

Brotherhood Broadcasts

Local Union #112



March 2025

Travis E. Swayze

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Bus. Mgr. / Fin. Secy.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good physical and mental health. The topic for this month's newsletter will be the new clinic that is coming into the Tri-Cities that will be dedicated to Union members and their families.

I have been reporting on the concept of our own medical facility for a couple of years, and it appears to be coming to fruition. I will go over the details as presented to me in order to let you know what to expect moving forward.

Our H&W Trust voted and approved, to partner with Pacific Health Coalition of Alaska to build out a medical facility to serve our members. Other affiliates that will be part of this program include Pipefitters Local 598 and Sheet Metal Local 55. The facility is currently projected to open on June 1, 2025. All members should receive a notification from Rehn & Associates prior to opening that describes the benefits and operation of the facility along with the opening date. We anticipate receiving that notice sometime in April or May. They are currently staffing the facility with the appropriate number of doctors, PA's, nurses, and administration staff needed to operate the facility. I will also add that they are building out space for a mental health specialist as well. While we have programs through our medical program that covers mental health treatment, we continue to see members who need help and we are hoping that by adding a same day or next day option for help, it will address the needs of our members when they need treatment, not when they can get scheduled for treatment.

The way the facility is designed to work is to be able to make same day or next day appointments. The doctors will be allowed to spend more time with patients, and you will be able to use the doctor as your family practitioner. I would anticipate higher than normal usage early on as more members will want to try out the facility, so you may have to wait a little longer to make an appointment in the beginning.

As far as the funding for the clinic is concerned, it is expected to save our Health & Welfare plan money, as well as serve the members better. The long-term savings will come from better individual quality care stemming from more time spent with the doctors and the ability to treat multiple medical issues on the same visit. There will also be an in-house lab, and doctors can distribute common medication without going to a pharmacy. Because we have partnered with Pacific Health Coalition, this is their facility and is not owned or operated by our Trust or Trustees but rather, Pacific Health Coalition owns and operates the business. What this means is that we may have influence, but do not control how it is operated. The really cool feature of this facility is that it will be zero cost to the individual members who choose to use the facility for treatments, as the total cost will be incurred by the Health & Welfare Trust.

While I hope our members take advantage of this opportunity for better health care, you can still choose to stay with your current facility as this is just another option from your Health & Welfare Trust. I know there will be more questions as we get closer to June 1st, but I am hoping that most of those questions will be answered with the communications flyer sent out by Rehn and Associates in the future.

*April is a "Feed Month" at the unit meetings.
Dinner is served at 6:00 p.m. with the meeting
following at 7:00 p.m.*

ORGANIZING REPORT

Tools to be a Successful Contractor

With the amount of participation we have seen with the Oregon Supervisor class, the Washington Admin/Master class and the upcoming contractor class this fall, it is a good time to talk about what your Local can do to help you be successful as a new contractor.

While every situation is different, we have a standard transitional agreement that can help you make that transition to a signatory shop a little bit easier. For instance, if you were going to start out in the residential sector, you would only need to be signatory to the residential agreement which would give you a lot of flexibility on how you pay yourself as an owner operator. Over the last nine years we have either organized or helped assist our members in starting 20 signatory shops and most of them are still in business today. Many remain one-man operations but some of them you see calls for on a regular basis. So, if you are thinking about starting a shop, reach out to us and we will sit down with you and explain everything you need to know and what we are able to do to help you out.

The Washington Admin/Master class will be Friday March 28th 5:30-pm - 9:30 pm, Saturday March 29th 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Friday April 4th 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm and Saturday April 5th 8:00 am to 5pm. Additionally, the contractor class that was previously offered in Portland will be offered at our hall on Thursday, October 2nd through Saturday, October 4th. Times still to be determined. *Rylan Grimes, Lead Organizer*

COMMISSIONING TECHS

It's been just over a year since 18 new Commissioning Technicians started their careers at the WTP facility and are all making great strides in qualifications throughout BOF, LAW, EMF, and the control room. We currently have a new class of 17 Commissioning Technicians learning the Conduct of Operations, Fundamentals of Science, and Site Systems to get a baseline knowledge to operate the facility in the coming months.

With the help of existing Commissioning Technicians, ammonia was safely delivered to the WTP. Day by day strides are being met by the well qualified technicians in the field and control room of the WTP. Currently, amongst our five crews, Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta and Echo, we have a fully staffed and knowledgeable control room boasting over twenty Tech 5 qualified workers, who are qualified in all control room watch stations. *Jerry Beaver, Alpha Crew Steward*

APRIL MEETINGS

| | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------|
| Tri- Cities | April 3rd | 7 :00 pm |
| Hermiston | April 10th | 7:00 pm |
| Yakima | April 17th | 7:00 pm |
| Executive Board | April 24th | 5:30 pm |
| EWMC | April 2nd | 6:00 pm |
| Safety | April 8th | 6:00 pm |
| Veterans | April 8th | 6:00 pm |
| RENEW | April 9th | 6:00 pm |
| Women's Comm. | April 16th | 6:30 pm |

No PAC Committee meeting in April

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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APPRENTICESHIP & JOURNEYMAN TRAINING

The Training Center continues to be busy with 300 apprentices and counting. Applications are always open at jatc112.org. The work picture looks good and we will be starting new applicants soon.

Geoff Arends, Training Director



In Memory Of

*Gregory W. Bainter
1954 - 2025*

Brother Greg W. Bainter passed away on March 5, 2025 at the age of 71. Greg was initiated into the IBEW by Local 112 as an apprentice wireman in 1978. He completed the four year apprenticeship program, becoming a Journeyman Wireman in 1981. Brother Bainter worked for several contractors throughout his career, including those in the Yakima area and on the Hanford site. In the early 90's, he went to work for Bechtel in Russia for a few years before returning to the trade in 1996. Greg took another management role in 1999, returning to the trade again in 2011 where he worked until retiring in 2021. † † † †

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- Apprentice Graduation - July 11th @ Tri-City Convention Center
- Golf Tournament - July 12th @ Canyon Lakes
- Picnic - September 6th @ Columbia Park
- Pin Presentation - October 18th @ IBEW 112 Elgin Hall
- Western States Apprentice Competition - October 24th @ Trn. Cntr.
- Veterans' Celebration - November 11th @ IBEW 112 Elgin Hall
- Christmas Party - December 13th - Tri-City Convention Center



If you are two months or more behind in your basic dues payments, the IBEW International death benefit is null and void and not payable. Don't get behind on your dues, which can be paid at the hall, by phone, mail or online.



The New Year / New Swag contest is ending March 31st. So that means it is very important to attend your April unit meeting and vote for the design you like the most. The next RENEW meeting is April 9th @ 6:00 p.m. at the hall or via ZOOM. We hope to see you there.
Koby Harris, Chairman

Retirees' Breakfast

Friday, April 4th @ 9:00 a.m. @ the hall



SAFETY SPOT



We have some projects that have multiple power sources. This makes it more important than ever that we verify there is no power where we are working. We need to do a safety check on the actual equipment we are working on. If we leave the work area, we need to do a quick "safe to work" test when we return to the equipment we are working on. When we do the initial LOTO, it's important we have access to a one line diagram so we can be comfortable that we have all the disconnects locked out that need to be locked out. The LOTO can include locking out a gen set or an inverter. I have seen the termination points in a junction box labeled incorrectly resulting in there being an energized conduction at the equipment when the disconnect is off. A phase conductor was terminated on the neutral bus and the neutral bus was floated at the disconnects. When the disconnect was turned off, you still had a hot feed through the MC cable to the panel being fed. The MC cable was not terminated yet, but the wire shorted out as they were installing the MC cable to the panel.

I'm sure you have all heard that in our business, we can't assume anything. Even with the Q.C. that is in place, unusual things can happen. A simple voltage check can help to protect us from these accidents.

In 2019, there were 166 injuries caused by exposure to electricity. This number may seem relatively low when compared to the amount of people who work around electricity daily, but it is concerning that there are still accidents, even with LOTO procedures in place.

When a worker is exposed to hazardous energy, they often lose an average of 24 workdays. It's important to remember that these injuries often lead to lifelong health problems and even death. It's true that many companies have great LOTO procedures, but more often than not, they don't consistently train or practice them, which causes accidents down the road. There are also times when changes to equipment have been made without properly informing the workers. Injuries can also happen when electrical threats are hidden. For example, LOTO has been practiced but something has been cross-wired and the individual working on a piece of equipment has no idea that it is still energized. When we think about accidents that we've seen in the work place, they can often be a result of either rushing through a project, being complacent (particularly in group projects) and making trusting assumptions about a scenario. At the end of the day, remember that "It's not dead until proven dead. Approach every situation with caution and proper protective equipment and procedures. Have a safe spring!

Butch Manthei, Safety Committee Chairman



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