

# Brotherhood Broadcasts

## Local Union #112

June, 2020

Travis E. Swayze

VOLUME 56 , No. 6 #605

Bus. Mgr. / Fin. Secy.



### A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

#### WORK PICTURE

The job picture remains strong and we are still seeing future jobs being bid. We are in communication with the various job sites and both WA & OR State Building Trades Councils to work through any jobsite issues related to Covid-19.

#### UPHOLDING THE CONSTITUTION

I would like to make mention, because we have IBEW members who are affected by the protests and some making statements against, to remind everybody about the Declaration of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers which is found on page ii of the IBEW Constitution.

It states:

*Our cause is the cause of human justice, human rights, human security.*

*We refuse, and will always refuse, to condone or tolerate dictatorship or oppression of any kind.*

*We will find and expel from our midst any who might attempt to destroy, by subversion, all that we stand for.*

*This Brotherhood will continue to oppose communism, nazism or any other subversive "ism." We will support our God, our Nations, our Union.*

It is important to respect everybody's rights and opinions, and during these times, it serves as a good reminder of how our actions can affect others in a positive or negative way. As an IBEW Local 112 member, I would suggest that we take into consideration each other's freedoms and try to do on to one as you would want to have done on to you. The IBEW is a very diverse workforce, no different than the United States of America, and we should not make our judgments based on race, gender, or sexual preference. We have Brothers and Sisters who have suffered discrimination from race, gender and sexual preference, and I hope everyone realizes that is not acceptable. Now is the time to listen and understand people's difficulties. We are all Americans and we are entitled to rally for change.

We are seeing social media posts that have IBEW or our contractors attached to them while producing negative or discriminative messages in general. What you post could affect your livelihood, as we are seeing contractors take action against members when these posts are brought to their attention. I would like to remind each member to be mindful when posting their opinions/actions while showing attachment to the IBEW, whether intentional or not, because it could lead to misrepresentation and unintended consequences. Our individual actions as IBEW Local 112 members affects the IBEW membership as a whole. As IBEW members, we should always act in a professional and respectful manner.

There are currently 71 on both Books 1 & 2.

### ORGANIZING REPORT

#### Showing Our New Members The Way

We have all been on a job at one point in time where someone who is newly organized shows up on the jobsite with power tools and hand benders. Our first thought is why doesn't the hall explain to them what is on our tool list? I know I have had that thought in the past and of course, that is part of the information we give prospective new members. The problem is that it is far from the only information we throw at them. When someone is looking to make the change from non-union to union, there are typically two things they key in on: What are the wages and benefits, and how do I get a job through IBEW Local 112? Those are the things they will take back to their spouse and not the fact that they don't need all the tools they bought in order to work for their previous employer. When we sit down with someone, it typically takes about an hour and a half to go over all the information in what we call the Contact Book and we could easily spend twice that amount of time explaining the referral procedure. I wish we could make everyone an expert on all things IBEW by the time they step foot on their first jobsite, but that is not always possible. So, if someone shows up to the jobsite with more tools than what are on the tool list, explain to them why the tool list exists along with all the other conditions that we have fought for in our contract. If they show up wearing a shirt from their former employer do not ostracize them, but rather buy them a Local 112 shirt. Explain to them that non-union contractors are a threat to our wages and working conditions and thank them for denying their labor to their former employer. Ultimately, we are going to make them a member, but its on the jobsite where they will become a Brother or Sister.

*Rylan Grimes, Membership Development Rep.*

### COMMISSIONING TECH CORNER

**History Looking Forward:** In 1912, Telephone Operators became a growing presence in the IBEW. Similarly, over 100 years later, Local 112 began admitting a growing number of non-traditional members, the Commissioning Techs (CTs). The admittance of Telephone Operators helped the IBEW not only survive, but thrive after the mass dissention of members in 1906. Likewise, as the Vit Plant begins the hard transition from construction to commissioning, Commissioning Techs will carry the IBEW colors through and provide a stable foundation in the area for years to come.

**Crew Highlights:** Alpha and Bravo Crew CTs recently spear-headed efforts to pressurize the LAW fire protection systems. The actions taken in this endeavor involved skillfully manipulating valves to fill the entire plant's fire water pipes, but prevent dangerous water hammers, vacuums, and inadvertent leaks. Charging the fire protection system is a big step toward project completion.

Charlie Crew CTs offloaded diesel fuel to the DFO tank for an Operations Department first. This required multi-organizational coordination and a critical eye towards environmental safety.

Delta Crew CTs experienced an anomaly in a power fluctuation and responded with professionalism and expertise. During the lightning storm, power in a few circuits dipped causing a pump, an air handling unit, and several banks of lights to trip off. The control room operator quickly identified remedial action while the field technicians assessed the site for damage, altogether swiftly restoring the plant.

*Nic Callihan, Comm Tech*

THE RETIREE'S "BREAKFAST CLUB" FOR JULY HAS BEEN CANCELLED

# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

~ ~ Bringing The Power To You ~ ~

114 N. Edison Street, Kennewick, WA 99336 ~ (509) 735-0512 Phone [www.ibewlu112.com](http://www.ibewlu112.com)



**APPRENTICESHIP & JOURNEYMAN TRAINING**

The Training Center is still closed to the public and all apprenticeship classes are continuing via Zoom. We will be finishing out this school year using the distance-learning model. We are very hopeful that we can be back in the classroom in the fall. All of our Journeyman CEU classes have been cancelled for this quarter, but if you are in need of CEUs to renew, there are a lot of online providers- Pellco, Jade, and Bluevolt, to name a few.

Interviews for both apprentice applicants and the third-instructor position are on hold until further notice. As most of you know, Benton county is really struggling to make it out of Phase 1. We have to be in Phase 3 before the interviews can be held.

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

If there are any questions, comments or concerns, please reach out.

***Stay safe and healthy!***

*Marcus Burleson, Training Director*



*In Memory of*

**John D. Leonard  
1942-2020**

Brother John D. Leonard, a 48 year member of the IBEW, passed away on June 9, 2020 at the age of 77 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was initiated into the IBEW by Local 112 in 1972 as an apprentice wireman and after completing the apprenticeship program, became a Journeyman Wireman in 1975. Brother Leonard worked in several sectors of the industry, but the majority of his career was on the Hanford Project until his retirement in 2009.

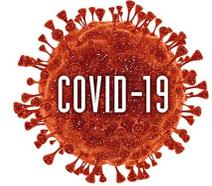
† † †

**JULY UNIT & COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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



**SAFETY SPOT**



As we prepare to go back to work, I feel the following is important information and rules we should all be aware of. Please use this information to help us all stay safe.

Employers in Washington State must specifically ensure operations follow the main Labor & Industries COVID-19 requirements to protect workers including the following:

- ◆ Educate workers in the language they understand best about the coronavirus and how to prevent transmission and inform them of the employer's COVID-19 policies.
- ◆ Maintain a minimum six-foot separation between all employees (and customers) in all interactions at all times. When strict physical distancing is not feasible for a specific task, other prevention measures are required, such as use of barriers, minimize staff or customers in narrow or enclosed areas, stagger breaks and shift start times.
- ◆ Provide personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, goggles, face shields and face masks as appropriate, or required for employees for the activity being performed. Cloth facial coverings must be worn by every employee not working alone on the jobsite unless their exposure dictates a higher level of protection under the Department of Labor & Industries safety and health rules and guidance.
- ◆ Ensure frequent and adequate hand washing with adequate maintenance of supplies. Use disposable gloves where safe and applicable to prevent transmission on tools or other items that are shared.
- ◆ Establish a housekeeping schedule that includes frequent cleaning and sanitizing with a particular emphasis on commonly touched surfaces.
- ◆ Screen employees for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 at the start of each shift. Make sure employees stay home or immediately go home if they feel or appear sick. Cordon off any areas where an employee with probable or confirmed COVID-19 illness worked, touched surfaces, etc. until the area and equipment is cleaned and sanitized. Follow the cleaning guidelines set by the CDC to deep clean and sanitize.
- ◆ Go to the Local's website at [ibewlu112.com](http://ibewlu112.com) and find additional information located with a link on the Safety Committee's page.

*Ed Manthei, Safety Committee Chairman*



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**