

# Brotherhood Broadcasts

## Local Union #112

December 2024

Travis E. Swayze

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Bus. Mgr. / Fin. Secy.



### A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you all find this month's article in good mental and physical health. Without those two things we cannot reach our full potential and will limit our ability to help those we care about the most.

As your Business Manager, I am honored to represent our Local not only within our jurisdiction, but across the country in multiple settings. It could be IBEW, National Building Trades, Retirement and Health and Welfare Trusts, the Electrical Training Alliance, or just electrical industry related conferences or conventions. Within these conferences they typically have keynote speakers which could be motivational, educational, or informative.

One speaker and topic I often refer to, is being public servants to all. The topic essentially revolved around how we can all serve each other, which in turn helps everyone and improves everything. As your elected leader it is something I am always focused on for our membership, so I understand where he is coming from in those regards. The interesting part is how we treat each other and serve each other when we are surrounded by strangers or acquaintances that we may not see very much. Can you imagine if people walked up to someone they didn't know and asked how they were and truly meant it? It just isn't in our DNA to do that all the time, but what if it were? Maybe offer to help with a small task or stop on the side of the road to help someone who has their flashers on, or just to simply pick something up that someone dropped on the ground? We can all do better with the concept of serving each other without wanting something in return.

The reason I bring this topic up is that this is the perfect time of year to extend a hand, reach out and offer help, or just come together to reflect and celebrate 2024. For most, the holidays are a joyous time of year but for others it is very stressful trying to conform to expectations. I think the season should be spent with families and friends and we should make a strong effort to spend as much time as possible enjoying the spirit of the season with our loved ones. For IBEW 112, we have always offered a couple of holiday celebrations for our Brothers, Sisters and their families to come together, and this year they were both fantastic!

Being in my position, one thing that I didn't realize before was the ability to see how many acts of Brotherhood, or even simple conversations, can help someone who may not want to ask for help but needs it. I can tell you firsthand that with 1500 IBEW 112 members, it is a weekly occurrence that I witness the acts of kindness and appreciation that comes with helping each other out. While there is always room for improvement, I truly appreciate the Brothers and Sisters of the IBEW who go out of their way to serve one another whether it is a heartfelt "How are you doing" or simply volunteering to help someone with a small task.

So Brothers and Sisters, in spirit of the season, keep serving those people around you because you never know who's day you might change for the better just by reaching out when we normally wouldn't. I wish everyone and their families the best through the Holiday Season!

### ORGANIZING REPORT

#### LEARNING FROM THE PAST TO PROTECT OUR FUTURE

2024 has shaped up to be one of the best years for organizing that we have had in recent memory. We are just shy of 230 new members, 68 of which are journeymen wiremen putting our total membership at nearly 1500 total members. A lot of this success is born of your efforts. Those of you who are on mixed jobsites with Prairie and Garrett are talking to them about the benefits that IBEW Local 112 has to offer and those of you who joined after having worked non-union, are talking to your former co-workers about the benefits as well. Even some of the interactions we have had when talking to non-union contractors aren't as hostile as they used to be, which tells me that maybe they are starting to see a possible benefit in partnering with us.

But we need to make sure that we can live up to those benefits of partnering and don't repeat the mistakes of the past. Going into the 1980's, pretty much all IBEW locals controlled most of their individual electrical construction markets and Local 112 was no exception. Then came the nuclear power plants and our tiny Local of 400 started employing 2000 electricians. Subsequently, it became difficult for our in-town contractors to man their work and it led to a significant erosion of our market share that persists to this day. This is also the time when many of our non-union competitors started popping up, many of which are still in business today. And when that work finished or was shut down, there wasn't much in town work to go back to.

While our current work boom doesn't appear to be nearly as fleeting as it was in the 1980's, the lesson still applies. So, as we progress into the second half of this decade, keep in mind which calls pad our pockets, and which calls protect our future.

Rylan Grimes, Lead Organizer



### Retirees' Breakfast

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3RD @ the hall - 9:00

### JANUARY MEETINGS

Tri- Cities	January 2nd	7 :00 pm
Hermiston	January 9th	7:00 pm
Yakima	January 16th	7:00 pm
Executive Board	January 23rd	5:30 pm
RENEW	January 8th	6:00 pm
PAC	January 14th	6:00 pm
Veterans	January 14th	6:00 pm
Women's Comm.	January 15th	6:30 pm



# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

~~Bringing The Power To You~~



**APPRENTICESHIP & JOURNEYMAN TRAINING**

As of November, we received nearly 260 applicants for the apprenticeship program. We have started aptitude testing in December and will soon begin the interview process. We will continue to accept applications in the coming year, so please check our website for updates.

For more information about the program and how to apply, visit [www.jatc112.org](http://www.jatc112.org). If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Training Center at 509-783-0589.

**Apprentice of the Month**

Congratulations to **Victor Pio**, our 5th Year Apprentice, who has been named Milwaukee Apprentice of the Month for his outstanding work and positive attitude. Victor will be graduating this spring and will be our first VEEP graduate. His dedication has been recognized by both his employer and instructors.

**Kevin Andreason “Apprentice of the Year Award”**

This award recognizes an apprentice who has demonstrated exceptional attitude, commitment, and hard work throughout the 2024 year. **Blake Gilbert** has been selected for this honor. Blake’s dedication has been recognized by 112 Journeyman, traveling Journeyman, Foremen, and a Superintendent, all of whom reached out to the Training Center to commend him. Instructors have also praised his efforts in the classroom. Blake was awarded this recognition along with a \$500 award at the Tri-City meeting in December.



*Memory Of*  
**Gary D. Anderson**

Brother Gary D. Anderson passed away on July 8, 2024 at the age of 81. He was initiated into Local 112 as an apprentice wireman in 1971 and completed the four year program, becoming a Journeyman Wireman in 1974. He worked on the Hanford Project for several contractors throughout his career and then went to work in the maintenance sector in 1989, where he worked until his retirement in 2007. Brother Anderson was a 53 year member of the IBEW.

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of our deceased Brother.



The **RENEW** Committee is holding another logo design contest for coins and shirts. Get your creative design juices flowing and submit your design to the hall at : [renew@ibew112.com](mailto:renew@ibew112.com)

*Koby Harris, Committee Chair*

**DUES RATE CHANGE** *Effective January 2025, basic dues for “A” members will increase \$2.00 per month, as per the IBEW Convention of 2022. Monthly dues for “A members will be \$62.00 + \$1.95 quarterly. Dues for “BA” members will not change.*



**SAFETY SPOT**

**NAVIGATING WINTER ROADS SAFELY**

As the winter season covers our roads with snow and ice, our commutes to and from work can become the most dangerous part of our day. Ensuring your safety while driving in winter conditions is paramount. Here are some essential tips to help you navigate winter roads safely:

- ◆ **Prepare Your Vehicle:** Ensure your vehicle is winter-ready by checking the tires, brakes, lights, and heating system. Keep your gas tank at least half full in case you get stuck in a snowstorm or get rerouted you will have plenty of fuel.
- ◆ **Clear Visibility:** Remove all snow and ice from your vehicle, including windows, mirrors, and lights, before setting out. Carry a snow brush and ice scraper in your car.
- ◆ **Slow Down:** Reduce your speed and increase your following distance. Snow and ice reduce traction, so give yourself more time to react to changing road conditions.
- ◆ **Brake Gently:** Apply the brakes gently to avoid skidding.
- ◆ **Use Winter Tires:** Consider investing in winter tires for improved traction and control on icy roads.
- ◆ **Stay Informed:** Check weather and road conditions before your commute. Use traffic apps or GPS to find alternate routes in case of road closures or delays.
- ◆ **Carry Emergency Supplies:** Keep a winter emergency kit in your vehicle, including blankets, non-perishable food, water, a flashlight, and essential tools.
- ◆ **Stay Cautious on Bridges and Overpasses:** These areas tend to freeze first, so approach them with extra care.
- ◆ **Avoid Cruise Control:** Do not use cruise control when driving on slippery surfaces, as it may reduce your control of the vehicle.
- ◆ **Plan Ahead:** Ensure you have sufficient time to get to work safely, allowing for slower driving conditions in winter weather. Your safety on the road is crucial, and taking these precautions can make a significant difference in your winter driving experience. Let's ensure we arrive safely at our job sites and back home to our loved ones.

*Jason Allen, Committee Member*



*Return Service Requested*

**Kennewick, WA 99336**

**114 N. Edison Street**

**I.B.E.W. LOCAL UNION NO. 112**

**BROTHERHOOD BROADCASTS**



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