

Brotherhood Broadcasts

Local Union #112

January, 2021

Travis E. Swayze

VOLUME 57, No. 1 #612

Bus. Mgr. / Fin. Secy.



A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Happy New Year and I hope for good health and prosperity to all. I have seen the sobering effects of Covid-19 on some of our members and their families and hope everyone out there is doing your part to keep people around you safe. I have seen people get Covid-19 with no real side effects and I have seen people admitted to a hospital on Friday and pass away three days later. Most are somewhere in between. While it may be a real inconvenience, we need to keep up our guards until everyone who wants to get vaccinated has that opportunity. When that happens we can start seeing relief and start to put this pandemic behind us .

At this time I am not sure when we will be able to start up unit meetings, but when we do, I will make sure we get the word out to all the jobs and get it posted on our digital media. The first meeting will be a long one, as we will have to approve the minutes for each of the Executive Board meetings that have been held in order to keep the business of the Local running. When we do start back up, we will have protocols in place to keep everyone safe.

WORK PICTURE

2021 is expected to be another solid year for employment. We are seeing the work at the VIT dwindle and are projected to have around 60 people left on the construction side. The Columbia Generating Station has started to put calls in for the 2021 outage in May, they expect to peak at around 90, and it is planned for a 35 day outage. The data centers are starting new builds for all of our main contractors down there. We are being told about an Amazon Fulfillment Center coming to Pasco sometime in the first quarter 2021, but no word of who has been awarded that job. Typically it is a 50/50 chance of those being built union and I have taken a few calls over the last couple months from contractors that have been invited to bid on it. The Montague Solar Project and the Wheat Ridge Project in Oregon are both expected to start in the first half of 2021 as well. The smaller industrial work that was put on hold in 2020 should start to see movement in the first and second quarters time frame as well. We are unaware of any sizeable industrial projects at this time. There are currently 105 on Book I and 90 on Book II.

VIRTUAL RETIREMENT SEMINAR COMING SOON

We are scheduling a virtual retirement seminar for the end of February. The platform will be similar to the in-person event except you will be sitting at home on your phone or computer. Please call the hall to get signed up and we will send out a link to join during the week of the event.

LABOR UNIONS:

THE FOLKS WHO BROUGHT YOU THE WEEKEND,
CHILD LABOR LAWS, OVERTIME,
MINIMUM WAGE, INJURY PROTECTION,
WORKMENS COMPENSATION INSURANCE,
PENSION SECURITY, RIGHT TO ORGANIZE . .ETC.

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

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

ORGANIZING REPORT

Happy New Year! Despite what a crazy year 2020 was and the first couple weeks of 2021, it really was not a bad time to be a member of local 112 work wise. Things did slow down a bit in Washington over the last couple months, but with the outage coming up, hopefully that will help clear the books a bit. Despite how slow it has been recently, we were still able to grow our ranks last year before it started getting too slow.

We initiated 121 new Brothers and Sisters into Local 112 last year, bringing our current total membership to 1057. The 121 new Brothers and Sisters consisted of 34 Journeyman Wiremen, 27 Commissioning Techs, 26 Apprentices, 19 Material Handlers, 8 Installers, 6 Residential Trainees, and 1 Residential Wireman.

There were a lot of challenges last year for organizing due to the pandemic. We were not able to have our annual organizing blitz and we were a lot more cautious about going onto non-union jobsites to avoid being accused of spreading the disease. Despite these challenges we were still able to organize 34 Journeyman Wiremen and the only reason we did not organize more is because how slow things got in Washington towards the end of the year. We have laid a foundation over the last few years where workers are coming to us to organize instead of us always having to go to them, which is especially helpful when a pandemic limits our ability to reach them through traditional means. I remember someone telling me that they did not even know that the union was in the Yakima area several years ago, and now Yakima is our biggest organizing opportunity if we could just get our contractors to secure more work there. Keep talking to anyone you know about the benefits of union membership and it will continue to build our bargaining power and hopefully sometime this year we will be able to have meetings again. *Rylan Grimes, MDR*

COMMISSIONING TECH CORNER

Happy New Year Team ! Commissioning Techs engaged the 2021 with vigor and hit the ground running as more and more EMF was turned over and the establishment of new permanent watch stations throughout BOF. Let us remain vigilant throughout our time at the WTP by focusing on the fundamentals, i.e. procedural compliance, questioning attitude, formality, knowledge, communication, and above all, integrity. Taking each of these principles and applying them to every evolution you are involved in will not only keep you out of trouble, but truly enhance your safety and the quality of our product.

With the project set to heat up Melter 1 by the end of the year, CT's have readily immersed themselves in training for the control room to stand the watch of the site's second most valuable asset, the first being the women and men who strive to make the region a little safer every day. The training involves detailed lectures on the melters and their extensive off-gas trains followed by weeks of simulator training involving the whole control room team. A Delta crew CT expressed, "this is very exciting, nerve-wracking at times, but we have waited a long time for this opportunity." Maintaining a hard working attitude and keeping an eye on safety, we will soon begin the next phase of the WTP journey.

Nic Callihan, Comm. Tech

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

GREAT NEWS ! We have started conducting interviews and are planning to finish our first round by the beginning of February. Shortly thereafter, we will resume aptitude tests with more interviews to follow. For those wishing to get into the program, new applications will not be available until late spring since we have a large backlog of applicants from last year. If you know anybody in the process, they should have already received information through email on their status.

We will not be holding any in-person journeyman classes for the time being, but we would like to do some virtual classes. We have received some input on when to conduct these classes and it looks like Friday night starting at 6pm is the most preferred day & time. If you would like to see these classes happen at a different day & time, please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WWXLZ8M> and help us make these classes better for your schedule. The website link is also available on the Hall and Training Center websites. Until we get set up virtually, CEU's can be taken through a variety of online companies such as Pellco, Blue Volt, Jade Learning, and Mike Holt.

Let us be thankful that 2020 is over and move through 2021, staying safe to get back to normal.

Kris Tuura, Training Director



In Memory

William Winter

1937–2020

Brother William Winter passed away on December 18, 2020 from COVID at the age of 83. Brother Winter was initiated into Local 112 in 1992 as a Journeyman Wireman and was a 28 year member of the IBEW. When he joined the IBEW, he went to work for Kaiser on the Hanford Site and after leaving Hanford, worked mainly on the Oregon side.

Brother Winter enjoyed a 20 year retirement, having retired in 2000.

Dan H. Smith

1921–2021

Local 112's oldest retired member, Dan H. Smith, passed away on January 3, 2021 at the age of 99. Brother Smith was initiated into the IBEW by Local 77 in 1939 and later transferred his membership to Local 73. After Local 112 was chartered, he transferred his membership to Local 112 in June, 1947.

Dan work for several contractors on the Hanford Project during the early years of his career. In 1954, he opened Smith Electric in Yakima, where he was a contractor until 1976. He returned to the Hanford site after closing his shop and worked until his retirement in 1985.

Executive Board Approves IBEW Watches For All Retirees

At a recent meeting of the Board, a discussion was held concerning giving all Local 112's retirees an IBEW Retired Member watch. These watches have been recently offered to any member who retired in 2018 and thereafter, but not to those who retired prior to 2018.

If you are a retired member and would like to receive a watch, please contact the Local Union office. There are several options to choose from and your name and years of service will be engraved on the back. You can stop by the hall to make your selection, or we can mail or e-mail the order form to you.



SAFETY SPOT

Happy New Year !! Let's All Have a Safe & Prosperous 2021. We all work with tools and equipment of all types to install supports, brackets, conduit racks, conduit, junction boxes, etc. We need personal protection, proper testing of equipment and training to operate it, safe use of extension cords and outlet strips, as well as the proper cable protectors for safety and to prevent tripping. Use the proper surge protectors and circuit breaker to shut off the work sites power supply during an emergency. Precautions like knowing where electrical wiring will be an issue on a construction site and label it for safety measures. Also use ground fault circuit interrupters for all receptacle outlets to prevent electrical shock.

We need to use all equipment in a safe and proper manner. We want to ensure that our co-workers know the proper way to use every tool, especially in direct electrical work. The dangers presented by construction sites must never be overlooked. We all need to be watching for any abnormality or any kind of electrical hazard. Risk assessments are very important before we start any type of work on a construction site. We want to look at not only electrical hazards, but any environmental, mechanical or equipment hazards.

A lot of our work involves mechanical hazards. It's the little things that we take for granted that puts us in harm's way. When installing hangers, conduit supports, tray supports or any other supports, make sure the support can't fall and hurt someone or a piece of equipment. This also applies to conduit, as well as junction boxes and tray. We are usually working in our area with other crafts and we need to be aware of what they are doing so they don't put us in harm's way. Always remember scissor lifts aren't designed for much side pull. They are usually rated for 100 lbs. which isn't much if you are pulling or pushing from the side of a lift. Always make sure you are inside the handrails when you move the lift. If you are looking over the edge, you have put a part of your body in harm's way. Another hazard we need to be aware of is pinch points. When we are working around equipment, we must be constantly aware of where it is. When cutting the bands on conduit, Unistrut, etc., make sure your hands and feet are clear to prevent being pinched.

I am sure that most of you already know these things and this is just a friendly reminder so we can hopefully have a safe New Year. A lot of safety is an awareness and reminder to keep safety foremost in our minds. If we think safety, we have a good change of staying safe. We are always looking for new members for the Safety Committee, so if you are interested, please contact Bob Legard at the hall.

Butch Manthei, Committee Chairman

David Glessner, Committee Member



U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #94
Kennewick, WA
Non-Profit Organization

Return Service Requested

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