

# Brotherhood Broadcasts

## Local Union #112

December 2022

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Bus. Mgr. / Fin. Secy.



### A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Brothers & Sisters:

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope the New Year brings renewed motivation and focus on the physical and mental health of each other and our families.

I would like to take a moment reflect on 2022, as we have seen a lot of accomplishments from the hard work of our Brothers and Sisters, as well our IBEW contractors. This year we have organized more new Journeyman Wiremen than any other year, at nearly 50 JW's. We also brought in almost 60 apprentices to our program, which is more apprentices than any other year on record. We went over 1200 'A' members for the first time in our 75 year history which gave us four attendees at this years 40<sup>th</sup> International Convention, which is more representation than Local 112 has ever sent. In 2022, we have reached a milestone of over 2,000,000 hours worked in a calendar year, with IBEW and NECA both realizing the need for even more JW's in 2023. A Bounty Program has also been instituted to encourage our members to help organize more Journeyman Wireman that could earn our members \$1000 per referral from our LMCC program, and we have set the wheels in motion to begin construction of the new Training Center to break ground in March 2023.

This year at the VIT Plant we have had a banner year with over 160 Commissioning Technicians who are in the process of earning all their qualifications to operate one of the largest cleanup efforts in the world. Once the project is fully staffed, it will include around 200 Commissioning Technicians looking to guide this project through 'hot commissioning' in order to start cleaning up the 56 million gallons of waste left behind from the Manhattan Project and the Cold War. While our Commissioning Tech Brothers and Sisters will surely strive to bring this project to completion, we should all take pride in being a large part of the construction and operation of the facility that will cleanup our groundwater for the next generation. Every year is one step closer to realizing this goal.

We have seen a lot of firsts in 2022, and 2023 looks to be a stronger year for work with the scheduled outage at Energy Northwest, the Darigold plant going out to bid, multiple solar and windmill projects in Washington, and continued growth in data center work in Oregon. Other green energy projects in the works include Hydrogen Capture and Storage, EVITP, and small nuclear reactors. Hanford continues to be fully funded, keeping our Hanford contractors needing more help in 2023. It is a good time to be in the electrical industry and I am looking forward to leading our Local into the new year.

The Apprentice Reimbursement Challenge (ARC) will continue and encourages union participation. Apprentices registered for this program must complete certain criteria and can qualify to be entered into a drawing for reimbursement of books and tuition of the previous school year, of which fifteen will be drawn. The program is already going, but if you register in early January, you can still complete the requirements.

### BROTHERHOOD EVENTS

Brotherhood Events are key to bringing Brothers and Sisters together. With the help of the staff, executive board, and committees we try to offer many events and opportunities for members to attend. If you would like to get involved or have ideas for events, please bring them forward and I look forward to seeing you in 2023.

### ORGANIZING REPORT

#### Organizing Will Only Get Better

2022 shaped up to be a huge year for organizing. We organized more journeyman this year than we have since I have had the privilege of being your Organizer. A lot of that was due to our ability to organize in Yakima for the work at the Lund Hill solar project. Stripping manpower from non-union contractors makes it difficult for them to man their work and limiting their ability to compete with our own contractors.

And the next couple of years are shaping up to be even more fruitful. While there has been work in Washington, it hasn't been nearly as plentiful as our work picture in Oregon and that is looking to change. With all the solar projects planned in Yakima and Benton County over the next couple of years, as well as the Vitrification Plant ramping back up to finish the HLW, I think we are going to have an opportunity to organize like we haven't seen in years. And the new incentive program will only help.

I hope everyone has a safe and fun holiday season.

*Rylan Grimes, Membership Development Rep.*



What a year ! Thank you to all the members and their families who came out to our events and especially to those members who helped with them. It was really exciting seeing many new faces at events and people volunteering. Our membership is growing and we become stronger as a whole as we get to know and grow with each other and build lasting friendships and Brother/Sisterhood in our great Union. Have a wonderful new year and can't wait for what's to come in 2023.

*Moses Torrescano, Committee Chairman*



### JANUARY MEETINGS

*Quarterly feed begins at 6:00 pm prior to the unit meetings*

Tri- Cities	January 5th	7:00 pm
Hermiston	January 12th	7:00 pm
Yakima	January 19th	7:00 pm
Executive Board	January 26th	5:30 pm
RENEW	January 11th	6:00 pm

# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

~~Bringing The Power To You~~

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 <p align="center"><b>APPRENTICESHIP &amp; JOURNEYMAN TRAINING</b></p> <p>With this year nearly over, we will again be accepting apprentice applications right around the corner. The JATC will accept online applications during the month of January. Last year there were over 600 applications to get into the apprenticeship, as we have been reaching out to high schools through career fairs and expos. We have also been in communication with Tri-Tech and YV-Tech to get the best applicants. If you know someone who wants to start a career in this field, direct them to the JATC website. <a href="http://www.jatc112.org">www.jatc112.org</a>, and remember, the application process is during January only and won't open up again until June 2023.</p> <p><b>Mike Pauly</b> was chosen by the instructors as December's Apprentice of the Month. Congratulations to Mike for his hard work in the classroom.</p> <p align="right"><i>Geoff Arends, Training Director</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>COMMISSIONING TECH CORNER</b></p> <p>As the new year approaches, we have so much to look back on. Much has been accomplished over the year and our major milestone was the Melter Heat Up. The entire team worked together around the clock to prepare for that historical moment. Great job everyone!</p> <p>In the last few months we have welcomed two Commissioning Tech classes. They have all been working towards their qualifications and have already been amazing support for our crews. There will be a new class coming on early next year and we are excited for all the new milestones to come next year. Thank you everyone for working together and making a difference.</p> <p align="right"><i>Irene Pacheco, Steward</i></p>
 <p align="center"><i>The Local Union Office will be closed December 26th thru January 2nd</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>Retirees' Breakfast</b> FRIDAY, JANUARY 6TH @ 9:00 AM @ THE HALL</p>



## **SAFETY SPOT**

**HIGH RISK ELECTRICAL TASKS AND FACTORS**

**Pull Cables & Wires**  
Improper ergonomic techniques and awkward due to tight work spaces; not using mechanical aides to move reels; improper use of the tugger; sharp edges (HVAC duct work, brackets, etc.); long distance pulling operations.

**Lockout / Tagout—LOTO**  
Not following LOTO policies and procedures; not reviewing electrical line diagram and documents; not having correct LOTO device; unexpected release of stored energy from test equipment and back feeds; performing LOTO on complex systems - specific breakers while keeping other breakers in operations.

**Operate Trucks With Boom Lifts or Stand Alone Lifts**  
Contact with overhead lines or objects from hauling high-profile equipment; not having a spotter in place; lack of overhead hazard recognition.

**Produce Openings for Conduit and Electrical Lines**  
Working near live equipment; striking a live line with a wall or floor; struck by objects from overhead drilling; wrong choices of drill bits and hole saws for the core drill; working around public.

**Installation of New Electrical Equipment**  
Complex configuration of electrical equipment; tight work spaces; improper coordination of overhead or stacked work; uncomfortable PPE and awkward posture in tight work spaces; failure to inspect and improper use of equipment and tools; untethered tools and material; inadequate insulation; improper control of energy.

**Preventative Maintenance on Electrical Equipment**  
Complex LOTO procedure due to multiple switchgear and unaccounted feed; failure to follow LOTO procedures; contact with energized parts (conductors and buss bars); overloading load bank; faulty load banks and cables; improper connection to load bank.

**Energize Electrical Equipment**  
Incomplete, incorrect or mis-labeled installations; failure to follow the LOTO procedures, using conductive tools; improper controls of down stream devices; circuit breaker failure causing arc flashes and igniting combustible dust.

Have a Wonder Holiday Season and a Great Year in 2023. With the winter weather upon us, keep safety in mind.

*Butch Manthei, Committee Chairman*



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