

# LIUNA!

## ARMAND E. SABITONI

### LIUNA GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER & NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL MANAGER



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Today we find ourselves in the midst of a world-wide pandemic, an unprecedented situation. The Covid-19 Virus has swept across our planet killing thousands of men, women and children. For working families here in New England, a current hotspot, the effect of this pandemic has been especially devastating. Across our region, families are experiencing a terrible disruption of our society along with the fear and uncertainty this terrible disease has brought to all our lives.

At a time like this, I felt it important for you to know that the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), the union you know and trust, is out there working on your behalf to do whatever we can to help our members and their families get through this difficult time. Throughout the last 117 years, LIUNA members stood strong as our nation encountered the Great Depression, two World Wars, the attacks of 9-11, recessions, hurricanes, floods, natural disasters, as well as heartrending outbreaks of influenza, polio, smallpox and other devastating diseases. LIUNA members made it through all these challenges together and we will once again.

First, let me say how proud we are of all our members who are working at essential services during this time. From our healthcare workers out on the front-lines battling to save lives, to our state and municipal workers making sure our government is still up and running, to our construction workers who are keeping roads, highways, bridges and other essential projects on track, you have shown a selflessness and respect for your community representing the highest standards of citizenry and solidarity.

For all of you who are doing what you can to support our front-line members by soliciting, creating and delivering personal protective equipment (PPE) to health care workers, by helping your elderly neighbors and the less fortunate with basic necessities, by working from home and making sure your children stick to their studies and by practicing the protocols following the instructions of our healthcare professionals, I salute your every effort. As a 50-year member of this great union, I know from experience, it takes the contributions of every member working towards the same goal to get to the finish line.

While you are doing your part, LIUNA has been working resolutely to make sure that any legislation passed by Congress puts working families first! As a result, The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) provides economic relief for businesses and workers severely impacted by COVID-19.

From past experience we know that it is important to be vigilant on all levels as we undertake this critical fight, so we continue to monitor and work diligently with our representatives in Congress as they consider more relief for working families.

Our Regional Tri-Funds are also on the job working with employers and contractors to keep our front-line workers safe with the latest updates on new safety protocols and protections, developing and implementing virtual training for our Journeymen, Apprentices and Pre-Apprentices alike, keeping track of proposed legislation and informing members of the latest developments affecting them through the internet, social media and other informational platforms.

In addition, our District Councils and Local Unions are stepping up to the plate on state and municipal levels advising Governors, Mayors and local officials with regard to the needs of our working families. Conversely, we are also offering our assistance at the state and local levels for a number of community initiatives including such vital services as procuring and delivering much needed personal protective equipment to our front-line workers.

As I contemplate the extraordinary, creative and selfless ways in which our members, elected leadership and staff have come forward to beat back this latest challenge, I am once again in awe of the power of our great union, LIUNA. Together, I am certain we will defeat this unseen enemy in order to bring each other and our nation back to economic, physical and spiritual health. Unity in times of strife and uncertainty is the greatest power we have, and I am humbled and grateful to be your leader in this, the defining moment of our generation.

May God bless you, your families and our great union as we continue to support one another.

With kind regards, I remain

Fraternally yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Armand E. Sabitoni". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A'.

ARMAND E. SABITONI  
General Secretary-Treasurer and  
New England Regional Manager