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**Brothers and Sisters,**

**On March 15, I spoke with Gary Hom. As we all know, the pandemic had just been declared by WHO and we were uncertain where this situation was headed. I asked Gary to speak with his committee, his vendors, and the Local to see if it would be possible to postpone the Tournament to late July, early August. He indicated he would make the inquiries and we would make a decision, by the end of March, whether to cancel the Tournament for this year.**

**As we know, conditions have dramatically changed seen then. The State of Georgia is currently under an executive order to stay in home, restaurants and most businesses have been shut down, and any large gatherings are prohibited.**

**We spoke again last night. Given the current conditions in Georgia and in all the States you will be coming from, we are not confident that these conditions will sufficiently change in the coming months. With epicenter now in NYC, New York State, and the projections that these conditions will be moving to the DMV, Detroit, Chicago, and St Louis, the majority of our members who make up the Tournament, would not be able to participate. It is not safe to travel from your homes or congregate in large numbers. Many may already be out of work.**

**This is uncharted territory for the Tournament. There are no provisions in our bylaws on how or who has the authority to cancel the Tournament. For the last 40 years as your International Chairman, you have trusted me to make decisions that are best for you and the Tournament. I have to make a difficult one today and cancel the Tournament for 2020.**

**Gary and the Augusta Local have expressed their desire to Host the 2021 Tournament next year and I have given them our approval. Larry will post updates on our website. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Larry or I by email and we will do our best to answer you.**

**God Bless and please stay safe.**

*Ken Hunt*

Ken Hunt  
IBEW International Chairman