

Brotherhood Broadcasts

Local Union #112

April, 2020

Travis E. Swayze

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Bus. Mgr. / Fin. Secy.



A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

WORK PICTURE

Referrals are starting to pick up as contractors are learning how to implement 'social distancing' and 'safe practices' on the jobs. The data centers continue to hire as well as some new school work in the jurisdiction. Arc Electric is one these contractors working at Lince Kindergarten in Selah. Mill Plain Electric also has work in Clarkston and at the Chemical Depot in Oregon. Most of the work at Hanford is still on idol as DOE, Contractors, the Central Washington Building Trades and HAMTC figure out how and when work will resume. Work is currently being divided amongst the crews to maintain a 'minimal safe' condition. There are 65 on Book I and 76 on Book II.

As job requirements change due to the Covid-19 pandemic, please give us a call and let us know if there are new requirements for your particular job, especially if a steward is not present. Some of the changes that are trending are the use of a cloth face shield, increasing wash stations/hand sanitizer, temperature testing prior to entering the jobsite, social distancing, and the use of N95 for tasks that require close distances. The cloth face shields shall be provided by the contractor, which is no different than any other PPE. Temperature testing, if required by the contractor, should be done by a person in the medical field. All of these precautions seem to be helping keep people safe.

Please stay informed by visiting our website and Facebook page for the latest information. If you don't have a Facebook account you can click on the Facebook link on the homepage to view the posts.

BROTHERHOOD EVENTS

IBEW Local 112's RENEW Committee has partnered with Rebuilding Mid-Columbia help out 'High Risk' people within our community to run errands or pick up groceries for those in need. This invitation is also extended to our membership who may need this service. All you have to do is give us a call and we can get you in touch with the right people. Now is the time for all of us to step up and help out where we can. During this time, the E-Board has voted to provide monetary donations to the First Responders Covid-19 Community Relief Fund as well as Rebuilding Mid-Columbia in order to keep providing services to those in need.

SPECIAL MEETINGS—MAY 21st

It is necessary to hold two special meetings of the membership on **Thursday, May 21st**. The first meeting will be to vote on the "Gift of Right-of-Way" walking path which has been requested by the City of Kennewick. A portion of this path is on Local 112's property. The 2nd meeting will be to discuss and vote on the allocation of the \$3.00 increase effective June 1st under the Basic Inside Agreement. Both meetings will be held in Local 112's meeting room.

BUILDING ASSOCIATION 6:30 P.M.
WAGE & BENEFIT ALLOCATION 7:00 P.M.

ORGANIZING REPORT

This month we would like to educate our members on how companies or contractors become union. The most common way, outside of the construction industry, is through a National Labor Relations Board election. In order to file an election with the NLRB, the union needs to submit a showing of interest typically with the signing of authorization cards. If the election is won by the union then the union becomes the sole bargaining agent for the unit of employees covered by that election. The company would then be required to sit down and bargain with the union in good faith. The end goal being that they become signatory to our Collective Bargaining Agreement as an electrical contractor.

In the construction industry there is another pathway where the contractor can sign what is called a Letter of Assent which binds them to the terms and conditions of the CBA. There are several reasons why a contractor would be willing to sign with the union, but the number one reason is access to our manpower. It typically takes a non-union contractor months to find a qualified candidate, whereas our contractors can put a call in for a wireman and have one the next day. Hence the reason for organizing: monopolize the work force and give these non-union contractors no alternative. Just because a contractor signs with the union doesn't mean that the union is automatically the sole bargaining representative for their employees. Part of the joining paperwork for all new members of the IBEW includes an Authorization for Representation card, but the employer still needs to acknowledge that we have majority support among their employees or we need to file an election with the NLRB on that contractor.

Rylan Grimes, Membership Development Rep.

COMMISSIONING TECH CORNER

As the Corona Virus began spreading throughout Washington State, plans began forming for the immediate future of WTP. Since minimum staffing was identified as the route forward, Commissioning Techs (CTs) reported for duty and continued to operate the BOF, LAW, and LAB systems, maintaining the stability the site needed as the draw-down evolved in the other craft and non-manual domains. After the decision was made to keep a few vital systems in place, the responsibility of carrying on the operations was placed on CTs. Each crew was divided into eight-member sections, guided by two supervisors and a shift manager, to ensure the continuance of safe operations for the domestic water, plant cooling water, plant service air, and fire service water systems. Additionally, routine equipment monitoring and fire watch was staffed by CTs ensuring equipment remained serviceable for the return of the regular plant operations. CTs remain mobile within the plant, as each new quarantined building control room and staging areas are relocated to support the aforementioned activities and provide a good tool for reinforcing adaptability and critical observation skills. Although life has drastically changed, CTs continue to exemplify the objects of the constitution of the IBEW.

Nic Callihan, Comm Tech

*THE RETIREE'S "BREAKFAST CLUB" FOR MAY
HAS BEEN CANCELLED*

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

~ ~ Bringing The Power To You ~ ~

114 N. Edison Street, Kennewick, WA 99336 ~ (509) 735-0512 Phone www.ibewlu112.com



APPRENTICESHIP & JOURNEYMAN TRAINING

All of our JW CEU classes have been cancelled for this quarter. If you're in need of CEUs to renew your license, there are a lot of online providers- Pellco, Jade, and Bluevolt are a few that are available.

Apprentice applications are set to open up on May 1st and continue through May 31st. During these times, we are still able to accept applications since we moved to an online application. Apply at www.jatc112.org

Marcus Burleson, Training Director



LOCAL #112 DEBIT CARDS



We now have our own debit card with Tri-CU Credit Union in Kennewick. Just show your dues receipt as proof of membership and you are eligible to get one.

Tri-CU Credit Union was started by the membership of Local 112 in 1969.

3213 W. 19th Ave., Kennewick, WA (509) 735-8331

MAY UNIT & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

DUE TO COVID-19, WITH APPROVAL FROM THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE, ALL MEETINGS REGULARY HELD IN MAY HAVE BEEN CANCELLED.



In Memory of

Darrel R. Gage
1949-2020

Brother Darrel Gage passed away on March 21, 2020 at the age of 70. He began his apprenticeship with Local 112 in 1969 and became a Journeyman Wireman in 1973. He was a 50 year member of the IBEW, having been initiated into Local 112 in 1970. Brother Gage worked the majority of his career on the Oregon side of our jurisdiction for several contractors in various sectors of our industry before retiring in 2013.



ARE YOUR BENEFICIARIES CURRENT ON YOUR BENEFITS ?

If you have a change in marital status, or have a new baby and need to update your records, please do so in a timely manner. It is very important to have this completed in case something were to happen to you.

This can be done by stopping by or calling the office and we can mail the paperwork to you. There are a few entities where this must be done, so if you are unsure, please call and we can help you, to ensure that your family will not have to deal with it later. It only takes a few minutes, so be aware, and don't put this off. We have had times when a member passes away and the designated beneficiary who receives the benefits was not necessarily who they would have intended to receive it at the current time in their life.



SAFETY SPOT

The Coronavirus is making headlines. What can the average individual do to minimize exposure and catching the disease? There are six basic areas that will reduce the chance of contracting any illness: personal hygiene; personal diet; personal exercise; personal hydration; keeping well rested; avoiding large crowds. Wash and dry your hands with warm soap and water/dry completely. Keep your hands away from your eyes and mouth. Eat with nutrition in mind. Limit tobacco use and alcoholic intake. Exercise on a regular schedule. Drink half your body weight in clear liquids each day. Get 8 hours of rest each day. Plan your activities during slow hours of each day to avoid crowds.

May is **Electrical Safety Month**. What can we do as workers in that field to avoid becoming complacent? "Take Two, Two Minutes of Time" is a DuPont safety slogan that encourages each individual to "TAKE TWO . . . two minutes for Safety". Two minutes of time to "get your head in the game". **TAKE = Talk** - to all involved about what is being done, the hazards, how to make the job safer. **Actions** - what can happen and ways to avoid accidents. **Knowledge** - do I know all the policies, procedures and safe work practices to do the task well with a safety focus? **Equipment** - do I have necessary PPE, tools - are they in good working condition. These two minutes of time are like a pre-task plan to "get our head in the game".

For electrical safety and "shorting out" complacency it is necessary to use TAKE to consider: LO/TO, zero energy, arch flash, arch blast, assured grounding, equipment inspection, procedures, policies, experience, congestion, work at heights, and all aspects of the project/task we are completing. Taking the "two minutes" of time could prevent a life of regret. We go to work expecting to return home better than they arrived: the body in good condition and more money in our account. Thank you for making safety a value.

Ed Manthei, Safety Committee Chairman

David Glessner, Committee Member



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