

Brotherhood Broadcasts

Local Union #112

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Travis E. Swayze

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Bus. Mgr. / Fin. Secy.



A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good physical health and financially sound. This month I would like to talk about the subject of being financially sound.

Its weird to highlight the topic of financial stability when the construction industry has been so good for so long, but I want to talk about the potential pitfalls of steady employment. I always felt like the IBEW does a great job teaching us about being an electrician, but not how to handle our money in a 'seasonal industry' like construction. In the construction industry, it is historically ups and downs based on the economy and construction booms. As we all know, when times are good, we make our extra money by working the overtime offered and we learn to better our lifestyles with the extra money. In turn, we can lose sight of what it means when the economy slows to the point of being out of work for more than a week or two and struggle to make our monthly payments. We also work in a very dangerous industry, and while we don't like to talk about as much, we could easily get injured or worse. We need to make sure we have those reserves for peace of mind.

What we see or hear all the time is that journeymen or apprentice wiremen are living at, or above their means without planning for any potential dips in the economy. A couple of common examples of what we hear might be an apprentice buying an \$80,000 truck because they can make the \$1200 payment due to them being young, with no bills, and living at home with no rent payment or something along those lines. Or perhaps a family that finances a larger home, extra vehicle, and adds a couple extra payments per month for more creature comforts. While I understand that a reliable vehicle is a must, and we want to keep the family happy, we should make sure that we have reserves before we splurge to get the extras.

As a rule, we should have six months of living expenses in reserves in a fairly liquid account so that if we are unable to work, we can make the monthly payments. Once we achieve that, and you throw in the unemployment insurance check, we should be able to stretch it out another 2-3 months. Granted this is easier said than done, but if we learn to live on our 40 hour wages and put the overtime money away each month, we can get there, even if it starts out at a week's reserve and builds from there. Through the CBA, we have options like the vacation savings account to put money aside, or simply use your bank to automatically move a little bit of money to an account that is out of sight and out of mind. My point here is whatever plan you decide to follow, take it all into account and stick with a reasonable plan that works for you and your family and re-evaluate every 6-12 months.

When it comes to managing debt, the rule of thumb used to be that home ownership shouldn't be more that two weeks take home pay, but I would argue that it should be closer to one week's gross wages. As far as credit cards are concerned, we should cut them up, pay them off and don't look back. If you are disciplined enough to pay them off each month and receive cash back, then more power to you. You should never carry over credit card debt from month to month if you can help it. Ideally, we want to save up enough money to buy something without having to borrow money and pay back with interest.

With financial accountability comes a lot of freedom to make better choices regarding everyday life. Each of us have it in us to become financially successful, we just need to find the right plan and motivation to fit us. With work picture as steady as it is, now is the time to get reserves built up.

ORGANIZING REPORT

BLITZING— THAT'S HOW WE GET THE WORD OUT

Local 112s organizing blitz will be held next month on June 21st and 22nd. This year we will be targeting Oregon license holders and those with the ability to reciprocate their Washington license through the apprenticeship qualification. This will be the first blitz that we have had in two years and with the number of unfilled calls we are experiencing now, it is important that we have a good showing so that we can try to fill as many of those as possible.

In conjunction with the blitz, we will also have Tracy Prezeau from the Education Department of the International Office giving a Member to Future Member class. This class doesn't hold much back when talking about how the IBEW went from 93% market share nationwide in the 1940s to the 30% in the 1980s, which is where we currently sit at today. It talks about why we need to aggressively organize and grow faster than the industry or we will come out of this boom worse than we went into it. Your E-Board agreed to reimburse wages for attendees of the Member to Future Member class and we would encourage everyone who ran for office this year to attend this class as well as the blitz. As an organizer, its important to have the support of your E-board and rank and file membership. The Member to Future Member class will be held at 12 :00 pm on June 21st, the first day of the blitz. Lunch and dinner will be provided at the blitz and class. If you are planning on attending the class and want wage reimbursement, please call the hall and let us know, as wage reimbursement is limited to 30. *Rylan Grimes, Membership Development Rep.*



Spring is here and summer is right around the corner! Softball signups are on going and we will field as many teams as we can. Members and their significant others and kids over 18 are welcome to join. Still little info on game nights but they will be mid-week. Summer means lots of outdoor activities and opportunities. Cool Dessert Nights is coming in June, our Pin Presentation, 75th Anniversary Celebration and the 112 membership blitz. In July we have our 25th Annual Golf Tournament and boat races followed by fair parades in August. It's going to be a busy summer—stay safe and healthy! Contact me through the RENEW FB page or by call or text me at (541)915-4020. *Moses Torrescano, Chairman*

75th Anniversary Celebration Saturday, June 18th

Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick



Purchase tickets at the hall or on the Local's website. \$10

JUNE MEETINGS

Tri- Cities	June 2nd	7:00 pm
Hermiston	June 9th	7:00 pm
Yakima	June 16th	7:00 pm
Executive Board	June 23rd	5:30 pm
RENEW	June 8th	6:00 pm
Safety Committee	June 14th	6:00 pm

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE HALL FOR THE TRI-CITY DUST DEVILS BASEBALL

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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APPRENTICESHIP & JOURNEYMAN TRAINING

We are offering Journeyman Classes with the option to do either in-person or virtual. Classes will only be conducted if we get a decent turnout. See below for the list of offered classes at this time. Please call the Training Center to reserve your spot today.

Applications for the program will be open June 1st through June 30th. We are hoping for a large group of applicants to get a good group of apprentices in our upcoming classes. Interview scores are good for two years and applicants can re-interview during open application windows.

Keep an eye on our website for new classes and other new items.
www.jatc112.org

Classes currently scheduled to be held at the Training Center:

RCW / WAC (4 hrs.)	June 1st	6:30pm
Oregon Rule & Law (4 hrs.)	June 15th	6:30pm
(Attendance is looking good)		

Kris Tuura, Training Director



In Memory

Robert Jancar
 1944 – 2022

Brother Bob Jancar passed away on Tuesday, April 19th at the age of 78 after suffering a stroke. He began his apprenticeship with Local 112 in June 1968 and became a Journeyman Wireman in December 1972.

He was a 53 year member of the IBEW. Throughout his career, Brother Jancar worked for contractors throughout the jurisdiction of Local Union 112 in all areas of the industry before retiring in 2001.



SAFETY SPOT

Back in June 2021, the Safety Spot had a slogan “Safety begins with “S” but starts with “U”. Policies and procedures are information recorded on paper. Written policies and procedures accomplish little unless they are learned, known, practiced, reviewed and updated for relevance and practical benefit. “U” are essential for this process to function.

When “safety topics” are presented it is important to be attentive. Reviewing what we do infrequently is necessary to refresh our memory and verify we have not forgotten or missed information that is important to avoid exposure to hazards or endangering others.

As the seasons change, we need to invest time to review policies and procedures that will keep us alert and healthy. Warmer weather is coming, so remember to dress appropriately, allow time to become acclimated and hydrate deliberately.

Your transportation needs to be inspected to make sure all systems are ready for the temperature change. Tire condition; check the spare for pressure, fluid levels and condition, windows, A/C, brakes, lights, belts, hoses, etc.

“Safety begins with “S” but starts with “U”. Make safety the foundation of all you do.

PRODUCT RECALL

Universal Security Instruments has recalled combinations photo electric smoke and carbon monoxide alarms due to the risk of failure to alert consumers to hazardous levels of carbon monoxide. This involved around 8,000 units. If you have one of these units, please contact <https://www.universalsecurity.com/reg-form-2022/alert/> or call (877) 220-0046.

Butch Manthei, Committee Chairman - David Glessner, Committee Member

Pin Presentation
 Friday, June 17, 2022
 George Elgin Hall

Letters have been mailed to this years pin recipients with membership of 25 years and above. Pins are given in 5-year increments. If you feel you should be receiving a pin, but did not get a letter, please contact the hall so we can check it out and make sure our records are correct.

Upcoming
 EVENTS

- ◆ June 17th—Pin Presentation
- ◆ June 18th—75th Anniversary
- ◆ Organizing Blitz—June 21st & 22nd
- ◆ Cool Desert Nights—June 23rd—25th
- ◆ Golf Tournament—July 9th
- ◆ Boat Races—July 29th—31st
- ◆ Annual Picnic—September 10th

Retirees' Breakfast
 FRIDAY, JUNE 3RD
 9:00 AM AT THE HALL

Don't Leave Home Without It !!!

If you are referred to a contractor for a pre-employment drug test or take a random test, when testing negative, you will receive a card along with a check for \$50.00. Many members are not carrying these cards in their wallet and it is your responsibility to prove you are in compliance with the “Drug Free Work Place” Program. If you have a current card, you cannot be sent for another test just because you have left your card at home or misplaced it. This card applies only to the tests taken through Benefit Systems. Many of the larger contractors and projects do their own testing, which is not covered under this plan.



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