

# Brotherhood Broadcasts

## Local Union #112

October, 2021

Travis E. Swayze

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Bus. Mgr. / Fin. Secy.



### A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

I would like to write about the Covid-19 mandates and hopefully clear up any questions on where IBEW Local 112 stands. This question has been asked and will continue to be asked throughout this pandemic. I would like to preface this narrative with the fact that I am no lawyer and my information stems from my own research, our legal team and the IBEW.

President Biden's Executive Order on Covid-19 mandates are 'directives that manage the federal government' and are essentially treated as law, according to the American Bar Association at americanbar.org. I will make a note that some Executive Orders are controversial and there have also been almost 14,000 Executive Orders signed by Presidents of the United States since George Washington has taken office in 1789. I understand people are frustrated at the fact that they don't have more choices available and anytime the choice is between having a job to support your family or not having a job, it doesn't seem like a choice at all, and for that I share the frustration with everyone. The Hall's stance on this is that we are bargaining the effects of the Covid-19 mandates and we will continue in regard to hours, wages, and working conditions. As IBEW Local 112 members, we must remain in solidarity for the hours, wages, and working conditions and outside of that, vote your conscience and convictions. That is the process in which we will continue to move forward.

Unions have seen a lot of cases within the local area where disgruntled members are taking this out on the leadership of their individual locals, but we must remember that just because a union supported a politician doesn't mean that your Local's leadership has any direct input into any one decision made. The President of the United States has many people and influences that help him make the tough decisions for our country as a whole and these decisions rarely satisfy the wants or needs of every citizen. I know that this article is a small overview of the current situation, and I would encourage people to continue discussion with open minds and understanding as this evolves. We are in the middle of a major moment in history, and it will take reasonable people working together to navigate through it.

As a final note, with so many things happening right now and weighing heavy on everyone's minds, be sure to find the time to take care of your own health and do things to promote good mental health.

### HONORING OUR VETERANS WITH A LUNCHEON AT THE HALL

A luncheon will be held at the hall on Thursday, November 11th to honor all of our members who have served. Doors will be open at 11:00 am and lunch will be served until 1:00 pm. We welcome all who served and also those who want to stop by to honor our Vets.

### NOVEMBER MEETINGS

Tri- Cities	November 4th	7:00 pm
Hermiston	November 11th	7:00 pm
Yakima	November 18th	7:00 pm
Executive Board	November 23rd	5:30 pm
PAC	November 9th	6:00 pm
RENEW	November 10th	6:00 pm

### ORGANIZING REPORT

#### *Saltting—There is a Right Way & a Wrong Way*

I am sure that I have talked about this before, but our end goal in organizing is to increase our market share by any legal means necessary and the best way to do that is to control the labor supply. If we prevent our competition from manning their work, they will lose it or sign with us because we have the labor supply. Therefore, offering up your labor to a non-union contractor undermines our goal of organizing our jurisdiction.

However, there are circumstances where having our membership work side by side for the non-union can be a benefit. Right now, Bergelectric is trying to man up for the Amazon distribution center and they won't find many locally, which means they will be importing them and adding to the labor supply that we don't control. This is a big problem. But if we get our members to take those positions instead, we can prevent them from importing their workforce. Furthermore, if we have a sizable fraction of their workforce, we can cause problems for them. There are significant penalties associated with missing deadlines at that distribution center and if they are facing one of those and they suddenly lose even a fraction of their journeyman on the job, they also lose their apprentices if they want to stay in ratio. If they don't, then we make sure LNI pays them a visit. We know that the developer is keeping a close eye on Berg's ability to man their work and even the slightest hiccup could open the door for our contractors to pick it up.

The work we were hoping to get in Washington has gone non-union, and if that pisses you off as much as it pisses me off, there is something we can do about it but I can't stress this enough: do not seek work non-union if you aren't doing it under the direction of the hall. The absolute worst part of my job is finding one of our members working non-union. There is a right way to salt contractors and there is a wrong way, and the right way involves talking to us first.

*Rylan Grimes, Membership Development Rep.*

### COMMISSIONING TECH CORNER

Some of the work Commissioning Technicians do takes place in the Analytical Lab, one of the three nuclear facilities on site at this time.

The Analytical Laboratory, also known as the Lab, will serve as a process link between the Pre-Treatment, High-Level Waste Vitrification and Low-Activity Waste Vitrification facilities. The Lab is 320 feet long and 180 feet wide, approximately the size of a football field, and 45 feet, or four stories, high.

The laboratory's key function is to ensure that all glass produced by the Low-Activity Vitrification Facility meets all regulatory requirements and standards. During direct-feed low-activity waste operations, technicians in the laboratory will analyze approximately 3,000 process waste samples each year.

Analyses will confirm the correct glass-former "recipe" needed to produce a consistent glass form. Samples will also be taken throughout the vitrification process to confirm a high-quality glass product and good process controls. *Eric Ham, CT Steward*

# *International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers*

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**APPRENTICESHIP & JOURNEYMAN TRAINING**

We are trying to get everything put back together, but we will not be back to normal for a little while. The Hall has graciously allowed us to use the meeting room for classes and we also have the ability to use our lab areas at the Training Center.

We have finished processing through interviews for new applicants. Everyone has received a score and is now on the waiting list to get into the program. Bringing on new apprentices has been ongoing with the steady work in the area. This year we will have 42 first year apprentices which brings our total number of apprentices to over 200 in the program. To put this number in perspective, we were at 125 only five years ago. Our program is strong and growing. We look forward to the future and what these apprentices can accomplish.

New applications will be available starting January 2022. Anyone interested in joining the program should visit our website to get more information and find out how to be prepared. [www.jatc112.org](http://www.jatc112.org)

Journeyman classes have been put on hold while we rebuild from the ashes. Until we get set up, CEU's can be taken through a variety of online companies such as Pellco, Blue Volt, and Jade Learning.

Summer is finally gone; autumn now brings re-leaf from that summer heat. Stay warm as the temperatures change!

*Kris Tuura, Training Director*



*In Memory of Donald E. Jones*

Brother Donald E. Jones passed away on November 2, 2020 at the age of 81 after a 59 year membership in the IBEW. He was initiated into Local 112 as an apprentice wireman in 1961, completed the four year apprenticeship program and became a Journeyman Wireman in 1964.

During his career, Brother Jones traveled to many different areas including Johnson Island, Alaska and several other sites overseas. He came back to Local 112's jurisdiction occasionally, but worked the latter part of his career in California and lived in Truckee, California for over 50 years. He had a passion for photography in Yellowstone National Park where he enjoyed photographing the wildlife and scenery.



**SAFETY SPOT**

At the IBEW Safety Caucus held virtually on August 24th, they shared a new safety concept with us. This safety concept is being implemented by Quanta Services, which is the leading specialty contractor with the largest skilled labor force in North America.

Quanta uses an energy wheel as an identification tool that helps workers systematically look for types of energy. The energy wheel focuses on hazards that can cause a life threatening, life altering or life ending injury. These hazards can be motion, sound, radiation, biological, chemical, temperature, pressure, electrical or any other hazard that needs to be addressed in order to perform work safely. STKY is short for *s - t that kills you*. It is an actual injury that results in one of three outcomes: life threatening, life altering or life ending. It is important that crews start focusing on STKY scenarios that could occur on their job site. Significant events are a result of a release or transfer of energy that can't be absorbed safely. When high energy exposure exists, we must have the capacity to fail safely. STKY discussions are brief talks that focus on identifying STKY and deciding how to deal with it. These should be part of the normal job briefings, but can be repeated throughout the day.

What is the STKY on this job site? When a STKY event happens, what will protect you and the crew? Is that protection enough or do we need more? What else can you do to protect against STKY?

Life threatening is a state where death is imminent or probable if not immediately addressed by trained medical personnel, often with the aid of sustaining support. Life altering is a state of permanent or long term impairment or loss of the use of an internal organ, bodily function or body part.

You can go to their site at [quantaservices.com](http://quantaservices.com) to learn more interesting information. We are coming into winter so please be safe and aware of all the additional hazards that come with winter and the holidays. Happy Holidays!

*Butch Manthei, Committee Chairman David Glessner, Committee Member*



*The RENEW Committee will be hosting a*

**TRUNK OR TREAT**

*event in the parking lot at the hall on Halloween,*

**Sunday, October 31st**

*Bring your ghosts & goblins for lots of goodies from*

**3:00 pm to 7:00 pm**



*We are looking for volunteers to hand out candy and decorate their car. Please call the hall if you can help with this fun event.*

**Retirees' Breakfast**

**Friday, November 5th—@ 9:00 a.m.**

**Local 112's Office**

**UNION SPORTSMEN'S ALLIANCE BANQUET—DEC. 4TH**

**CHRISTMAS PARTY—DEC. 18TH**



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