

# Brotherhood Broadcasts

## Local Union #112

June, 2021

Travis E. Swayze

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Bus. Mgr. / Fin. Secy.



### A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

With Covid-19 vaccination rates going up, I appreciate everyone who has received their vaccinations. This seems to be working and we are starting to plan more events and opportunities for us to get together and strengthen the bonds of Brotherhood and our Local Union. We have planned all of our events for 2021 and are always looking for more opportunities for Brotherhood Events. Please forward any ideas or willingness to volunteer for future events.

#### WORK PICTURE

In Washington, we are seeing a few calls come in for various jobs. Global Electric was awarded a Solar job near Ellensburg. It will consist of three, 6 Megawatt builds. We should see some hiring for this around the middle of July and will peak at about 40 people. This project will be complete by the end of 2021. In Oregon, we will continue to see calls come in. Cupertino is hiring for the Wheatridge Solar and Battery Storage, and it will end in December 2021. This job will be working overtime in order to meet deadlines. We can expect the general composition for a solar job to be about 1/3 Material Handlers and 2/3 JWs and Apprentices at their peak. The Montague Solar farm in Gilliam County should see hiring in late summer, but no specific dates as of now.

We have recently been notified about the new Amazon fulfillment center in Pasco. We will have some union contractors bidding on the job, we should know who got the bid by mid-July. These fulfillment centers have typically been performed by the non-union throughout the country, but we are hopeful that one of our contractors will be able to win the bid.

#### SOUND & COMM NEGOTIATIONS

We are currently in negotiations for the Sound and Comm contract. Last year we extended the expiration by one year due to Covid-19, and we are now meeting in person and hope to present a fair contract to our Sound and Comm members to vote on. This year Ken Brown from Local 73, Tim O'Donnell from Local 76 and myself will be negotiating jointly for the Washington Addendum to the 9<sup>th</sup> District Sound and Communications Agreement.

#### BROTHERHOOD EVENTS

With the Water Follies fast approaching, be sure to get your name on the list for free tickets for Saturday and/or Sunday. If you want to get involved with helping, the RENEW committee is in charge of the operations of the tent area.

Local 112's golf tourney filled up with 144 people playing this year. It will be on Saturday, July 10th and it will be great to see everyone this year.

We will be having the quarterly cookouts at the unit meetings starting in July at 6:00 pm and the retirees breakfast will begin in August and is held on the first Friday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

#### JULY UNIT MEETINGS

Tri- Cities	July 1st	7:00 p.m.
Hermiston	July 8th	7:00 p.m.
Yakima	July 15th	7:00 p.m.
Executive Board	July 22nd	5:30 p.m.

### ORGANIZING REPORT

#### It's Time To Start the Blitz

We continue to make strides in rebuilding from the disaster that was the 1980s and our struggle has always been keeping pace with the growing industry. With the upcoming solar work and more and more data centers being built, we have a huge opportunity for growth but that is going to require reaching out to every unrepresented Oregon license holder in our jurisdiction. And as we tell the apprentices each year in COMET, you chose to join an activist organization and that is going to require action on your part. There are approximately 1000 unrepresented construction electricians for every staff organizer in the IBEW and try as we may, we cannot reach them all. Sure, we mail literature to all the unrepresented workers in our area, but that will only go so far. What we really need is face-to-face communication and if every single IBEW member talked to just three unrepresented electricians, we could reach them all. As a Local, we have always relied on our organizing blitzes and help from the other Locals to man those blitzes. Well, the pandemic has hampered those blitzes for another year, so it is up to us to organize our own jurisdiction, as it should be. As we come out of this pandemic, we need to come out swinging and we are going to need your help to do it. We will be looking at doing the blitzes when calls start going into Book 2 again. We now have an app that will allow us to do house calls to unrepresented workers and upload that information so it can essentially be done at your own pace if you have experience, and of course, if you are new to doing house calls, we will pair you up with someone who is experienced. So be looking for more information on that in the coming weeks.

So, the path is clear.... we need to strip workers from their contractors and put them to work for our contractors creating a labor shortage for these non-union contractors. This will do one of two things: bring those contractors to us for manpower or reduce the amount of work they do because they cannot man it, clearing the way for our contractors to fill the void. And with your help, we can make this happen.

*Rylan Grimes, Membership Development Rep.*

### COMMISSIONING TECH CORNER

We recently completed the first commissioning test inside the Low-Activity Waste (LAW) Facility. The accomplishment brings our Vit Plant team one step closer to melter heat up and eventual glass production. The test demonstrated the facility's process cell area bridge crane can successfully reach components and lifting points, which will be an important capability during future plant operations.

In total, the LAW Facility contains 37 remote-operated cranes that will be used to access plant components, transfer equipment, package materials, import empty stainless-steel containers, and export glass-filled containers out of the facility.

Next, the Commissioning Technicians are focusing on preparation activities to support the upcoming loss of power test, and working with the integrated process teams to identify early opportunities for mechanical handling and water runs testing.

*Bob Legard, Membership Development Rep.*

# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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**APPRENTICESHIP & JOURNEYMAN TRAINING**

We have had many new applicants since we opened for applications June 1st, but they will close June 30<sup>th</sup> and will not reopen again until January 2022. The application process is all online, so there is no need to visit the Training Center. Applicants can visit our website @ [www.jatc112.org](http://www.jatc112.org)

Apprentices are back in the building to conduct hands-on training. We are continuing to further their education with small group instruction and are looking forward to getting them back in the classroom this fall.

We are hoping to start in-person journeyman classes within the next few months, so keep an eye on our website for the next group of classes. Until we get set up, CEU's can be taken through a variety of online companies such as Pellco, Blue Volt, and Jade Learning.

It's time for summer!!! Enjoy the sun and the water—safely.

*Kris Tuura, Training Director*

*We will be celebrating our 75th Anniversary in 2022, at which time we will hold a Pin Presentation. If you have any ideas on what you would like to see at the event, please let us know. There is a lot of planning that goes into an event such as this and we want to make it extra special. The Local has experienced a lot in the past 75 years, and this is a good time to share the history with the membership and acknowledge our retired members for making Local 112 what it is today.*



*In Memory*

**Michael B. O'Connor  
1949—2021**

Brother Mike O'Connor passed away on June 16, 2021 after a long battle with cancer. Brother O'Connor joined Local 112 as an apprentice wireman in 1979 and after completing the four year apprenticeship program, became a Journeyman Wireman in 1983. He was a 42 Year member of the IBEW.

Mike worked for a variety of contractors throughout his career, and worked in Oregon whenever he could, as he lived in that area of the jurisdiction.

Brother O'Connor worked the later part of his career on the Hanford site before retiring in 2011 and then moving to Wyoming.

**With the excessive heat wave, don't forget to**

**drink more water**

**Retirees' Breakfast**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6TH @ 9:00 A.M.— LOCAL UNION 112'S OFFICE



**SAFETY SPOT**

**CABLE PULLS— LOTS TO THINK ABOUT**

*This article is the last of several articles on the subject of cable pulls.*

An 8000 pound cable puller might pull at 8—9 feet per minute, where a 4,000 pound cable puller will pull up to 15—16 feet per minute. Never stand in line behind the cable puller because if the rope snaps, you want to be out of the way from both the rope and the possible recoiling of the equipment. Depending on the manufacturer, there are various safety features and equipment we can use to make the wire pull safer. You can get a digital readout of the forces, an audio alarm high-force warning, a circuit breaker shut off at maximum force, a right angle sheave that allows the operator to stand out of the direct line of force or a ratchet safety dog to prevent backward slippage of the capstan during a temporary shut down. There is also one-way anti-backlash bearings that allow the shaft of the capstan to turn in one direction only and prevent backward rotation if the chain breaks, a chain designed to fail and break at 8,000 pounds, a foot switch for operator safety and convenience, a radio controlled switch to allow the feeding end to shut down the puller if there is a problem and additional supports to stabilize the puller. As you can see, a lot goes into a large wire pull. The electricians on the feeding end have to be careful not to get their hands pinched or place their body in a pinch point position if a spool of wire should get pulled over or something should break. The electrician on the pulling end not only needs to keep himself out of the line of fire, but also be aware of potential pinch points.

A wire pull definitely merits pre-planning to have the proper equipment, material and safety in place. The proper wire lube can make the pull a lot easier and help to keep the conductors from being damaged. The proper set up of the puller and reel jacks is very important. We can eliminate a lot of injuries by doing this properly. Have a great summer and be safe.

*Butch Manthei, Committee Chairman*

*David Glessner, Committee Member*



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