

Brotherhood Broadcasts

Local Union #112

January 2024

Travis E. Swayze

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Bus. Mgr. / Fin. Secy.



A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope that everyone has had a great start to the New Year. This month's newsletter will highlight the accomplishments we saw in 2023 and preview the work picture of 2024.

In 2023, we saw a steady increase in hours worked throughout the year and do not expect it to level out through 2024. We saw a sizable increase in member participation at our solidarity events throughout the year to the point where we are considering bigger venues and more attractions. As we have learned, coming together and building relationships outside of work is what strengthens our Local and allows us to work through any issues that may crop up. This, in turn, allows our Local to help lead the way throughout the electrical industry with the common goal of better hours, wages, and working conditions.

The outlook for 2024 looks to be solid. Work in Oregon will be increasing with data center work as well as work at industrial food processing plants. We have seen some bidding on Lamb Weston projects in Boardman that will require calls to be placed with the hall. The Pendleton Building Trades is currently meeting with representatives of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation regarding a Tribal Labor Agreement that would secure union projects on the CTUIR lands.

In Washington, work has been slow. The Darigold project should provide work, as some of our contractors have been in talks about performing various scopes of work for the general contractor. WTCC at the VIT Plant has had calls early on this year and we hope to see more calls throughout the year. There is continued discussion regarding both the Horse Heaven Hills wind/solar project and the Atlas Agro project in Richland. We anticipate clean energy jobs on both sides of the river to break ground, but it is still unclear which contractors will be performing the work and when these projects will start.

NEGOTIATIONS

Negotiations are right around the corner for the Inside Construction Agreement, so it is time to let the hall know what items or issues in the Agreement you would like addressed. Surveys were recently handed out at the monthly unit meetings and those who chose to complete the survey were asked to rank the topics of hours, wages and working conditions in order of what was most important to them.

A more detailed survey will soon be on the Local's website and I encourage you all to participate and let us know what is important to you and the issues you want to see addressed.

These negotiations will encompass the classifications of Journeyman Wireman, Apprentice Wireman, Material Handler and Commissioning Tech.

NEW COMMITTEES

I am looking to start two new committees within Local 112. A Veterans' Committee and EWMC—Electrical Workers Minority Caucus. This is a good opportunity for our members with the same interests and concerns to come together as a group for the betterment of our members to help serve member needs through their activities as a committee. If you are interested in participating in either of these groups, please reach out to me.

ORGANIZING REPORT



Every year at this time, we give the COMET course to our 3rd Year apprentices. COMET stands for

Construction **O**rganizing **M**embership **E**ducation **T**raining,

and it is focused entirely on organizing new members, the work and why it is so important to the long-term health of our Local and the greater IBEW. And every year I make the same joke about organizing being the number one object of the IBEW and therefore, the organizers being more important than the Reps. And while I truly believe that organizing is the most important thing we can do to increase our market share thereby increasing our bargaining power and it deserving of being the number one object, the fact remains that we don't have a legal obligation to organize like we do to represent our members. And so, if resources became scarce, I would like to think that we would continue to allocate the same amount to organizing and market recovery, but I know that simply couldn't happen. Right now, work is great, in Oregon. But if you don't have an Oregon license because you didn't have the opportunity to attend a registered apprenticeship program, then I don't have to tell you of the struggles with the lack of long-term work opportunities in Washington. Most of all the calls in Oregon are being filled from Book 2, while similar long-term calls in Washington rarely reach Book 2. Roughly, 90% of our market recovery fund is spent securing work in Washington, so it is vital that we maintain that fund and stay competitive when work is slower than we would like.

Rylan Grimes, Lead Organizer

REACH OUT AND ENGAGE NEXT-GEN ELECTRICAL WORKERS

Provides education about the IBEW and the labor movement and seeks to bridge the gap in the areas where we live and work, so that those around us are aware of just how much a force for the good of our communities our Union can be. Get involved in the RENEW Committee !

A new challenge coin and t-shirts are in the works as a result of the recent contest. Thank you to all those who submitted a design.



FEBRUARY MEETINGS

| | | |
|------------------|---------------|---------|
| Tri-Cities | February 1st | 7:00 pm |
| Hermiston | February 8th | 7:00 pm |
| Yakima | February 15th | 7:00 pm |
| Executive Board | February 22nd | 5:30 pm |
| RENEW | February 7th | 6:00 pm |
| Safety Committee | February 13th | 6:00 pm |

No PAC or Women's Committee meetings in February
Take an active role in YOUR Local Union !

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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APPRENTICESHIP & JOURNEYMAN TRAINING

All available apprentices are currently working. This month the JATC brought on five new apprentices. An Oregon shop, Hendon Electric, organized this month and they will be bringing four more apprentices into the program.

Last month we opened applications for a new full-time instructor. Kat Straessle was selected by the JATC and will be the 4th instructor who will be starting in January. Kat has been a leader in our electrical industry and will be a great asset to the Training Center.

Apprentice applications will be open through the entire month of January. Once the application is submitted, the applicant has 30 days to get all the required information submitted. If you know someone who wants to apply, please refer them to the webpage. Jatc112.org If applicants have any questions, please contact the Training Center at 509-783-0589.

The Milwaukee Apprentice of the Month is *Andrew Vargas*. Andrew is a 2nd year apprentice and is currently working for Tri-Power Electric. Andrews has a great attitude on the job and in the Training Center. His hard work hasn't gone unnoticed.

Geoff Arends, Training Director



JEROLD L. SNYDER

1935–2023

Brother Jerold L. Snyder passed away on November 1, 2023 at the age of 88 from complications from Covid 19 and other medical issues.

He began working out of Local 112 in 1977 as a Journeyman Wireman and was a member of Local 292 in Minnesota. He worked mainly on the large industrial sites at Hanford and Oregon and deposited his Travel Card into Local 112 in 1996. Brother Snyder retired in 2002 at the age of 67.

WILLIAM H. GIBSON

1949–2023

Brother William H. Gibson passed away on Friday, December 15, 2023 two weeks before his 74th birthday, after a long illness. Brother Gibson was initiated into Local 112 in 1996 as a Journeyman Wireman and was a 27 year member of Local 112.

William worked in construction for a short time and worked most of his career in maintenance on the Hanford Project before retiring in January 2015.

We extend our sympathies to the families and friend so f our deceased Brothers.



112



SISTERS IN SOLIDARITY

We'd like to thank all the members who came out to the 112 Christmas party and supported our annual Christmas Wreath Auction. We incorporated a few different items that helped bring in new participants this year, and we greatly appreciate all who contributed. We had a few items donated at the start of the evening too, to help us raise more funds that turned into leading bids as well. We would like to thank members Andrew Curtis, Shawn & Christy Warner, and Freddy Lopez and his wife for being our top contributors amongst their multiple bid wins. We always donate our proceeds, and this year we each donated our own costs for supplies as well, to help our overall donation. This year we voted to assist Chantelle Myers and her son Kennedy, in their transition home which has been a very long journey for them. Thank you Local 112, for your generosity this year has been the highest yet, and we are looking forward to 2024. We hope everyone is enjoying the new "Long live the Tradeswoman" shirt at the hall, and we look forward to finalizing our 2-piece pin very soon. Our next meeting will be March 19th.

Laura Leahy, Committee Chair

Retirees' Breakfast

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd @ the hall

9:00 a.m.



SAFETY SPOT

Hypothermia happens when your body temperature drops below 95° F. Mild hypothermia can make you feel confused and you may not realize anything is wrong until it is too late. Being too cold can also cloud your judgment and cause you to make mistakes while you work and mistakes can sometimes be deadly. Early symptoms of hypothermia include shivering, feeling tired, loss of coordination and confusion. As your body loses more heat, the shivering will stop, your skin will turn blue, the pupils of your eyes will dilate, your pulse and breathing will slow and you will lose consciousness.

You can avoid becoming too cold by wearing the appropriate clothing for the cold weather. Many parts of the body are prone to frostbite, including your fingers, toes, nose and ears. Frostbite happens when a part of the body freezes and damages the tissue. If the tissue can't be saved, the body part may need to be removed to prevent even worse health problems. Warning signs of frostbite include numbness or tingling, stinging or pain on or near the affected body part. Avoid frostbite by being aware of the weather and wearing protective clothing, such as warm gloves, insulated shoes and warm hats. The colder it is, the faster frostbite can set in, so you shouldn't stay in the cold any longer than you need to. If you to have work in the cold, always wear clothing that is appropriate for the weather conditions. Pay attention to the warning signs and symptoms of hypothermia, frostbite and other related illnesses and injuries. Prolonged exposures to cold temperatures could cause you to make poor decisions or react more slowly than normal.

Butch Manthei, Chairman



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