

Brotherhood Broadcasts

Local Union #112

September 2024

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 you in good mental and physical health. This month's topic will cover voting, and why your vote matters for the economy of IBEW Local 112's Brothers and Sisters. In the barrage of all the political advertising, it can get muddy on where politicians stand on every position, but I would like to focus on what is important to us. I want to explain from a Business Manager's perspective of trying to promote future work for union electricians and union construction crafts.

When it comes to IBEW 112 politics, we try to keep it simple. We are looking to endorse local and state candidates who are going to further the purpose of the IBEW and promote jobs within the communities we live. We don't care about what party platform they run on as long as they are committed to the things we stand for. We like to find champions who consistently vote in favor of unions without having to keep a close watch on how they vote. These politicians will have a voting record with minimal blemishes and have been in office for some time. Others in the middle of the aisle may request our feedback before a major vote and are willing to listen and understand. These politicians are usually reasonable people and will support us at some level whether its apprenticeship, licensing, or energy policy. Sometimes we don't have great choices and end up choosing the best of the worst or no choice at all, but we never promote 'right to work' or 'freedom foundation' mindsets. These two things alone can kill off union movement if they take hold of too many decision makers. Our partners usually stand in the middle of the political aisle and have proven judgement on labor policies, apprenticeship standards, and licensing. We want politicians who can help mold policies and laws to promote fairness in contracting and bidding of work, people who will help raise wages instead of pulling the middle class down.

On the federal level, I would like to give you some examples of how voting matters as well. Those who are elected to high ranking offices from US Congress, US Senate, and the President of the United States all have the right to influence federal assignments to Supreme Court Justices, National Labor Relations Board, and Secretary of Labor to name a few. All these bodies have critical influence on the union movement at the national level and all are appointed by the President of the United States. When these bodies are unfavorable to labor, the rules change, and we start losing ground and have little influence on making better policy for our Brothers and Sisters in the union movement. It affects federal money coming into our local area, and as you all know, we have been fortunate to receive funds that put a good share of our membership to work. The point of this paragraph is to help you understand how your vote matters in the big picture.

We have a Political Action Committee funded that meets on a regular basis to vet the candidates in person and through surveys. We typically look at local and state politicians that represent our work here at home, and who has influence at a national level. We use all of our resources throughout our committees at the state levels to gather information and voting records of candidates. Once we have exhausted the fact finding, the committee puts together a recommendation to give to the membership. The more people that attend our meetings will assure that we are thorough and find the correct candidates to endorse labor policies. Please check out the list of recommended candidates for this years upcoming elections, but most of all get out and vote! Our veterans fought for our democracy and the right to vote, so please exercise them. See you at the polls!

ORGANIZING REPORT STREAMLING THE PAPERWORK & ARC

Sometimes as an organizer you can feel like all you do is qualify people for the books, get them out to work, and sign them up as members and that can be a tedious process. Fortunately, one piece of that process is going to get a bit more streamlined in the coming weeks. We are in the final stages of completing a digital application process that is going to make becoming a member a whole lot easier. Previously someone would take a call as a non-member then we would work on getting them to join per the union security clause of the agreement. But because everyone is working so much this meant that we would end up sending the paperwork via snail mail, that was a slow process. Soon we will be able to send a link and take care of everything digitally. This will save the organizers time from constantly checking to see if someone got the paperwork in the mail and it will also save the admin staff time from constantly having to mail out joining paperwork.

Also, if you are an apprentice don't forget to sign up for the ARC - Apprenticeship Reimbursement Challenge. If you meet all the requirements, you will have this year's books and tuition reimbursed at the end of the program. Also, if you are a journeyman or a foreman to a brand-new apprentice who hasn't been offered membership yet, let them know about it as well. Although the Training Center should be letting them know about the program, they don't get a lot of the same communications that members of the Local do. And although they can't attend unit meetings, those who weren't initiated at the start of the cycle have the option to supplement the unit meeting requirement with additional committee meetings.

Rylan Grimes, Lead Organizer

SWAG SWAP

Saturday, November 16th

11:00 a.m. @ the hall

Sign up today to show, swap & sell your swag!

Coins, stickers, hats, shirts, metal art,
leather goods and more.

More details @ ibewlu112.com

OCTOBER MEETINGS

Quarterly dinner feed @ 6:00 pm at all unit meetings

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

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

~~Bringing The Power To You~~



APPRENTICESHIP & JOURNEYMAN TRAINING

The 24/25 school year has officially begun, and we're excited to share some important updates with you!

Open House at the New Training Center: Join us on October 3rd from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm for an exclusive Open House at our new Training Center. This event will give you a chance to tour the facility before the Tri-City Union Meeting, where the hall will also be serving dinner. We look forward to seeing you there and showcasing our new space!

Apprenticeship Program Update: We currently have 330 apprentices enrolled in our program. If you know anyone with over 4000 hours in the electrical trade, they can apply for the apprenticeship at any time during the year, not just during the regular application windows in January or June. This is especially common among residential wiremen, so please encourage any eligible individuals to apply.

Our apprentice of the Month is 5th year Jacob Hullinger. Congrats Jacob ! We look forward to seeing you at the Open House and at the upcoming meetings!
Geoff Arends, Training Director

SISTERS IN SOLIDARITY 112

The Women's Committee has recently designed a few items for the hall's store. First, we have a couple variations of a 2-piece pin in the making. The epoxy version should be in by the time this newsletter is mailed out, and a glitter enamel version will be coming in November. We have our first challenge coin which is of a Wonder Woman / Rosie the Riveter. Wonder Woman is a popular character used by Local 77's Women's Committee and we wanted our first coin to kick off a Local sister connection. We do plan to create a variation of this coin each calendar year for a collector set. There were 250 Coins made of this design, but only 112 of them are individually numbered for the more serious collectors. Expect to see this coin just in time for the Swag Swap in November. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month! We will have a "Fighting for the Girls" Rosie the Riveter design t-shirt available at the hall for those who would like to support.

Laura Clayton Leahy, SIS Chair

Retirees' Breakfast

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4th @ the hall
9:00 am**

WATCH LOCAL'S WEBSITE FOR RACE TICKETS FOR TRI-CITY RACEWAY FOR SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5th & 6th.



IBEW LOCAL 112 & MIDDLETON FARMS

GET YOUR FREE TICKETS TO ATTEND ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19th

Middleton Farms, located outside of Pasco, will hold its annual Fall Festival at the end of October and Local 112 has rented a fire pit on Saturday, October 19th from 6:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m. Drinks and snacks will be provided.

Events will be going on all day. Enjoy a corn maze, hay rides, pumpkin patch, jumping pillow, pumpkin cannon and tetherball, face painting, petting zoo, horse rides, farmin' foosball, pumpkin bowling and much more.

Contact Rylan Grimes at the hall at 509-735-0512 or e-mail at: rylang@ibew112.com



SAFETY SPOT

“10 RULES FOR CONSTRUCTION SAFETY”

To avoid injuries, accidents and other health problems on a construction site, these are safety rules that should be followed to keep workers and visitors safe.

- 1) All workers and visitors on the construction site should wear the appropriate PPE to reduce exposure to various hazards on the worksite.
- 2) Safety signs allow management to warn and raise health and safety awareness for employees and visitors and appropriately place them around the site where necessary. Workers should be familiar with the construction site safety tips and different signs.
- 3) Provide clear instructions. A site orientation for general contractors should be present on site. This will enable new workers to be familiar with site operations. Toolbox talks are also an effective way of relaying health and safety instructions to the work force. It is conducted before commencing work on either a daily or more frequent basis.
- 4) Keep the construction site tidy. Ensure that debris, dust, loose nails and stagnant water from excavations and back filling are not just lying around the site. The construction site must be cleaned daily and remain clutter free to prevent slips and trips.
- 5) Organize and store tools properly. Ensure that no tools are lying around and leave lights and power tools unplugged. Following construction site rules will help prevent tools from getting damaged or even causing injury to workers. Organizing them in their rightful place will also allow for easy navigation.
- 6) Use the right equipment for each task, as accidents happen due to the misuse of a tool or equipment. Avoid using makeshift tools. Use the correct tools to get the job done quick and safer.
- 7) Prepare an Emergency Response Plan that directs the workforce on what to do when emergencies like natural disasters, fire, hazardous material spills or other types of incidents occur. Have a dedicated team responsible for managing an emergency crisis, answering questions and reporting potential hazards and near misses.
- 8) Set up safeguards. One of the ways to ensure safety on site is by placing engineering controls such as barriers, fences and safeguards. These will help isolate people from hazardous areas with high voltage electricity or chemicals with toxic fumes.
- 9) Inspect tools and equipment regularly. Before commencing work, ensure the tools and equipment to be used are free of defects or damage.
- 10) Report issues immediately. Train workers to report defects and near misses on site as soon as they are noticed. Problems can only be solved when they are made aware to management. The sooner these issues get reported, the fewer chances of them worsening and causing accidents or further damage. Always keep your foreman, general foreman and Sisters and Brothers aware of what is going on. Have a happy and safe fall !

Ed Manthei, Safety Committee Chairman



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BROTHERHOOD BROADCASTS