

# Brotherhood Broadcasts

## Local Union #112



March 2024

Travis E. Swayze

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Bus. Mgr. / Fin. Secy.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER NEGOTIATIONS

Brothers & Sisters:

The weather is coming around in a fast way and we have already seen 80-degree days. This weather makes us more active, which is great, but please pay attention in your work areas as everything starts to progress at a faster rate, which could lead to increased injuries. Spring has sprung.

This month has started negotiations for the Inside Construction Agreement and I will discuss the process and timelines of what we are doing. Those covered by this contract include the inside construction electricians and apprentices, material handlers, and commissioning technicians' wages and benefits.

This year's Negotiating Committee consists of myself, Travis Sellers, Aaron Siefken, James Glines, Dan McConkey, and Tim Meyers.

Prior to negotiations, we have taken polls from the membership to understand what is most important and any ideas that we may be able to bring to the table. The handwritten polls were given out during our January meetings, as well as a digital poll that was on our website. The inside electrical contract is scheduled to end May 31, 2024, which means we need to have a negotiated contract completed in May.

As far as the process goes, we send out a letter expressing our interest in opening the contract for negotiations which gives NECA our notice of intent. From that point we start scheduling dates to meet, which is usually 6-8 days of meetings. By now we have created a negotiations committee that is typically made up of elected leadership. I usually have one or two others from the staff along with the President, Vice President, and an Executive Board member. I also try to get a mix of different backgrounds when it comes to type of work and regional areas, as well as people who have worked at small shops, data centers, green energy projects, Hanford and so on.

During negotiations, our intent is to partner with the contractors in order to understand what their hurdles are when they are out there bidding, planning, and performing work. In turn, I will express concerns that we are seeing out in the field and those expressed by our members and what we need to be able to provide the best labor force necessary to be at the top of our industry. Everything we discuss has to do with hours, wages, and working conditions.

Once the actual negotiations start, we will meet with NECA on those scheduled days and do our best to reach an agreement within the timeframes that were set up. If we reach a tentative agreement, both parties will take the proposed agreement back to their respective memberships and ratify the contract. If we cannot come to agreement during these negotiations, then both parties would have to go to the Council on Industrial Relations and rely on a third party to help resolve any outstanding issues. CIR would hear both sides and essentially decide on what they believe would be fair to both sides, including any wage adjustments. The intent of both sides is to avoid CIR and resolve any issues here at home, as CIR is the last ditch effort to resolve any remaining issues.

The final step to approving anything is to call a special meeting of those working under this agreement and vote to accept or reject the proposal. Once the proposal is accepted, we will finish the meeting with an allocation of any monetary increases and the membership will vote on where to put the increases, whether on the check or towards the benefits.

### ORGANIZING REPORT

*Are You Interested in the Master / Admin  
Class ? Sign Up Today*

We are again looking to put on another Master/Admin exam prep class in the coming months. We previously put one on last November, but there were some members who were unable to make it but were still interested. The purpose of putting this class on is twofold. First, we want to foster our members' desire to start shops or run work, but we also have quite a few members who do not qualify to either take the Oregon General Journeyman exam or reciprocate their Washington license for an Oregon license.

As a reminder, you can only reciprocate your license if you went through an apprenticeship program or hold a Washington Masters license. While you can take the Oregon exam if you have 16,000 hours as a licensed electrician, which will take a minimum of eight years, sitting for the master's exam only takes four years as a Washington license holder, so it is a quicker path to an Oregon license for those who didn't have the opportunity to attend an apprenticeship program. Call the hall and put your name on the list if you want to take this class.

Additionally, the organizing blitz season is about to start gearing up and ours is scheduled for June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. We have a lot of unfilled calls in Oregon already so it is important that we reach out to as many unrepresented electricians as possible so that we can man our work and make sure that our contractors, especially our smaller local shops, have the manpower they need to secure the work. The data center work is nice but we can't be putting all our eggs in one basket.



The Executive Board approved wage & benefit reimbursement for up to two rank & file members to attend blitzes for our Sister Locals. Reach out to me if you are interested :

- 659 - Medford - April 2 & 3
- 48 - Portland - July 16 & 17
- 46 - Seattle - April 16 & 17
- 73 - Spokane - August 13 & 14
- 191 - Everett - May 7 & 8
- 280 - Salem - September 17 & 18
- 76 - Tacoma - May 29 & 30

*Rylan Grimes, Lead Organizer*

### APRIL MEETINGS

Tri- Cities	April 4th	7 :00 pm
Hermiston	April 11th	7:00 pm
Yakima	April 18th	7:00 pm
Executive Board	April 25th	5:30 pm
Safety Committee	April 9th	6:00 pm
RENEW	April 10th	6:00 pm

**No PAC or Women's Committee meetings in April**

**HERMISTON UNIT MEETING**  
The location for the monthly Hermiston Unit meeting has been changed to the Harkenrider Senior Center located at 255 NE 2nd Street in Hermiston.



*ake an active role in YOUR Local Union !*

# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

~~Bringing The Power To You~~



**APPRENTICESHIP & JOURNEYMAN TRAINING**

All available apprentices are currently working. Apprentice interviews will be held throughout the month. If someone missed the January application window, applications will be open again during the month of June.

The new Training Center is coming along well. We are moving in at the end of March through the beginning of April. Another reminder that graduation will be May 10<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendar for May 31<sup>st</sup>, as we will be having the Grand Opening of the new Training Center with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 11:00 am.

The Milwaukee Apprentice of the Month is 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, Dylan Alegria. Dylan has shown a great attitude in the class and on the Job.

*Geoff Arends, Training Director*

**MEETING UPDATE**  
Save the Date

**Public Meeting  
Bring a Veteran's Cemetery  
to our Region**

**MAY 22ND | 10-12PM**

West Richland Police Department  
7920 W. Van Giesen  
West Richland

**RSVP**  
May Hays - mayhays047@gmail.com  
Shirley Schmunk - wa.remembrance@gmail.com

**The plan for this cemetery is to include veterans from all over SE Washington and NE Ore-**

**COMMISSIONING TECH CORNER**

Local 112 would like to welcome our 20 newest Commissioning Techs who are working at the VIT Plant. This brings our total number of CTs to 184.

The heat up of the 2nd melter recently began and is a significant accomplishment on site. Achieving operational temperature and running both melters represents a major step in the future glassification of Hanford tank waste.

**Retirees' Breakfast**  
FRIDAY, APRIL 5th @ the hall  
9:00 a.m.



**BENEFITS INCREASE IN 2025**

Effective with January 2025, members who retire in January and thereafter, will receive benefits based on \$33.00 per month for each year of service, This is an increase from \$32.00 per month, which has been in place for several years.

Retirees with effective dates prior to 2025 should receive a one-time bonus payment in November 2024 subject to a favorable actuarial opinion.

**112 SISTERS IN SOLIDARITY**

Our April bonding activity is Saturday April 13th at the Hermiston Gun Range. We will begin our safety training at 10 a.m. and roll into two rounds for trap shooting which will take about 4 hours. We thank Local 112 for funding this activity for 20 of our members. We currently have all slots filled, but if you'd like to be put on our wait list for any spots that may open up last minute, please contact the hall so that I can have a contact list as we get closer to the event. Thank you Haylee Hamilton for reaching out to the group to help coordinate this event. It's going to be a blast! *Laura Leahy, SIS Chairman*



**SAFETY SPOT**



Pinch points are areas in which one might become injured as a result of being caught between the moving and stationary parts of machinery or other objects. Injuries that occur as a result of pinching are not uncommon. It is estimated that about 125,000 individuals suffer from pinch point injuries ranging from mild to severe, and even the loss of life. Caught in-between injuries are consistently one of OSHA's fatal four injuries in the construction industry each year. These types of injuries can be avoided by being aware of pinch points and adjusting your position accordingly. If there is ever a possibility that you may become caught between two objects, reassess the position from which you are working so the pinch point is not a hazard.

We are exposed to many potential pinch points. Just to name a few, we have scissor lifts, bucket trucks, boom trucks, and the setting of equipment—cranes and fork truck. It is also very important that we pay attention when spotting for or directing a fork truck, scissor lift or any other mobile equipment that we are spotting for or directing. We are also exposed to pinch points when we handle material or equipment. When cutting the bands on conduit or crates, we need to be aware of where the material or crating and bands are going to end up. Other potential pinch points are threaders, benders, drill motors, hydraulic cutters and crimpers. It is important that we wear the proper protective gear, do a pre-inspection for possible hazards and stay alert and focused. Always shut the emergency stop off on a scissor or aerial lift when you have it in position and are going to perform the work. These are just a few of the potential pinch points we deal with every day. Work safely and have a good spring. *Butch Manthei, Chairman*



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