

Brotherhood Broadcasts

Local Union #112

July, 2020

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VOLUME 56 , No. 7 #606

Bus. Mgr. / Fin. Secy.



A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

WORK PICTURE

The work picture remains steady with a need for manpower in Oregon at the Data Centers and Wheat Ridge Wind farm. Washington work has not picked up yet but we are hopeful for more calls late summer. 66 on Book I and 86 on Book II.

COVID-19

I would like to explain the ways in which contractors can help fund members who miss time due to Covid-19 quarantine/furlough. I hope this will help members understand how we are funded depending on which job you may be on.

Through the CARES Act, there are three ways in which our members are paid if they are sent home due to Covid-19, depending on the situation. The first is the additional \$600/week through Employment Securities Department for unemployment claims. This method is prevalent at the Data Centers for the larger contractors who don't qualify for the Paycheck Protection Program. The second is for qualifying contractors having less than 500 employees who qualify for the Paycheck Protection Program which is intended to keep the workforce in place and pays wages and benefits, but the contractor has to apply for it. All of our local contractors should qualify for this, but they have to apply. The third way is on our Federal site in which DOE allows our contractors to limit the workforce on site and allows our contractors to pay wages and benefits for our members to be in a ready state and available to work as the contractor deems necessary. This part of the CARES Act covers our Hanford workers.

ELECTIONS 2020

With politics playing a role in our lives this year, I would like to offer some insight on our Political Action Committee and their role. The funding mechanism is the \$3/month that members donate to the PAC/COPE in order to financially support politicians or issues that support Union Labor in the state of Washington and Oregon. When the PAC committee elects to support a candidate financially, it is approved by the Executive board and a contribution is made. Laws limit how much we can send any one candidate to \$1000, so we typically send between \$500 and \$1000 to candidates which have earned our support. If we don't have the funding to support the candidates who support us, IBEW Local 112 members lose out because we are not invited to the table to help combat irrational thinking or to promote legislation that helps Union Labor. We have built a lot of relationships at the local, state, and national levels to the point when a decision is made regarding construction, IBEW Local 112 has always had influence that helps our members. If we lose the ability to support future candidates financially, we will be left behind. We all know there is not one political party that covers all of our member's issues outside of our hours, wages, and working conditions, and in turn, we do not necessarily take into account Democrat or Republican affiliation. I will say that Democrats in general will support our labor issues and many Republicans don't want to improve labor conditions, and in some cases, want to eliminate labor unions altogether. Also, we tend to eliminate the far left and the far right side of the political aisle and look for moderates in the middle that will support our needs as a Labor Union. Politics are difficult to sort through, but I would hope that your livelihood and the ability to support your family in the way that you are accustomed to would be near the top of the priority list. With everything going on this year, hopefully we can come together to elect people who support our jobs, our livelihood, and our families.

Prior to the General Election in November, the PAC committee will also offer recommendations of candidates who we believe will support Labor.

ORGANIZING REPORT

Spread the Word

As work continues to be slow in Washington, it creates a bit of a dilemma for some of our Brothers and Sisters. Those who did not have the opportunity to go through an apprenticeship program have to work another 8000 hours just to qualify to take the Oregon State General Journeyman Exam. So, many are stuck waiting for work in Washington. If you or someone you know is in this situation, have them give the hall a call. We are always looking for members willing to salt non-union contractors, as that can be the most effective way to organize. Workers talking to workers can be more effective than someone from the hall showing up on a worker's jobsite or doorstep trying to sell a bill of goods that their contractor has been telling them lies about. Without salting, the IBEW would not even exist, as there was no National Labor Relations Board elections. The NLRB did not exist for over 40 year after our founding ! Please contact the hall and we will get you signed up on a salting agreement. But please, do not seek work with non-union contractors without doing that first.

And if you know anyone with an Oregon License who is not yet an IBEW member, ask them what they are waiting for. With all these unfilled calls they can quit their job today and be employed with one of our contractors as soon as the same day.

Rylan Grimes, Membership Development Rep.

COMMISSIONING TECH CORNER

Call back to the Code of Excellence: "Come to work on time, fit for duty and ready to work" and "Own up to 8 for 8 and be on the job unless otherwise allowed or authorized to leave" are two key tenants of a good worker. Stated another way, show up ready to work and don't quit until the final bell. As Brian Vance, DOE Office of River Protection, allows for increased population of the site, we must not only dust off the boots but also the can-do attitude the IBEW is known for. The shift from maintaining preparedness to work to being recalled to the jobsite can be tough, but giving the work an honest try every moment of the day ensures a quality product.

The transition from what we knew to what is the new normal is challenging, sometimes even scary. The unofficial motto of several of the armed forces is Semper Gumby, always flexible. Change can be hard, but it is also necessary for personal and organizational growth. Flexibility in accepting new regulations and precautions throughout all areas of our life, especially at the jobsite; flexibility in work-area, and flexibility in our teams keeps us strong and prevents us to crack under pressure. Be aware though, there are certain areas where flexibility is down right dangerous. Attend to the life critical safety measures of your jobsite with the utmost of care, as there is no flexibility in safety.

Nic Callihan, Comm Tech

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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APPRENTICESHIP & JOURNEYMAN TRAINING

We have wrapped up the virtual training for the year with the apprentices. The staff is now preparing the books and courses for this coming year. We are really hoping to be back into the building for the 2020-2021 school year. We will see how Benton County does at progressing through the phases over the next month. The JATC has a plan in place for both distance-learning and in-class learning, just in case. The JATC is doing everything possible to keep the apprentices on track for their original graduation year. So far, thanks to having a dedicated committee, two very progressive instructors, a proficient and committed office manager and assistant, and exceptional apprentices willing to accept today's challenges, we have been able to keep up with these rapidly changing times. I personally would like to thank the committee, the instructors, the office staff, and the apprentices for all of the work that they have done over the past few months to make all of this possible— my hat's off to you all! Thank you.

All of our Journeyman CEU classes have been cancelled for this quarter. If you are in need of CEUs to renew, there are a lot of online providers—Pellco, Jade, and Bluevolt are a few.

Interviews for both apprentice applicants and the third-instructor position are on hold until further notice. If you are in contact with any of these applicants, let them know they need to keep an eye on their emails; that will be how the JATC will keep them updated.

Apprentice applications are now closed for the year. However, we do have a couple of exceptions to this rule. If someone has 4000 hours or more documented by the State of Washington, they can apply year-round. The other exception is for veterans who have recently been honorably discharged from the military, and their MOS was in the electrical sector.

Lastly, this will be my final newsletter article. As many of you know, I have accepted a position with our national program and will be starting with them in August. It has been an honor to be a member of Local 112, a full-time instructor, and the Training Director for this apprenticeship program. I will remain a member of Local 112 forever, and will always consider this my home. Thank you all for everything, and I will see you around at the unit meetings.

If there are any questions, comments, concerns, please reach out. Stay safe and healthy!
Marcus Burleson, Training Director

AUGUST UNIT & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

DUE TO COVID-19, WITH APPROVAL FROM THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE, ALL MEETINGS REGULARY HELD IN AUGUST HAVE BEEN CANCELLED.



*Brother Mark Morantes
1949—2020*

Brother Mark Morantes passed away on February 12, 2020 when his plane went down in the Pacific Ocean.

Mark began his electrical career in 1973 as an apprentice wireman with Lord Electric, where he worked throughout his apprenticeship. He was a 47 year member of the IBEW.

During his career with Local 112, he worked for several different contractors on various projects before moving to Goldendale in Local 48's jurisdiction and opening his shop, Big River Electric. He was a contractor until his retirement in 2014.

Brother Morantes greatest passion was flying and he took pride in restoring old planes and logged many miles as a pilot.



*Brother Norman C. Nix
1966—2020*

Brother Norman Nix passed away on June 6, 2020 at the age of 53 after suffering injuries sustained in a dirt bike accident in Idaho. Norman was initiated into Local 112 in 1993 as a Journeyman Wireman, while working for Bailey Electric in Yakima. Having come from the non-union side of the industry, Brother Nix was very proud of his 27 year IBEW membership and was proud to wear the many t-shirts he bought.

Brother Nix moved to Wisconsin in the late nineties and then to Las Vegas, where he worked for the past many years. He has not worked in Local 112's jurisdiction since 1998.



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



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