

Brotherhood Broadcasts

Local Union #112



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Travis W. Sellers

Bus. Mgr. / Fin. Secy.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Brothers & Sisters:

The start of the new year brought us together in a special meeting on January 10th to discuss and vote on the existing practice of not accepting travel cards into Local Union 112.

Leading up to the meeting, we heard a lot of opinions on the policy and the moratorium. We also heard a lot of information was being shared that wasn't accurate. Most of this mis-information was differentiating between the requirements for group/book status and the requirements for depositing your travel card in IBEW Local Union 112.

I want to start by addressing the difference between book status and depositing your travel card based on the IBEW LU 112 policy. The qualifications for group/book status are Category One language and required to be in all Collective Bargaining Agreements, verbatim. We cannot keep anyone from signing the book they qualify for. These groups/books are used exclusively for prioritizing members for referral and reverse book layoff. They have nothing to do with membership.

IBEW LU 112 has a policy on accepting travel cards which lists objective criteria that must be met in order to move your membership from one IBEW local union into IBEW LU 112. This policy is only for the classification of Journeyman Wireman, as is stated in the policy. To be clear, group/book status is strictly for referral/reverse book layoff and depositing a travel card has to do with membership.

The request to revisit / reconsider the moratorium was brought to the previous Executive Board. The current Executive Board reviewed the LU 112 policy and the policies from surrounding IBEW Locals. It was determined, by the Executive Board, that the current policy should remain in place as we moved forward to discuss either continuing or discontinuing the practice of not accepting travel cards.

On January 10th, a special meeting was held for the classifications of Journeyman Wiremen and Apprentice Wiremen to discuss and vote on the moratorium. A total of 195 IBEW members attended the special meeting. Information provided by the hall included clarification on the difference between the criteria for group/book status and the criteria contained in the policy to deposit a travel card. The members present were also provided the data showing the potential number of travelers that could qualify to deposit their travel cards over the next three years. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made to continue the practice of not accepting travel cards into IBEW LU 112. The vote on the motion was Yes - 158, No - 14. So the moratorium on accepting travel cards will remain in place.

Thank you to the Brothers and Sister who took the time to come to this meeting. There were a lot of opinions on the topic and I believe that everyone had a fair opportunity to express their view in a respectful manner. If there are any further questions regarding the topic of our moratorium, please contact an Executive Board member, a Rep with the hall, or me. We want to make sure that everyone clearly understands where we are at with this issue.

In Solidarity, Travis Sellers

ORGANIZING REPORT

OR Supervisor / WA Master Classes Planned

We continue to get requests to put on another signing supervisor class and so we're scheduled for a 40-hour Oregon Signing Supervisor class this March for members who are looking to start a shop or act as a supervisor for a shop. To take the test, you must have 8,000 hours on your General Journeyman license, but you can take the class at any time. The class will be broken into four 10-hour days on March 20th, 21st, 27th, and 28th and will be held at the hall. Completing this course will aid you in passing the Oregon Signing Supervisor test. If you are interested, call the hall to sign up for the course.

We're also looking at putting together another Washington Master Electrician class later this spring. This class will help members pass their Washington Master Electrician exam, qualify them to act as an administrator for a shop, or if you didn't have the opportunity to go through a traditional apprenticeship, create a pathway to reciprocate into an Oregon General Journeyman license. These classes are part of our ongoing effort to build our contractor base and get our brothers and sisters licensed in our entire jurisdiction.

Rylan Grimes, Lead Organizer

COMMISSIONING TECHS

Good day my fellow Brothers and Sisters ! It's a great day to be a Commissioning Technician at the VIT Plant! We have successfully completed transfers from Tank Farms to our LAW Facility, batch tested, mixed and poured processed waste into containers. We have also been able to complete the process with lidding and moving some containers to our export area and load them on the transport trucks. Huge accomplishments that took a lot of hard work and dedication from the management team and craft professionals. We have now entered into our extended hot commissioning phase, where we will safely and successfully process another +/- 400 thousand gallons of waste. We are close to the end goal and are ready to enter the next phase with a new service contract. Go Hawks!

Jason Allen, Bravo Crew Steward

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

Tri- Cities	February 5th	7 :00 pm
Hermiston	February 12th	7:00 pm
Yakima	February 19th	7:00 pm
Executive Board	February 26th	5:30 pm
EWMC	February 4th	6:00 pm
Safety Comm.	February 10th	6:00 pm
Veterans Comm.	February 10th	6:00 pm
RENEW	February 11th	6:00 pm
Women's Comm.	February 18th	6:00 pm

No PAC meeting in February

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APPRENTICESHIP & JOURNEYMAN TRAINING

The JATC will continue accepting year-round applications, a change we introduced last year that resulted in a significant increase in interest and applications.

Current Program Highlights:

- * High demand for Apprentices
- * 39 new apprentices will begin working soon and start school this fall.
- * We currently have 421 apprentices enrolled in the program.
- * Graduation 2026—May 1st @ the Three Rivers Convention Center
- * Graduating Class: 47 apprentices will complete their training and transition to Journeyman status, reducing our current apprentice count.

Special Recognition:

Congratulations to Jensen Greenstreet, recipient of the Kevin Andreasen Apprentice of the Year Award! Jensen’s hard work and dedication have been recognized both on the job and in the Training Center. This award includes a \$500 prize—well deserved!

If you know anyone with a specialty license, please encourage them to apply for the 01 Apprenticeship. This is a great opportunity to grow our skilled workforce. Thank you for your continued support in building the future of our trade!

Geoff Arends, Training Director

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appointment



SAFETY SPOT

Recently, I heard someone say something that stuck with me:

“We’re more than just construction workers, we’re industrial athletes.”

At first, that might sound a little different than the usual safety talk, but when you think about what electricians do every day, it makes sense. Our work requires strength, endurance, balance, coordination, and focus, often for long hours and in challenging environments. Our health isn’t just personal; it directly affects how safely we work and how much we’re able to enjoy our time off.

Unlike professional athletes, we don’t have trainers, recovery plans, or medical staff checking on us after every shift, but our jobs physical and mental demands are real!

Health data in the construction industry shows why this matters. National survey data indicates that about 7 in 10 construction workers are overweight or obese, and cardiovascular risk factors are similar to, and in some cases, higher than the general population, despite having physically demanding jobs. The American Heart Association reports that about 1 in 25 construction workers has been diagnosed with cardiovascular disease, and nearly half don’t get enough physical activity outside of work. Hard work alone doesn’t guarantee good health, especially when combined with stress, poor sleep, and limited recovery.

Many work-related injuries aren’t caused by one major incident, but by overexertion, repetitive motion, and cumulative wear and tear over time. Those issues can shorten careers, slow recovery, and affect quality of life.

The start of a new year is a good time to think long-term. Taking care of your health doesn’t mean extreme diets or spending hours in a gym, it means building realistic habits that support the body you rely on every day:

- Getting yearly checkups and preventive screenings
- Stretch and flex before work to reduce strains
- Staying hydrated throughout the day
- Eating healthier whenever possible
- Staying active outside of work, even with light exercise
- Paying attention to early aches, fatigue, or stress

Safety doesn’t stop with PPE. Our health is part of safety and protecting it helps ensure we can work safely today and still enjoy life outside of work for years to come. Next Safety Committee Meeting: Tuesday February 10th—6:00 p.m. at the Hall

Jason Brady, Safety Committee Chair

Retirees’ Breakfast

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6th
9:00 a.m. @ the hall

SISTERS IN SOLIDARITY 112

Thank you to all the committee members who made gift baskets for our IBEW Christmas party, and it was truly a great turnout. We would also like to thank everyone who placed and won bids on our baskets at the party. Please let any of the committee members know if you enjoyed being able to see the contents of the baskets or if you have suggestions for next year, we are always looking for fun new ideas. The Women’s Committee is still working towards collecting food for our food drive, please drop off non-perishable food items to the hall before the 2nd of February. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month at the hall with dinner being served at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Teresa Sawyer, Chair



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