

Brotherhood Broadcasts

Local Union #112

April, 2021

Travis E. Swayze

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Bus. Mgr. / Fin. Secy.



A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

WORK PICTURE

Solar projects are in the very near future with the Wheatridge Solar and Battery Storage kicking things off in June. This job is located south of Boardman about 20 miles. Cupertino will be the GC and performing the electrical. This job will need up to 150 members to complete by the end of the year. Montague Solar Farm located in Gilliam County Oregon should get kicked in late summer with Conti performing the electrical work. This job will be a Project Labor Agreement and may need up to 200 members at their peak. Data centers continue to be built and our contractors continue to perform work. Thanks to all who are working at the data centers who continue to perform up to the increased demands and accelerated timelines that we see with every new buildout. Final calls have been made out to the Columbia Generating Station outage and anyone not on site are simply waiting for security clearance.

INSIDE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

Negotiations are tentatively agreed to as of April 12th and the Negotiating Committee will recommend that the membership ratify the contract at the special meeting on May 1st. Negotiations went well with good communication on both sides. Management brought some issues to our attention to help them win more work for our members and we brought some contractual issues to the table. We will continue to have discussions that help our contractors remain successful at winning bids, thus employing our members. At the end of the negotiations, we had some minor contract language changes and a monetary package increase that both sides agreed to. Once again, thanks to all who were part of the Negotiating Committees for their time spent on this process.

SHOUT OUT !!

Dave Rust LU112, GF for WPS at Columbia Generating Station wanted to share this with the members and recognize a few people who have already stepped up this outage to get the job done right. Dave writes,

“This was regarding our crane operators who have gone way above and beyond during the pre-outage crane work. This task involved working with Siemens to lift all of their equipment and a new section of steam turbine up to the 501’ elevation in the plant. The new section of turbine weighed 237,000 lbs. and cost several million dollars. Normally all this work is done with a wireless remote to operate and can be done from the 501’ elevation. This go around, the remote was not functional and the guys had to run the crane from the cab of the bridge crane. This came with temperatures upwards of 125 degrees and much higher dose received than normal. Real bad situation and a lot of communication had to do with rescue plans being set in place to safely get a guy out of the cab if he were unconscious, as well as being able to swap out with as many operators as we felt necessary to avoid heat stress and lower individual dose. The job was done safely and correct thanks to the crane operators: Pat Smith LU 112, Lorne Smith LU 112, Kurt Gustafson LU 112, Rob Jones LU 112, and Chris Keen LU 291.”

This facility and this outage is of utmost importance to the Local and the communities within the jurisdiction. It appears that we are off to a good start and hopefully this will be a memorable outage for all the members performing the work.

ORGANIZING REPORT

Berg's Going Union Campaign

Some of you may be aware of the Berg's Going Union campaign that the International has been waging against Bergelectric. with the help of a significant amount of the Locals in the 9th District and beyond. Berg is very active on social media and the International has created a Facebook page to go along with their website called Berg's Going Union, in reference to all the former Berg employees who are now IBEW members. They have been posting several times a day and hijacking the hashtags that Berg uses in all their posts such as #berglife and #worksafelivesafe. So, if you search of any of those hashtags you will most likely see Berg's Going Union show up before Berg's own Facebook Page.

Berg's M.O. is to bid a job low and make it up by hitting them with change orders. I heard a story one time that when they bid a stadium in Oregon, the permit was not included in the bid specs and once they got the job, they immediately filed a change order. So, while all the other bidders included the cost of the permit in their bid Berg was able to undercut them by leaving it out.

IBEW contractors all over the country are constantly having to take over jobs that Berg was removed from including the VA Hospital in Walla Walla a few years ago. If any of our Brothers and Sisters worked for Berg on that job or any job for that matter, and would like to share your experience, it would be invaluable as we continue to apply pressure to them and force them out of our jurisdiction. We had heard that Berg would be perusing the Prosser Memorial Hospital replacement job in Prosser, but thanks to some information provided to us by one of our contractors, we learned that Berg is not on the short list of electrical contractors.

The Int'l. believes that Berg is vulnerable and if we hit them from all angles all at once stripping their manpower, it could force them to the bargaining table or shrink their footprint and allow our contractor to take some of their market share.

Rylan Grimes, Membership Development Rep.

COMMISSIONING TECH CORNER

With more and more systems construction complete and through the startup process, construction crews have experienced some layoffs at the Vit plant. In turn, with the project set to heat up Melter 1 by the end of the year, our Commissioning Techs (CT's) workload has increased. The CT's are very busy training to obtain the Qual Cards needed to operate their watch stations. This includes almost 5,500 step-by-step procedures required for the operation of the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste approach to tank waste treatment. The Balance of Facilities are fully staffed with qualified Techs. We may see some additional hiring in late summer or early fall. Currently we have 128 CT's working on five crews at the site.

Bob Legard, Membership Development

MAY UNIT MEETINGS

Tri-Cities	May 6th	7:00 p.m.
Hermiston	May 13th	7:00 p.m.
Yakima	May 20th	7:00 p.m.
Executive Board	May 27th	5:30 p.m.

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

TELL EVERYONE YOU KNOW: new applications will be available starting June 1st. They will only be available during the month of June. The process is all online, so no need to visit the Training Center. People can visit our website ahead of time to see what items they can have ready. www.jatc112.org Also, anyone with 4,000 hours in the electrical industry may contact the Training Center at any time to see if they qualify for an application before the applications open.

The Training Center is getting apprentices back in the building to start conducting hands-on training. We are continuing to further their education with small group instruction. We will not be holding any in-person journeyman classes for the time being, but we are in the process of scheduling some virtual classes. Keep an eye on our website for the next group of classes. Until we get set up virtually, CEU's can be taken through a variety of online companies such as Pellco, Blue Volt, and Jade Learning.

MAY you all stay healthy so we can celebrate Memorial Day. Keep wearing those masks and following the guidelines.

Kris Tuura, Training



In Memory

Glenn R. Washam
1949—2021

Brother Glenn Washam passed away on April 9, 2021 after being recently diagnosed with cancer. Brother Washam began his electrical career in 1974 as an apprentice wireman and became a Journeyman in 1978. He worked his career in the shops and opened Sun River Electric in 1985. He was very successful as an electrical contractor and employed many of our members over the years, before closing Sun River Electric in October of 2015. Over the years, he served on the JATC and Negotiating Committees. He officially retired in April 2016.

We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of Brother Washam.

UPCOMING BROTHERHOOD EVENTS

With COVID restrictions being relaxed, plans are underway for our membership events this summer.

- GOLF TOURNAMENT** - July 10th @ Canyon Lakes—Kennewick
- BOAT RACES**—July 23rd—25th—Columbia Park—Kennewick
- PICNIC**—September 11th—Columbia Park—Kennewick
- COOL DESERT NIGHTS**—September 30th—October 2nd - Richland

IBEW CONVENTION Chicago

The 40th International Convention in August is still undecided as to the format in which they will use. IP Lonnie Stephenson wants an in person convention, but they are preparing for a virtual or partial virtual as well. We should know in May.



SAFETY SPOT

This article is the 2nd of several articles on the subject of cable pulls. To be continued next month.

CABLE PULLS—A LOT TO THINK ABOUT

Safe and efficient cable pulls begin in the planning. If inadvertently released, potential forces could run amok and harm workers or civilians or damage the conductors, so cable pulls require careful attention before and during the physical process. The preclude risk of civilian injuries if working in an occupied space, block access to the areas where the pull starts and where it ends. Pulling devices matched to the specific task and proper pulling techniques and strategies help ensure both the wire and workers come through the task intact. Don't cut corners when pulling cable. For maximum assurance of safety and highest level of efficiency, electricians should always use high quality equipment, such as rope, wire puller and cable feeder, if needed, as well as grips and baskets, etc.

This equipment should be appropriately sized to the particular pull and checked for integrity. Because there is some fiber tear in every pull and ropes get stiff with age, check your ropes occasionally. For maximum tensile strength in a particularly critical pull, use a new pulling rope. When setting up a pull through steel, aluminum or PVC conduit for copper wire, anchor the wire pulling equipment securely so there will be no movement under stress. For copper cable pulls, if the system itself does not otherwise provide adequate stability during the pull, use a floor mount accessory where appropriate that is designed to be bolted or otherwise held onto the floor that will provide a proper secure base to mount or hold down the cable puller. Some systems do not use bolts, but rather rely on booms. If cable length dictates, feeders and pullers should use walkie talkies to maintain communication throughout the pull. It is prudent to position an experienced electrician with a clear view of the tension gauge at the pull end of the rope to control the potential forces and be within quick reach of the on / off switch. This person should have a sharp eye to catch any overlapping of the rope on the capstans, a trained ear to interpret the sounds of the motor as it pulls, and know when to increase tension on the pull rope and when to let up a little.

The type of rope and its tensile strength are extremely important. Some manufacturers recommend that the rope should have a minimum safety factor of 4 to 1 (rope average breaking strength compared to maximum pull force by the cable puller). For example, if you are using an 8,000 lb. capacity cable puller, you want a rope to have a minimum safety factor tensile strength of 32,000 lbs. If more than the minimum of pulling rope is exposed, use an even higher safety factor.

Butch Manthei, Committee Chairman

David Glessner, Committee Member



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*Don't forget the
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 1st @ 9:00 a.m.
at the hall*

Return Service Requested

BROTHERHOOD BROADCASTS
I.B.E.W. LOCAL UNION NO. 112
114 N. Edison Street
Kennewick, WA 99336