

Brotherhood Broadcasts

Local Union #112

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A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

WORK PICTURE

The work picture continues to be good through this Covid-19 pandemic. We have calls coming in from data centers, wind-mills, schools, and our in town contractors through all of this.

Many general contractors and owners are putting extra Covid-19 requirements on their jobs in order to keep people safe and jobs running smoothly. Some of the requirements that you may have seen would include one way in and one way out of buildings, wearing of CDC recommended cloth face masks, temperature checks prior to entering a job site, N95 masks when work is required within six feet of each other, staggering of breaks to accommodate social distancing while at rest, as well as extra lunch rooms. If the job requires a mask, then the contractor needs to supply the mask, which is no different than any other required PPE. If the job does not require a mask and you choose to wear one, you will have to provide your own. Some jobs are asking a few reasonable questions about how you feel and if you have a fever, but if the questions get too specific they may violate HIPPA laws. I would not recommend signing your name to anything without approval from the hall, as you could be inadvertently negotiating terms of employment and add liability to the membership. If you have questions about your job that has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, please call the Hall and ask. There are 58 on Book I and 61 on Book II.

Please stay informed by visiting our website and Facebook page for the latest information. If you don't have a Facebook account you can click on the Facebook link on the homepage to view the posts.

WASHINGTON / OREGON LICENSES

Members have been asking for an update on the WA-OR reciprocal license that we had hoped to see last year. We have made progress through the WA/OR State Associations to get all of the details lined out, but the Electrical Boards in both states need to get the approvals pushed through. Unfortunately, it has been difficult to have meetings, especially on the west side of the states. Prior to this pandemic, July 31st looked hopeful for an implementation date. At this point, I am confident it will happen and when it does, we will post all of the details. I just don't know when it will be approved and implemented.

BROTHERHOOD EVENTS

It is our intent to hold as many of the annual Brotherhood Events as possible, although we are at the mercy of the governing body when it comes to availability and conditions. At this point, we are still planning our annual golf tournament, apprentice graduation, hydroplane races, and picnic. We will inform members via Facebook and the website if anything changes. Be mindful and be safe out there.

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

ORGANIZING REPORT

With the current pandemic, we have not been doing a lot to actively organize such and hitting jobsites or knocking on people's doors. The last thing we want is for a jobsite to have an outbreak of coronavirus shortly after we visited and have them try to blame it on the IBEW. Nevertheless, it has not slowed down our organizing much, as we continue to have people call us looking for more information about the benefits of being union. I think we can attribute that to the work we have done getting the word out in the past. A year and a half ago we went from people not knowing there was an electrical union in Yakima, to fielding phone calls and having them come to us. I think we can attribute that to our members talking to their acquaintances or their former co-workers, as well as our blitzing campaigns. So, if you have talked to someone about the benefits of joining the union or you have previously participated in an organizing blitz, pat yourself on the back. No matter what happens with this coronavirus, the work that we continue to do to organize our jurisdiction will only help to increase our market share and union density.

One thing that we have struggled with is the ability to put people through the Journeyman Exam. With the Training Center closed, we lost our place to hold the test. Fortunately, Marcus was able to come up with a method to minimize exposure to the rest of the facility by isolating everyone to the conduit lab. Since three quarters of the test stations are located upstairs in the wiring lab, this meant that several of the stations had to be moved down to the conduit lab. Caleb was able to spend some time getting those test stations moved down and we should be able to resume testing by the end of May. We would like to thank Marcus and Caleb for getting that set up for us, as we have a few people who need to take the test. *Rylan Grimes, Membership Development Rep.*

COMMISSIONING TECH CORNER

Well known is the continued storyline of current world and local events related to the coronavirus. What may not be known though is the continued work of the Commissioning Techs (CTs) in moving the Vit Plant forward. Despite minimum staffing, the CTs continue to rotate through on abbreviated crews to ensure the lights stay on, clean potable water is available, and maintain site safety through walk downs and rounds. Support for maintenance by way of LOTO and component operation are also key activities continued through the last several weeks.

The current phase of the project requires continual training for CTs of upcoming systems and responsibilities. These activities were interrupted, but have regained traction through the use of tele-classrooms allowing CTs to distance themselves while simultaneously gaining new knowledge and skills.

I would like to highlight the IBEW Code of Excellence tenant of "Exercise proper safety, health and sanitation practices." Though we all normally try to do our best, it is imperative to employ this charge over the next several months and years in order to keep the workforce, their families, and the community healthy, safe, and ready to work. Be your brother's keeper.

Nic Callihan, Comm Tech

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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APPRENTICESHIP & JOURNEYMAN TRAINING

The Training Center is still closed to the public. All apprenticeship classes are continuing via Zoom. It appears we will be finishing out this school year using the distance-learning model.

All of our JW CEU classes have been cancelled for this quarter. If you're 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. We'll see how Inslee's phase approach back to "normalcy" rolls out, and update as we progress.

Apprentice applications are open and will be available through May 31st. During these times, we are still able to accept applications since we moved to an online application. The applicants will have to get us copies of high school transcripts, which can be scheduled to be turned in at the training center in-person or faxed/mailed directly from the high school (or entity providing *Marcus Burlison, Training Director* them).

JUNE UNIT & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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



SAFETY SPOT

One of the best things to happen to our industry was the use of battery operated tools. Not only the convenience of the use of the tool, but the impact on our safety . No longer do we have to use extension cords draped all over which creates a serious tripping hazard, as well as electrical shock hazard. The battery operated drill gives us better control over what we are doing. If we need to adjust the clutch to avoid the drill hanging up and hurting our wrist, we can do just that. This also can prevent us from dropping the drill if we are drilling in tight quarters and can only use one hand.

Like all power tools, we need to be aware of the safe and proper way to use the tool. If the tool, such as a large porta-band, has a place to operate the tool with two hands, then we need to use two hands. The battery operated grinder also requires two hands on the grinder, as it is important to keep the guard in place. Most all of our injuries with power tools comes from improper use.

When we change bits, a porta-band blade or a grinder wheel, we need to remove the power from the tool. In the past, we used drill motors with the key for the chuck near the end of the cord. This required us to unplug the drill to change the bits. With the battery operated drills, we no longer need a chuck key. We should remove the battery whenever we are changing bits.

I know it is a hassle to take the battery out every time we change bits. I also know we can safely change the bit depending on the settings on the drill motion. If there is any chance we could get hurt, you need to remove the battery. When changing porta-band blades, grinder wheels, battery operated cable cutters and compression tools, we need to remove the battery to avoid a possible accident. No matter what we work with that is battery operated, we need to use good judgement and common sense to avoid injury.

Have a safe spring and summer. Thank goodness for battery operated power tools !

Ed Manthei, Safety Committee Chairman



In Memory of

*Robert O. Hauge
1926-2020*

Brother Robert Hauge passed away on April 13, 2020 at the age of 93 after contracting the coronavirus. He was initiated into Local 112 in 1952 as a Journeyman Wireman and worked for many contractors on many different sites during his career in the IBEW. He was a 68 year member and was retired for 29 years. Brother Hauge will always be remembered for his big smile that lit up the room when he came through the door.

*Larry J. Block
1949-2020*

Brother Larry Block passed away on April 27, 2020 at the age of 70. He began his career as an apprentice wireman with Local 112, having been initiated in March, 1973 and becoming a Journeyman in 1976. He was a 47 year member of the IBEW. Larry worked for several contractors through his career and preferred to work on the smaller jobs. He spent much of his career with Aztech Electric, before retiring in 2009.

*Randall Lewellen
1956-2020*

Brother Randy Lewellen passed away on April 30, 2020 at the age of 63 after a long courageous battle with cancer. Brother Lewellen was initiated into Local 112 in 1997 as a Journeyman Wireman and worked for several of the local shops during his career with Local 112. He was a 23 year member and retired in 2017 on disability pension.

*Charley "Ray" Batson
1925-2020*

Brother Ray Batson passed away on May 3, 2020 at the age of 94. He was a 55 year member of the IBEW, having been initiated as a Journeyman Wireman in Local 112 in 1965. Brother Batson worked many jobs throughout the jurisdiction during his career and enjoyed working. He left his last job at the age of 79, when he went on pension in 2004.



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