

Brotherhood Broadcasts

Local Union #112

September 2025

Travis W. Sellers

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Bus. Mgr. / Fin. Secy.



A MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Brothers & Sisters:

Mental health plays a crucial role in every aspect of a person's life, affecting how they think, feel, and act. It affects how a person handles stress, relates to others, and makes decisions. In our industry, mental health challenges are becoming more common.

As an electrician we know that chronic pain, long hours that lead to a poor work-life balance, and cultural expectations are leading causes of mental health challenges. Often, these items lead to mental health challenges like anxiety, depression, and burnout. Recognizing the signs that someone is experiencing a mental health challenge is the first and most important step in creating a healthier and more understanding membership.

Education is one of the most powerful tools we have to address mental health issues. Through education, members can learn to recognize signs of mental health struggles. Incorporating mental health awareness into our Union will create an environment where members feel more comfortable seeking help from and supporting their Brothers and Sisters.

Mental health education provides important life skills such as stress management and healthy coping mechanisms. These skills are not only vital for handling "on the job" items, but can also be used to navigate through the day-to-day items in a member's personal life. Another key aspect of mental health education is learning how to communicate with someone who may be experiencing a mental health challenge. Asking how you can help and letting them know you are there to listen may be exactly what a member needs to hear. Stating these two simple items will allow a member who is experiencing a mental health challenge an opportunity to open up and hopefully continue a conversation.

Recently, I attended the Washington State Bldg. & Construction Trades Council Convention. One of the workshops I chose to attend dealt with mental health. It was one of the best workshops I have ever attended. The workshop was brief, but presented an opportunity to learn of a program named VitalCog.

VitalCog was developed by the University of Colorado and aims to proactively address the early warning signs of suicide in the workplace. Through training, VitalCog's goals are to reduce suicide by promoting mental health and encouraging early identification and intervention.

I will be working to bring this training to the members of IBEW Local 112.

In Solidarity, Travis Sellers

HOW TO START A CONVERSATION ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Understanding when and how to use these approaches can make a significant difference in effectively discussing mental health issues.

- * Express personal concern
- * Offer a safe space
- * Share personal experiences
- * Use current events
- * Normalize the conversation
- * Observe changes
- * Acknowledge common struggles
- * Referring to a mutual friend
- * Link to physical health
- * Use current events
- * Offer resources
- * Mention counseling

ORGANIZING REPORT

Sign Up Now For The Apprenticeship Reimbursement Challenge!

IBEW Local 112 is proud to continue the Apprenticeship Reimbursement Challenge (ARC) for the 2025-2026 school year! This program is designed to encourage union involvement and reward apprentices for staying active in their Local. Apprentices who complete the ARC requirements will have their books and tuition reimbursed for the 2025-2026 school year, a huge benefit for those who step up and participate.

How to Sign Up

Participation isn't automatic, you must sign up each year to take part. To register: Call the hall, or e-mail me directly at rylang@ibew112.com If you haven't received a welcome e-mail from me, you are not signed up. Please make sure to confirm your registration as soon as possible.

Why Participate?

By joining the ARC, you'll not only get financial relief but also gain the full benefit of union membership by:

- ** Attending unit meetings
- ** Getting involved in committees
- ** Volunteering at union events
- ** Taking part in our annual organizing blitz

These experiences build solidarity, strengthen our union, and prepare you for success in your career. Don't miss out, sign up today and take charge of your future with the Apprenticeship Reimbursement Challenge!

Rylan Grimes, Lead Organizer



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Pays higher interest rates to IBEW members on savings and checking accounts and gives discounts on loan rates. Let them know you are IBEW

Pin Presentation—October 18th—Elgin Hall

Invites have been mailed for the upcoming pin presentation and banquet for those with 25 or more years of membership. Pins are given in five year increments. If you think you should be receiving a pin and didn't receive an invite, please call the hall so we can check it out. We don't want to miss anyone!

Retirees' Breakfast FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3RD @ 9:00 a.m. @ the hall

OCTOBER MEETINGS

Quarterly dinner feed begins at 6:00 p.m.

Tri- Cities	October 2nd	7 :00 pm
Hermiston	October 9th	7:00 pm
Yakima	October 16th	7:00 pm
Executive Board	October 23rd	5:30 pm
EWMC	October 1st	6:00 pm
RENEW	October 8th	6:00 pm
Veterans	October 14th	6:00 pm
Safety	October 14th	6:00 pm
Women's Comm.	October 15th	6:00 pm

No PAC Committee meeting in October

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

The new school year has begun and we are off and running with 370 apprentices, with nearly all of them working.

Our Training Center will be hosting the Western States Apprentice Contest on October 25th. Ryan Lewis will represent our program and compete against apprentices from Locals all over the 9th District of the IBEW.

We will be hosting ‘Apprentice Week’ in November, which will consist of several high schools bringing students to the Training Center for an explanation of the program and electrical careers, along with tours of our building.

Online applications are open year round for the Inside Construction Program at www.jatc12.org. It’s been a long time coming, and I am happy to say we have recently been approved for the Limited Energy Sound & Comm Program, which we hope to have up and going soon. *Geoff Arends, Director*



GET YOUR FREE TICKETS TO ATTEND ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11th

2025 Middleton Farms, located outside of Pasco, will hold its annual Fall Festival in October and Local 112 has rented a fire pit on

Saturday, October 11th

5:00 p.m.—8:00 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 the hall at 509-735-0512 or e-mail at: rylang@ibew112.com



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1st
6:00 pm—8:00 pm
Hall Parking Lot
114 N. Edison
Kennewick**

HOSTED BY YOUR RENEW COMMITTEE
Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers



SAFETY SPOT

September is both National Suicide Prevention Month and the start of a new school year. At first glance, those may seem like very different topics, but they share a common theme that matters to every one of us in the IBEW: looking out for one another. Whether it’s a Brother or Sister on the jobsite, or a child walking home from school, safety depends on people caring enough to pay attention.

Suicide is a difficult subject to talk about, but it’s too important to ignore. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the construction industry has one of the highest suicide rates of any profession, about four times higher than the national average. Long hours, physical strain, financial pressures, and the culture of ‘toughing it out’ all contribute. These numbers mean we must keep an eye on each other, not just for physical hazards but also for signs of emotional strain. Warning signs can include withdrawing from co-workers, sudden mood changes, talking about hopelessness, or increased use of alcohol and drugs. If you see something, don’t brush it off and ask how your Brother or Sister is doing, listen without judgment, and remind them they’re not alone.

Resources are available too. The **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** is open 24/7. Making that first phone call or starting that first conversation can save a life.

Safety isn’t only about hard hats, harnesses, or lock & tag. It’s about building a culture where we truly look out for one another, in every way. Talking about mental health and showing that we’ve got each other’s backs, is what sets us apart as union trades people. Our next meeting will be held at the hall at 6:00 p.m. on October 14th. All members are encouraged to attend, *Jason Brady, Chair*

SISTERS IN SOLIDARITY 112

As summer comes to an end the Women’s Committee is working on ideas for the holiday party and brainstorming organizations that we feel will benefit from our donated funds. Currently we are planning a bowling night in October that will host 30-40 members, with more information to come later. A group of ten members and our mentor will be attending the NBTU conference in Chicago from the 19th through the 21st of September.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm with dinner being provided at the hall. ‘Teams’ video is also available for those who can’t attend in person. *Teresa Sawyer, Chair*



The RENEW Committee is kicking off the New Year / New Swag competition sooner than we ever have before ! Starting October 1st through November 30th, you can submit your designs for t-shirts, coins or pins to RENEW@ibew112.com *Koby Harris, Chair*



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BROTHERHOOD BROADCASTS