

Brotherhood Broadcasts

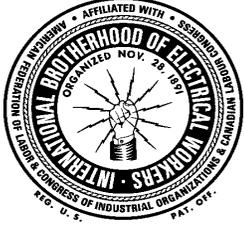
Local Union #112

August, 2021

Travis E. Swayze

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Bus. Mgr. / Fin. Secy.



A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

WORK PICTURE

Oregon projects that will be needing manpower this fall are the Wheatridge Solar and Battery project with Cupertino, the Montague Solar project with OEG, and the data centers as needed. The Wheatridge Solar project is a 50 MW project and Cupertino will need another 30-40 by October 15th between Journeymen, Apprentices, and Material Handlers. This is the date projected to start setting the panels and the project will likely be working six or seven days a week until they are all set. OEG has the Montague Solar job and we should see some hiring in September for this job. This job is under the Pendleton Building Trades Project Labor Agreement which means it will be 100% union work. This is a 160 MW solar project with an end date of the spring of 2022. All of these jobs currently have some sort of incentive pay attached to the wage package.

Washington jobs are on the horizon, but we don't expect anything big until early 2022. While our contractors didn't win the first fulfillment center building in Pasco, we are told there are up to three other buildings on that site and are hopeful our contractors can capture those extra buildings or be there to provide manpower when Berg cannot. The Darigold project is also on the radar for breaking ground in 2022. We will continue to follow this project, as bids have not been awarded yet. Prosser Memorial should break ground in the spring of 2022 as well. Valley Electric has been awarded this job and they expect it to peak at around 30 wiremen. Global Electric is currently working on an 18 MW solar job around Ellensburg and we expect to have job calls in September. Our contractors continue to win smaller jobs which is why we are seeing some calls for shops on a regular basis. There are currently 153 on Book I and 88 on Book II.

COVID-19 UPDATES

The Governor has changed the Covid-19 mandate throughout Washington state, so we currently require all staff and guests to mask up when inside the Local Union office in order to comply. We will have a supply to offer for those who need a mask, so please ask. If you have a question about your jobsite and how they are implementing the Covid-19 policies, contact your Steward or a representative to help answer any questions you might have. Each job may be a little different so make sure you understand what is expected.

WELDING TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

I would like to remind everyone about the opportunities of becoming a Wireman Welder, as it can be very beneficial to for those who have those certifications. These opportunities could keep you home when times are slow or help you get out on the road if you have to travel. If you know anyone at all interested, please call the hall or ask the JATC to find out about our tuition reimbursement program. This is available for IBEW members, Journeyman or apprentices.

RETIREES' BREAKFAST—FRIDAY, SEPT. 3RD @ 9:00 A.M.

SEPTEMBER UNIT MEETINGS

Tri-Cities	September 2nd	7:00 p.m.
Hermiston	September 9th	7:00 p.m.
Yakima	September 16th	7:00 p.m.
Executive Board	September 23rd	5:30 p.m.

ORGANIZING REPORT

Know Your Agreement

Local 112 has experienced a significant amount of growth in recent years. For instance, our membership currently stands at 1092 but ten years ago it was 767. That's a growth of over 42%. This growth has mainly been fueled by the amount of work that has come our way allowing us to bring in a record number of apprentices and organized journeymen. We do an exceptional job of manning our work which has allowed our contractors to pursue more work and gobble up more and more market share from our non-union counterparts.

And with that growth a certain number of growing pains is inevitable simply by the natural dilution of our solidarity amongst ourselves. I think back to when I was an apprentice and the journeymen who taught me what it meant to be an IBEW Journeyman Wireman, and one job in particular stands out. I was working at the windmills in Athena, Oregon and the contractor really wanted us to get a tower done in ten hours, so they scheduled us for ten hour days, but when we weren't done, they kept us there for 12. There were two local journeymen on that job and the rest were travelers and because this was our local, these two journeymen stepped up and told the contractor that keeping us for 12 when we were scheduled for ten was unscheduled overtime, and according to the contract, they would either need to feed us or give us an extra half hour of overtime in addition to the hours that we worked. Now by the end of that first week, we were able to get a tower done in a ten hour day because we are IBEW Inside Wiremen and we are the best at what we do, but that didn't negate the fact that we were still owed a half hour of overtime for each of the four days that we stayed over. As an apprentice, I just followed my Journeyman's lead when we asked the Business Manager to investigate it. But what I learned through that process is that it wasn't about the money, it was about not setting a precedent and to an extent, setting an example for me and our traveling Brothers and Sisters that we hold our contractors accountable to the Agreement in this local the same way that they hold us accountable.

With an influx of new members, whether they be organized through the apprenticeship or as a journeyman, as an installer or material handler or through employment as a Commissioning Tech, they are going to look to the rank-and-file members who have the most years of service and we owe it to those who came before us and those yet to come, to be as good an example as those two journeymen were to me. You should know on every job who your foreman or journeyman is, what schedule you are working and when to take breaks. If your foreman takes the day off, who are you taking direction from? Chain of command dictates that you, as a journeyman, can't take direction from a general foreman so are they assigning your crew to another foreman or setting someone up on your crew as foreman for the day? If they work you through your assigned lunch period did you make sure they paid you accordingly? Know your contract and if someone else is bringing up a contract issue with the contractor, are you joining your voice with theirs in solidarity or just playing the spectator's role? When was the last time you went to a union meeting? The success of our union depends on membership involvement and if the only example we are setting for new members is apathy towards our union, it will erode our solidarity and weaken our union. So read through your contract and understand what it says and what is required of our employers. Call the hall if you have any questions and take an active role in your union—it will only serve to strengthen it. *Rylan Grimes, Membership Development Rep.*

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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APPRENTICESHIP & JOURNEYMAN TRAINING

We are currently in the process of going through interviews for new applicants. Bringing on new apprentices has been ongoing with the steady work in the area. New applications will be available starting January 2022. Anyone interested in joining the program can visit our website to get more information to be prepared when the process opens in January. www.jatc112.org

Apprentices are back in the building to continue training. We are excited to further their education with smaller group instruction. We would like to congratulate both the graduating classes of 2020 and 2021. They had a great graduation ceremony at the Three Rivers Convention Center. If any of the graduates were unable to make it, please contact the Training Center to pick up your certificates.
Kris Tuura, Training Director



In Memory of

Marlen G. Rieker
1931—2021

Brother Marlen Rieker passed away on June 22, 2021 at the age of 90. He was initiated into Local 112 as an apprentice in 1954 and was a 67 year member of the IBEW.

He worked his career mainly in the shops in Yakima . He went to work on the Hanford site for a short time but returned to work in Yakima before retiring in 1993.

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

COMMISSIONING TECH CORNER

Last week our Low-Activity Waste (LAW) Facility Completion Team finished handovers for the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system. This achievement included delivering the facility's four air confinement (C) subzones, C1, C2, C3, and C5, to Plant Management.

During future operations, the LAW Facility HVAC system controls the potential for radioactive contamination to protect workers and the environment. The complex system includes multiple ventilation components, each inside the four different subzones, that work in a sequence and each zone protects against a higher level of potential contamination. This ensures air meets regulatory requirements before being emitted outside the facility.

Recently, Omar Velasquez and Tanner Korenkiewicz have both resigned as Stewards for their respective crews. Thank you both for stepping up and representing your co-workers! While we work through the process of selecting their replacements on a more permanent basis, Nic Armstrong (B crew) and Irene Pacheco (D Crew) have stepped up to fill the Steward roles.

Erik Ham, Steward

We recently held a “New Member Orientation” for our members who have joined the Local since the onset of COVID.



It is an informal get together and gives you the opportunity to learn more about the benefits you earn while working through Local 112 and the IBEW. We also touch on the referral system.

It is a chance to ask any questions you may have. Everyone is welcome to attend—even if you have been a member for quite a while and want a refresher. Spouses and partners are welcome to attend as well. If you are interested in attending the next meeting, let us know and we will notify you when that time comes.



SAFETY SPOT



GENERAC RECALLS PORTABLE GENERATORS

Generac has recalled generators due to finger amputation and crushing hazards—DR6500 watt and 8000 watt portable generators. The hazard is that an unlocked handle can pinch workers’ fingers against the generator frame when the generator is moved, posing finger amputation and crushing hazards. Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled portable generators and contact Generac for a free repair kit .

This recall involves 6500 watt and 8000 watt with unit type numbers XT 8000E , XT 800EFI, GP 6500E, GP 8000E and Home Link 6500E. It also includes DR models PRO 6500M and 6500E. Additional specific unit types, model numbers and serial number information can be found on their web site.

There has been eight reports of injuries, seven resulting in finger amputation and one with a finger being crushed. About 321,160 of these generators are recalled and need to be repaired.

You can call Generac at 844-242-3493 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (central time) Monday through Friday, or go online at www.generac.com/handleguard or www.generac.com and click on Important Safety Information. You can also go to www.generac.com/service-support/product-support-lookup.

Butch Manthei, Committee Chairman

David Glessner, Committee Member



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