

Brotherhood Broadcasts

Local Union #112

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Travis E. Swayze

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Bus. Mgr. / Fin. Secy.



A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

WORK PICTURE

The Columbia Generating Station will be putting in calls the week of March 29th for about 40 people for show up the week of April 19th for a May 8th outage start date. These numbers are projected, but should be pretty close. The current number expected on site is around 70 total with about 30 people already dispatched. A couple weeks into outage we will start to see the first big layoff and it will trickle down from there.

Solar jobs will start to break ground this summer in Oregon, so if you have the ability to get your Oregon license it would be a good time to start that process. If you know anybody who would like to be a material handler on these jobs, please have them come down to the hall to sign the material handler book. The only real requirements are a driver's license and be 18 and out of school. These jobs will require a lot of moving material around for our JW's and Apprentices and would be a great opportunity for people who are interested in applying for the apprenticeship.

MONTHLY UNIT MEETINGS

We have fielded a lot of questions about unit meetings and when we will be able to hold meetings again. The way our by-laws are written for general membership meetings, all three unit meetings make up a general membership meeting. The general membership meeting is where the membership approves the business and financials of the Local. Currently the business of the Local is being taken care of by the Executive Board like normal, but approvals will have to wait until we can have all three unit meetings. We are trying to find opportunities to hold in person general membership meetings. Each Local is a little different in how their by-laws read and most do not have jurisdictions in multiple states like we do. We are working with the International and looking at possible avenues, even if temporary, to get back to some sort of in person general meeting format.

NEGOTIATIONS SURVEY

Negotiations are right around the corner for the Inside Agreement which will also affect our Commissioning Technicians. We would like to hear from you, so go to the Local's website and complete the Negotiations Survey.

PAC & COPE

With the political season over a few questions have come up about PAC and COPE donations. The Political Action Committee (PAC) is a political fund used by IBEW Local 112 to promote local and state politicians and bills that promote union labor and union jobs. The Committee on Political Education (COPE) is what the IBEW in Washington D.C. uses to educate members about political and legislative activities on a national level. Both political funds are used to improve the hours, wages, and working conditions for our members and their families. Members voluntarily pay \$3/month through their basic dues with \$2 into the PAC and \$1 for COPE, which is a small price for protecting our work. Locally we have an active PAC committee that any member can join and be part of the selection process that helps decide which candidates we should endorse. We try to do our best to pin point labor issues and candidates who support us. This is a great committee to get involved with as it helps shape the future of work in both Oregon and Washington.

MARCH MEETINGS

All unit and committee meetings for the month of March have been cancelled due to COVID.

ORGANIZING REPORT

Organizing remains a bit slow hampered by how slow it has been in Washington. However, we are always looking for a few good brothers and sisters to help us organize contractors through salting. Many times we can talk to a contractor and explain to them the benefits of having access to our out of work list, but it can take seeing those benefits in action to get them over the edge. It can take months for a non-union contractor to find a journeyman, whereas we can get them someone usually overnight. So, if salting is something that you would like to help us with, please give the hall a call so that we can get you on a salting agreement before we send you out to work for a non-union contractor.

"Union organizing isn't about signing cards....it's about empowering people and changing lives."

UPDATES TO THE ONLINE DISPATCHING

We have made a few quality-of-life changes to the online dispatch website. First, we added the job classification to the hiring hall archive page to better identify what book the job was dispatched from. Also, previously the dispatch date was displaying the start date and not the dispatch date so that has been corrected. On the out of work list, we added the available position number so that those on the list can determine how many people are in front of them on the list at any given time.

Rylan Grimes, Membership Development Rep.

COMMISSIONING TECH CORNER

Who has heard of DOE O 422.1? Have you heard of Conduct of Operations? Or maybe you have heard the phrase, "If you have CONOPS you're good." But what is Conduct of Operations (CONOPS) and what does the DOE, the customer, really mean by it?

CONOPS' consists of, according to directives.doe.gov, the "formal documentation, practices, and actions implementing disciplined and structured operations that support mission success and promote worker, public, and environment protection." In human terms, CONOPS is how we get the job done correctly, safely, and with a high degree of quality.

For example, procedure validations are a time-honored tradition, with serious implications involving quality and safety. Our CONOPS program teaches us to complete a thorough walkdown of the system we are validating, to check the alignments it prescribes, and to understand the workflow a particular procedure places the plant in. How many times have you been placed in a time-pressured situation to "just get it done" only to use the procedure months later finding a multitude of issues? I implore you to continually refresh and retrain on the program as it is the foundation for how we do business and it is your responsibility to deliver to the customer, DOE, what they want and how they want it.

If WTP was a bakery: DOE is the customer, Operations/CTs are the bakers, the waste and reagents are the ingredients, and CONOPS is the recipe; without the recipe we have a dangerous situation and an unhappy client.

Nic Callihan, Comm.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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APPRENTICESHIP & JOURNEYMAN TRAINING

GREAT NEWS, we have gotten through our first round of interviews and started bringing on new apprentices for the next year's class. We were also able to resume aptitude tests and we have more interviews to follow. For those wishing to get into the program, new applications will not be available until June. If you know anybody in the process, they should have already received information through email on their status.

We do have some sad news. ☹️Deona, our Office Manager, will be leaving us at the end of February. She has been a huge asset to the Training Center and helped move us forward into the future. At this time, we are in the process of hiring a new Office Manager and will announce her replacement in the next newsletter. I personally want to thank Deona for all the hard work she has put in over the past couple of years. Without her, we would not have been able to keep the Training Center running through COVID.

The Training Center is developing a plan to get apprentices back in the building to start conducting hands-on training. We are looking forward to continuing 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.

Kris Tuura, Training Director



In Memory

David DuBois

1950–2021

Brother Dave Dubois suddenly passed away on Friday, January 18, 2021 at the age of 70. Brother Dubois began his apprenticeship with Local 112 in August, 1972 and was a 47 year member of the IBEW. Dave lived in the Yakima area so he worked for several contractors in that area in the early years of his career. Before going to work as an Electrical Inspector for the State of Washington in 1992, he spent several years working on the Hanford Project. Brother Dubois continued to work as an Electrical Inspector until his retirement in 2006.

Keith Browning

1946–2021

Brother Keith Browning passed away on February 15, 2021 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was initiated into Local 112 in 1996 as a Journeyman Wireman and was a 25 year member of the IBEW. Brother Browning enjoyed working for the shops on the smaller jobs, but did spend some time on the Hanford Project towards the end of his career before retiring in 2011.



We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of our deceased Brothers.

ARE YOUR TEXT MESSAGES FROM THE HALL COMING THROUGH CORRECTLY ?

Ever since we started sending out group text message alerts, some carriers would either format the text message weird or cut it off completely after so many characters. We now have a fix for that. Log onto your account on our main webpage at ibewlu112.com and edit your account settings. Make sure that your current cell phone number is listed as your cell phone. Then under the cell phone provider select the MMS version of the provider you have. So, if you have AT&T select "AT&T MMS" not "AT&T". This will ensure that the text message is sent as a multimedia message as opposed to a plain text message. From then on you should receive the full text message and it will be formatted correctly.



SAFETY SPOT

As we go through life learning is important. Life lessons come in many sizes and shapes. Each day it is important to "keep our head in the game".

A neighbor is an over the road truck driver with years of experience. He was following his regular routine and fell asleep at the wheel. His truck and trailer were totaled by his insurance carrier. He was not injured. Insurance will replace the equipment. In reviewing the incident he realized that he had become complacent. This winter a number of incidents occurred during the commute to job sites. Changing conditions make it important to be alert. Reviewing the safety incidents and injuries is beneficial because there are lessons to be learned. Making safety a core value in 2021 will avoid becoming complacent. Priorities change with circumstances. The size of the project does not change the value of safety. Keeping our incident rate in check is critical for our employers to be able to bid on major projects. The benefits of work ensure we have the resources to enjoy leisure activities.

Reviewing incidents is a way to evaluate, as an individual, our commitment to "build on the foundation of safety". Thousands of injuries happen monthly in our national workforce. Back strain, lost or broken teeth, cuts, bruises, twisted ankles are UNSAFE ACTS. No one does an UNSAFE ACT intentionally to get injured. "It just happened". With 20/20 hind sight, UNSAFE ACTS are preventable. Pre-task planning and walk about are two of the best tools available to identify and eliminate UNSAFE ACTS. With safety as a core value TAKING TWO, two minutes to do the pre-task planning and walk about is the best way to do business.

Loud noise exposures, foreign object in an eye, inhalation of air borne particulate are UNSAFE CONDITIONS. Wearing hearing protection will minimize loud noise exposure. Wearing safety glasses with side shields prevent foreign objects in an eye. Being aware of our surroundings and avoiding dusty areas or donning proper respiratory protection will prevent exposure to inhalation hazards.

Safety is not an accident. With Safety as a core value, the foundation we build our work activities on, UNSAFE ACTS and UNSAFE CONDITIONS will be avoided. *Butch Manthei, Committee Chairman* *David Glessner, Committee Member*



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