

Brotherhood Broadcasts

Local Union #112

May 2025

Travis E. Swayze

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A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope that everyone is in good mental and physical health going into the 2025 construction season. This is typically the time of year when work picks up and hours worked are extended. This month I would like to touch on general job-site conditions in our Collective Bargaining Agreements.

As we know, our CBAs or PLAs are documents that memorialize negotiations going back as far as 1947. The contract is basically a rule book to follow for our members and our contractors. Anytime these rules or conditions are not followed, we run the risk of losing these basic conditions in future negotiations.

A basic condition that is not followed as much as it should be is using our lunch trailers for breaks/lunches. In the 1970's, we negotiated this condition due to the severe summer heat and the extreme winter cold. Prior to that we would be forced to sit wherever we could find a spot to eat our lunch. Both parties recognize that **we** are the most valuable resource in construction and things like climate controlled break areas are simple investments to the longevity of a workforce. When we forego the use of clean, climate controlled areas to sit in our vehicles, we all lose.

On the topic of cell phones, it is not in our CBA to use personal cell phones for work related use. The contractors recognize that this is bad practice as well, but we still have members using it because it's easy to pull it out of our pocket and make a quick text. If the contractor needs you to use a cell phone, they are more than happy to provide one. Keep your cell phone use to the break rooms and keep your focus on your surroundings.

These are just a couple of examples that come up on a regular basis. Anytime you have a question about the contract and what it means or is intended to address, please check with the steward or call a representative at the hall. Usually they are easy to answer, and we can help you figure out how to navigate the situation.

Keep up the good work and look out for each other. We all want to go home in the same condition as we showed up.



IBEW LOCAL 112



The Executive Board has approved the award of up to ten scholarships at \$5,000 each for the upcoming school year. These scholarships are available to the sons and daughters of IBEW 112 members who are graduating seniors or current college students.

Information is available at the hall or on the Local's website. Applicants must return their application along with a 500 word essay to Local 112's office no later than July 13, 2025.

ORGANIZING REPORT

ORGANIZING—OUR CONTINUED PATH FORWARD

If we want to build a stronger future for the IBEW, there's one truth we can't ignore: organizing new members is not optional, it's essential. Local 112 has seen the power of a well-organized workforce. But we've also seen the challenges, some from outside and some from within, that stand in the way of bringing new members into our union.

Let's start with the obvious: non-union contractors don't want to see their employees organized. They rely on keeping wages low, benefits minimal, and job security weak. When workers start talking union, many employers go on the attack spreading fear, misinformation, and even threats of job loss. They'll say the union will take your money, restrict your freedom, and hurt your career.

These are lies and we know it. But for a worker who's never had a taste of union solidarity, those lies can feel very real. That's why we need to double down on our outreach, education, and support for organizing campaigns. We need to meet workers where they are, counter the myths, and show them what union membership *really* means: fair pay, safe working conditions, and a voice on the job.

It's not just outside forces that create challenges. We also have to be honest about the internal barriers we may be unintentionally putting in the way of future members.

Complex or outdated policies around signing the books, qualifying for dispatch, or proving experience can frustrate skilled non-union workers who want to join.

In some conversations within our Local, there's even been reluctance to allow non-union journeymen onto the out-of-work list. While we must protect our current members' access to work, we can't do it by building walls that keep potential Brothers and Sisters out. If we shut the door on experienced workers simply because they haven't had a chance to go union yet, we undermine the very purpose of organizing.

Organizing Is Everyone's Job

This isn't just the responsibility of organizers or the leadership. Every member has a role to play. When you talk to a non-union worker, share your story. When you hear misinformation, speak the truth. And when you see someone ready to make the change, be the one who helps them get there.

We don't grow by standing still. We grow by reaching out, opening up, and building the kind of union that welcomes those who are ready to stand with us.

Rylan Grimes, Lead Organizer

JUNE MEETINGS

Tri- Cities	June 5th	7:00 pm
Hermiston	June 12th	7:00 pm
Yakima	June 19th	7:00 pm
Executive Board	June 26th	5:30 pm
EWMC	June 4th	6:00 pm
Safety	June 10th	6:00 pm
Veterans	June 10th	6:00 pm
RENEW	June 11th	6:00 pm
Women's Comm.	June 18th	6:30 pm

No PAC Committee meeting in June

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

~~Leading The Electrical Industry~~

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



APPRENTICESHIP & JOURNEYMAN TRAINING

Instructor Applications Closed

Thank you to all who applied! We received interest from many outstanding candidates and look forward to welcoming new additions to the Training Center staff. We anticipate the hiring process will conclude soon—stay tuned for updates.

Milwaukee Apprentice of the Month

Congratulations to *Ulises Calvillo*, a 3rd-year apprentice, on being named Milwaukee Apprentice of the Month! Your hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence set a strong example for your peers. Well done, Ulises!

Graduation Coming Up - July 11th

As we prepare to celebrate this year’s graduates, we’re collecting photos to highlight their achievements. If you have any pictures of our 2025 graduates, please send them to the Training Center at g.arends@jatc112.org.

Thank you for helping us honor the hard work and dedication of our graduating class!

A reminder that online applications for the construction apprenticeship program are accepted all year @ jatc112.org

Geoff Arends, Training Director



In Memory Of

Rolando Hernandez

1982-2025

Brother Rolando Hernandez, age 42, passed away while on the job at the VIT Plant on April 16, 2025. He was a Commissioning Tech.

Brother Hernandez was initiated into Local 112 on February 2, 2023 when he began working at the VIT Plant.

† † † †



This month we have finalized the details on our challenge coins and will be presenting them to

the members soon. We also participated in a flag placement for Memorial Day weekend on veterans graves at Riverview Heights Cemetery. The committee invited the Commanding Officer from the Columbia River Squadron Sea Cadets. He informed us about his program and left flyers at the hall for any members wanting more information. We are also looking for some volunteers for our Fourth of July parade in Pasco. Please contact Cody at the hall if you would like to participate.

Mark Uribe, Chairman

Retirees' Breakfast

Friday, June 6th @ 9:00 a.m. @ the hall



SAFETY SPOT

Reflections from the IBEW/NSC Safety Conference

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the membership for giving us the opportunity to attend the IBEW and National Safety Council (NSC) Safety Conference. It was an incredibly valuable experience, and we’re grateful to represent our Local and bring back insights to help make our workplaces safer.

A historic moment kicked off the event—IBEW International President Kenneth W. Cooper became the first sitting President to speak at a safety conference. In his remarks, he reminded us that the IBEW was founded on the principle of safety, and that legacy continues to guide us today.

Throughout the conference, many key topics were addressed:

- ◆ The importance of pre-job discussions and ensuring every team member understands the task at hand and their specific role.
- ◆ Clear communication protocols with EMS—especially how to accurately describe job site conditions in the event of an emergency.
- ◆ The need to adapt training for the incoming workforce, meeting them where they are, while upholding our standards.
- ◆ A powerful reminder that safety is not just a checklist—it’s a mindset and a shared responsibility. When we work together, we can keep each other safe. Both the IBEW and NSC emphasized the importance of recognizing and addressing mental health, substance abuse, and recovery—topics that are too often overlooked but deeply affect our safety and well-being on and off the job.
- ◆ One especially sobering moment was the presentation of the 2023 OSHA Data from the National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries: 5,283 fatal work injuries were recorded in the U.S. 740 of those were due to violent acts, with homicides accounting for 458 fatalities—a stark reminder that workplace violence, including gender-based violence, remains a serious concern.

This conference reinforced what we already know: Safety is everyone’s responsibility. It’s built on communication, accountability, compassion, and action. We look forward to continuing the conversation and applying what we’ve learned to better serve and protect our members. Thank you again for the opportunity.

Robert Welch and Robert Welch Jr - Committee Members



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