meetings, tours, etc.. in other Facilities we are no longer required to use Bargaining time to make sure our members are compensated for lost wages. The State has agreed that they will receive their wages, paid by the State, to accomplish the many positive things that they are working on. This is HUGE, as in the past, the State required the Union to pay for the lost work time that the E-Board members were using to try to address and improve the problems facing the different agencies represented by our bargaining unit. Can you sense positive change coming in our direction? We are thinking so.

The next WEBEX meeting will be held on April 6th. Watch for the meeting minutes shortly after. If you want to be included on the next WEBEX General Meeting you must submit your email address to us via the Nebraska FOP 88 e-mail. E-mail addresses must be submitted by April 7th to be invited to join this WEBEX General Meeting.