

SPEEDFACTS

COVID-19 Workplace Health and Safety

Wednesday, March 25, 2020



Brothers and Sisters,

Today we are all experiencing uncharted territory in the face of a worldwide pandemic. Every day there are new facts that come to our attention regarding the COVID-19 (coronavirus). During this time your District 837 staff is doing everything in our power to advocate for safe working conditions for our members at Boeing and GKN.

Our International President Robert Martinez and Legislative Department are also working tirelessly on behalf of IAM members across the United States and Canada as our union fights for coronavirus relief packages that put our members first – not corporations.

To date both Boeing and GKN have released resources outlying information regarding COVID-19. I encourage all members to familiarize yourself with these guidelines and apply the necessary precautions.

With that being said, the Union still has a number of additional concerns. District 837 has requested immediate meetings with Boeing and GKN to discuss steps each company is taking in light of the COVID-19 pandemic so that the Union can negotiate a plan to implement necessary health and safety prevention procedures.

District 837 wants you to know that as union Brothers and Sisters we will continue to support each other through these trying and difficult times. At this time the Union has secured relaxed attendance guidelines. At Boeing, members can use vacation and sick leave hours in tenth of an hour increments when needed. We have asked both companies to ensure a thorough and proper cleaning of the sites, specifically the production areas that our members work in every day. And we have requested both companies allow members to spread out to off shifts in order to allow less crowded work areas.

As of Monday the Boeing Company has reversed its practice of continuing to pay certain members who were told by health services not to report to work. We understand these types of practices do nothing to enhance safety awareness and make our members feel safe at work. We are working on addressing this issue.

As District 837 works to address this ever-evolving crisis, there is something you can do as well. As we speak, Congress is in the process of negotiating a possible bailout package for the aerospace industry. Our International President and Legislative Department are working around the clock. **I am asking each of you to please contact your Representative at 866-829-3298 and tell them to include financial assistance for aerospace workers across the country in their next coronavirus relief bill.** This will help in ensuring the proper protections and assistance mechanisms are put in place from the national level.

Stay tuned for more information. Updates will continue to be provided via Speed Facts, the www.IAM837.org website, as well as the IAM District 837 Facebook page. We are also working diligently to get a Q&A section up on the website as soon as possible.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Earl Schuessler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Earl Schuessler

PDBR, IAM District 837