

UPDATE ON LOU WALTER

6/21/2020: Journal entry by Terry Walter — 20 hours ago

Lou has been told that he may be moved to a rehab facility in Portland or Vancouver as soon as this week. Good news! We'll know more, hopefully, on Monday. Joe is excited for the opportunity to peer at Lou through plate glass twenty minutes from his house instead of having to drive six hours for that privilege! Happy Fathers Day to Lou, Joe and David!

6/20/2020: Journal entry by Terry Walter — Jun 20, 2020

Lou's recuperation is exhausting him and needs lots of rest. His nurse assures us he is doing well. If you are trying to call him, just know that he has difficulty answering and holding the phone. Maybe cards and notes would be the best way to reach him for the time being. I know all ya'll are keeping his spirits up! Thank you!

6/18/2020: Journal entry by Terry Walter — 13 hours ago

I talked to Lou this morning, but he was extremely fatigued and his voice was very faint. He said he hadn't slept was--apparently he is getting feeling back in his knees and they really hurt. Called his nurse and was told that both doctors had been in and were happy and satisfied with his condition. The nurse promised to keep him awake and busy so he'd sleep tonight! Called the nurse again this evening and was told that they got Lou into a "cardiac" chair today for about an hour. It's a reclines to a flat position, they slide him onto it and then raise him to a sitting position with his right leg straight out in front. Apparently, it tired him out, but is good for him!

6/17/2020: Journal entry by Terry Walter — Jun 17, 2020: Lou is feeling up for visitors! He's still bed-bound and looks a little beat-up and his voice is very soft, but he is looking forward to seeing folks. If you have any skills with scissors and a razor.....The hospital allows one visitor per day and you'll need to wear your own mask. They'll take your temperature the entrance, too. Maybe, for now, check with him first on his cell to see how he feels.

6/16/2020: Journal entry by Terry Walter — 16 hours ago: Lou has skin graft surgery this afternoon (I won't post a picture—you can thank me later). They were able to close the wound and only needed a 1.5 hand-sized piece of skin from his thigh. He's been sleeping most of the last two days so they were able to do the surgery without general anesthesia—trying to avoid a ventilator.

6/14/2020: Journal entry by Terry Walter — 4 hours ago: Lou continues to improve. No additional surgeries are scheduled at this point, although Tuesday is still an option for the skin graft. He is eating well and feeding himself with his right hand. He has remained in the ICU because his surgeon wanted to keep a closer eye on him due to his respiratory issues. He slept well Saturday night and didn't use the CPAP at all, which encouraged his doctors. They may move him out of the ICU today if they can guarantee a 3:1 or 2:1 ratio on the floor (instead of the usual 5:1). He has had some occupational therapy including teeth brushing, combing his hair and feeding himself. He's getting better with using his right arm and we are hoping he can manage a iPad soon so we can check on him personally when David has to leave. He voice is still very, very frail and he gets exhausted when he talks too much. This is due to his fragile lungs and his broken ribs.

6/12/2020: Journal entry by Terry Walter: Additional surgery may be on the horizon. His broken ribs are really impacting his respiration so they are considering a fixture on his rib cage. They are searching for an ortho specialist and have him off food and drink today in prep. He is in a lot of pain.

6/11/2020: Update from Terry Walter: Lou was off the CPAP most of the day yesterday. There is a discussion of moving him out of ICU, depending on his respiration and if he can keep his oxygen levels up. I was able to FaceTime with him a bit, and he is very frail and weak but David and I were able to make him laugh. He seems to be in a lot of pain and he looks very beat up, but they have him sitting up a bit which seems to help his breathing. He doesn't remember much of the accident and is having a lot of very vivid dreams which we attribute to the meds. He wanted to watch the news, so David turned on MSNBC for him.

6/10/2020: From Lou's son Joe last night: Dad had the mask off all day, they're going to put it back on him for the night. He is talking more and asking for lots of water. The speech therapist came by today and cleared him to start eating food. The physical therapists came by today as well but they can only do upper body stuff because the surgery team does not want any weight bearing on his legs. They know Dave will be there tomorrow.

6/9/2020: Lou is a bit more aware today but very fragile. Joe was with him until about noon or so and left to go back to Portland. David arrives from Los Angeles this evening. Lou's CPAP mask was removed this morning to see if he could breathe well on his own. They were going to attempt to feed him solid food as well, to get his strength up. I was able to FaceTime with him briefly this morning and saw how weak he is and he was barely able to speak, but it was good to "lay eyes on him."

6/8/2020 3:30 PM: Lou is incrementally improving. The ventilator has been replaced with a CPAP with the hope that his lungs are strong enough to breathe on his own. They are weaning him off fentanyl and on to a PCA that he can use himself to control pain. He is a bit aware and needs to be reminded to push the button for the meds. He has tried to talk, but is still pretty weak and inarticulate. Surgeries on the horizon include the possibility of putting fixtures in for his ribs (if he cannot breathe) and further surgeries on his right leg, including a skin graft. He is making eye contact with Joe and squeezing his hand, so we know he is aware Joe is with him.

6/8/2020: Lou is doing well, they took the chest tube, he still has the breathing tube in. It will probably be in for a week or so until the chest pain lightens up and he can breath without the ventilator help. Joe and the family are wanting to start doing some FaceTime calls when he is more lucid and mobile.

A CaringBridge Site was created for Lou. It's a caring social network to help people stay connected with family and friends during a health event. Visit Lou's Site: <https://caringbridge.org/visit/louwalter> Site Name: louwalter

6/6/2020: Not a lot of big developments. He is still pretty sedated. They are doing tests every morning to see how he breathes without the ventilator. Once he is strong enough they can take the breathing tube out and lower sedatives. Then they can start working on rehab and mobility.

6/5/2020: Lou's son Joe met with doctors yesterday and he seemed optimistic of a good recovery. Joe said the doctors told him there will be a long recovery and rehab. The good news is there are no injuries to his spine or head and Lou should get back to where we was. He goes back in for surgery today to adjust the fixation device on his leg. I ask all of our brothers and sisters to keep Lou and his family in your thoughts and prayers. There is a go fund me page on both our Facebook and Web page.

6/4/2020: I wanted to give an update on Lou. Mike Brown and Dave Garegnani visited with Lou's son Joe yesterday late afternoon at Deaconess Hospital and talked to him to see if there was anything we could do to help. At the time Lou was still in surgery. The extent of Lou's injuries are mainly his legs, some broken ribs and a collapsed lung. Luckily no head injuries. After a short visit they offered to put him up in a hotel for the next 2 days and to please keep us updated. Dave received a text later in the evening from Joe telling him that Lou was out of surgery. He is pretty beat up but is stable. They performed extensive surgery on his legs, re-inflated his lung and kept a close eye on him all night. Joe wanted to express his gratitude for all the support from Local 77. I will share more information when we hear from Joe today. Please keep praying for Brother Lou. Be safe all!!!!

6/3/2020: This morning, we learned that Brother and past Business Manager/Financial Secretary Lou Walter was involved in a serious auto accident in Spokane. Lou is currently at Deaconess Hospital in Spokane and in critical condition. We ask all to send their thoughts and prayers to Brother Walter and his family. Due to COVID-19 visitors other than immediate family are not allowed. We will keep you updated as we receive them.