

# 825. NEWS



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SERVING THE LOCAL 825 MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

VOL. 11 ISSUE 3

## U.S., N.J. plan to overhaul infrastructure

### Wind energy the big winner in combined spending plans



Top officials in President Joe Biden’s administration will begin developing an environmental impact statement for the Ocean Wind offshore wind project in the shallow waters between New Jersey’s coastline and Long Island to house future offshore wind farms. The proposal dovetails with New Jersey’s plan to build wind turbines off the Atlantic City shoreline and give even more

importance for the need to build a wind port in Salem County to service the new industry. The news comes as President Biden prepares a roughly \$3 trillion package that will focus on infrastructure and create 44,000 new jobs directly in the offshore wind sector, as well as 33,000 new indirect jobs. News of this and other infrastructure spending plans on page 3.

# CALENDAR

Dates are subject to change. If changes are made they will be posted to the IUOE825.ORG website.

## May

3 - District 1 Meeting - Virtual

5 - District 2 Meeting - Virtual

8 - 9th Annual Local 825 Golf Outing

Gambler Ridge Golf Course  
121 Burlington Path Road  
Cream Ridge, NJ

9 - Mother's Day

10 - District 3 Meeting - Virtual

12 - District 4 Meeting - Virtual

15 - Armed Forces Day

31 - Memorial Day - UNION HOLIDAY

## June

7 - District 1 Meeting - Virtual

9 - District 2 Meeting - Virtual

14 - District 3 Meeting - Virtual

14 - Flag Day

16 - District 4 Meeting - Virtual

20 - Summer begins

20 - Fathers' Day

27 - IUOE 825 Annual Clay Shoot

Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays  
2750 Limestone Street  
Coplay, PA

## VIEW FROM THE TOP

Greg Lalevee, Business Manager



# Going big with infrastructure plans

**A**s we emerge from spring and look toward summer, developments in all areas of infrastructure are lining up in a very positive way.

The biggest jolt comes from combined Federal/State plans to bet big on long-overdue infrastructure projects to rebuild aging roads, bridges, tunnels, transit and water systems and take on a new era in wind energy production and support. These proposals are outlined in our story on page 3.

These proposals come on top of other developments that had been stalled for years. The long-dormant PennEast Pipeline received a shot of adrenaline in March when the Biden Justice Department announced its position that States may not interfere with the seizure of land for infrastructure projects that have been approved by federal regulators. This exact interference was used to interrupt PennEast construction. ELEC had also filed a brief with the Supreme Court advocating for the resumption of PennEast work. The question remains: will the state look for other ways to block completion of this 120-mile-long pipeline or will it finally allow work to resume? Time will tell.

### NJ toll roads

New Jersey took a big step to widening long stretches of the Turnpike and Parkway with a

\$24 billion plan put forth by the NJ Turnpike Authority. First there will be a few years of environmental studies and permitting but it's nice to know this work will be waiting for us a few years down the pike.

### PLA support

More than 500 of our members spoke out before the NJ Assembly in support of a bill that promotes workforce diversity in public works projects. It also would revise the definition of "public works projects" to apply to highway, bridge, pumping station, water, and sewage treatment plant projects and add opportunities to recruit and train minority workers. See more on this on page 7.

### Scholarship events return

The covid-19 pandemic wreaked havoc with our lives last year, including our slate of fundraisers for the scholarship fund. Only the golf outing was allowed to take place after a four-month postponement because it was an outdoor event. We did not allow this to impact our scholarship awards. Our 2021 winners will be announced in the next newsletter. We are pleased that these popular events will take place this year ... see the full schedule on page 3.

Enjoy the summer and stay healthy!

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# Massive spending packages promise infrastructure jobs

**R**ecent steps by the federal government, as well as the statehouses of New Jersey and New York signal largescale infrastructure investment on the horizon.

## Wind farms

Gov. Phil Murphy's ambitious goal of generating 7,500 MW of offshore wind energy by 2035 may begin with the construction of one hundred wind turbines to be built 16 miles off the Atlantic City beaches. These could deliver the first 100 MW of power to 500,000 homes as early as 2024.

A massive seaport is planned in Salem County to construct and service wind farms along the eastern seaboard. Local 825's Operating Engineers would be at the controls of the heavy equipment needed to build the port, as well as to move giant turbines, towers and equipment onto ships.

This is not just hot air. A new report from the Environment New Jersey Research & Policy Center and Frontier Group states that New Jersey has enough offshore wind capacity to meet virtually all of the state's electrical demand.

## Heavy highway

In a report that surprised no one, drivers in the New York-Newark-Jersey City and Hudson



Valley region contend with deteriorated and congested roads and bridges that cost motorists about \$26 billion a year.

The NJ Turnpike Authority recently approved \$24 billion in capital construction over 10 years. Although construction would not begin for five years, environmental studies and permitting could begin this year. The portal bridge spanning the Hackensack River is now fully funded.

And additional funding for the Gateway Tunnel is reportedly in the stimulus package passed recently by Congress.

## Pipelines to success

The Biden Justice Department has filed a brief in support of the PennEast Pipeline's

position that States must allow permit holders to take necessary property for infrastructure projects that were approved by federal regulators. This is a short-term win for the **PennEast pipeline**. Yet it remains uncertain whether New Jersey will continue to block completion of the 120-mile pipeline.

The **Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company's** proposed upgrades to natural gas compressor stations in Wantage and West Milford passed reviews from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. In February, FERC deemed the project's projected impact as "not significant."

## Spoiler alert

The plans are still under fire, this time by some of the same people who opposed natural gas in favor of wind energy and renewables. A list of objections includes that the turbines will be an eyesore, discourage tourism and kill birds. Research studies have refuted most of these claims but this has not quieted the opponents.

Meanwhile, Local 825 and ELEC will continue to advocate for all of these projects. A determination on the Tenneco project could come as soon as May. We await final determinations on all of these and other projects.

# 2021 sees return of popular fundraisers

**F**ollowing a year of canceled events, interest in 2021 scholarship fundraisers is high. The first event of the season, the annual golf outing, sold out quickly.

"We're still accepting donations and sponsorships," said Melissa Kulas, who is coordinating the golf outing. "But the golfer slots are sold out."

The golf date was the only event that was held in 2020, after its original date was postponed. The rescheduled event came off successfully in September. The other scholarship events were not as lucky: the fishing trip; poker

run; clay shoot; and dinner dance were all canceled due to the pandemic.

The next event after the golf outing is the annual clay shoot and John Rocco, the event coordinator, sees a similar wave of interest in attendance. It is too early to predict attendance for the remaining events of the year but there is every reason to be optimistic. Here is a schedule:

- **9th Annual Golf Outing**, Saturday, May 8, Gambler Ridge Golf Course, 121 Burlington Path Road, Cream Ridge, NJ.
- **Annual Clay Shoot**, Sunday, June 27, Le-

high Valley Sporting Clays, 2750 Limestone Street, Coplay, PA.

- **2nd Annual Fishing Trip**, 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday July 18, Miss Belmar, 905 NJ-35, Belmar, NJ.
- **8th Annual Motorcycle Poker Run**, Sunday, Sept. 26, start from the Dayton Training Center.
- **Dinner Dance/100 Year Anniversary Gala**, 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6, Harrah's Resort Atlantic City, NJ.

As always, we thank all the volunteers who work on making these activities a success.

# Local's growth bucks trend, builds stature

## Training center capabilities impress contractors, associations, officials

Local 825 continues to grow in membership and stature at a time when union membership across the country is struggling. This may be attributed to good leadership, organization, advocacy for important issues and outreach to our communities.

A steady stream of inquiries is constantly received online from individuals who want to join the union or become an apprentice. Contractors and associations are given tours of our training center to show them the extent of our heavy equipment and simulators. Well placed Op-Eds, advertising, public relations and digital programs promote our opinions, preferences and programs. Everything pulls together to spell strength and ensures our voice is heard.

## Recognition

Leading business publications have honored our officials, including Business Manager Greg Lavee, ELEC Director Mark Longo and Deputy Director Kate Gibbs.

NJROI magazine ranked Greg among New Jersey's most influential leaders, calling him "one of the savviest trade union executives in the country." NJBIZ named Greg to its 2021 "Power 100" and recognizes Local 825 members as a "critical constituency" in Gov. Phil Murphy's coming reelection effort.

## Welcome to our world

Over the past several weeks Greg has joined Training Director Willie Vaccaro in conducting tours of the New Jersey training center to showcase winter classes, equipment and expansion office and classroom space and of the training curriculum.

Officials from the Associated Construction Contractors of New Jersey (ACCNJ) and the Utility and Transportation Contractors Association (UTCA) of New Jersey toured the facility. UTCA represents more than a thousand member firms in all areas of heavy highway, utility, marine and environmental construction, including the remediation of brown-fields & contaminated sites.

Some of the contractors that have visited the site have included Railroad Construction Company; Vollers; Cirsdel; Skoda; Water & Bugbee; HC Contractors; Henkels & McCoy; Petillo; Spatz; and Stateline.

The years of work, including all forms of outreach, have put Local 825 in an influential position that ensures its views are taken into account in matters that affect our future and our livelihood. There is no slowing down, no taking our feet off the gas, only doing more of the same, speaking out for our interests and standing united and strong.

We are proud of our training centers in New Jersey and New York and we will continue to invest in new equipment, technology and state of the art training methods to ensure that the IUOE Local 825 continues to be recognized as the single source for the most knowledgeable and experienced operating engineers available anywhere.



**Business Manager Greg Lavee & Training Director Willie Vaccaro host officials of the Associated Construction Contractors of New Jersey (ACCNJ).**

# TRAINING CENTER CALENDAR

[www.facebook.com/iuoe825Training](https://www.facebook.com/iuoe825Training)

## NEW JERSEY TRAINING CENTER

(732) 798-2170

(All classes start at 7 a.m. unless noted otherwise)

### 8-Hour Hazmat Refresher

Saturday, May 15

Saturday, May 22

Saturday, June 26

### CCO – 4 Study Saturdays in April:

Saturday, April 3

Saturday, April 10

Saturday, April 17

Saturday, April 24

Written Test: Sunday, April 25

### CCO will also be held in July and dates fill up in advance:

Saturday, July 10

Saturday, July 17

Saturday, July 24

Saturday, July 31

Written Test: Sunday, August 1

### Signal Person

Saturday, May 1

### Rigger Class

Saturday, May 8

### OSHA 10 - Must attend both days to complete

Saturday, June 12

Saturday, June 19

### Asbestos Awareness

Saturday, May 8

### New York Training Center

(845) 673-3154

### OSHA 10

Dates To Be Announced

### CPR Certification

Dates To Be Announced

Please contact the New York Training Center to put your name on the list for a class or certification you need to take. If you do not see the class listed above, let them know and once we have enough names for a class, members will be notified.



Greg Lalevee meets with UTCANJ's Roly Acosta and Chris D'Annunzio.



Greg shows expanded training facilities and simulators.

# Local 825 women expand activities, support

**W**omen's committee members attended an IUOE Caucus Zoom meeting in February. Tammy Good hosted the meeting on behalf of Linda Hamilton of Local 132, the women's committee representative to the International. The group discussed legislation affecting the construction industry, the treatment of women by other women in the Local, as well as in the trade and other trades and how to provide support in the field and on social media. An open discussion forum followed.

If any women members would like to attend future Zoom meetings, please reach out to the women's committee with your email address and phone number to receive an invitation. Send emails to [womeniuoe825.org](mailto:womeniuoe825.org).

Christine Carman and Kelly Raeuber have

become leaders in the Lean in Circles, a women's group that meets regularly to support one another. Organized through the North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) organization, which hosts a Zoom meeting each month to discuss topics with tradeswomen across the United States and Canada. Interested IUOE women should contact the women's committee for assistance in getting involved. There are some Local 825 women participating in the group discussions. The next signup is in the fall. However, some vacant spots may be filled before then.

The women's committee members also marked Women's History Month in March, celebrating the accomplishments women have made by exceling at their crafts and paving the way for women to follow.



**Journey member Christine Carman takes advantage of the crane class this winter to advance her skills.**

# Members rally to help homeless veterans

**M**embers of Local 825 and American Legion Post 532 of the Operating Engineers Local 825 ran a donation drive for homeless military veterans in New Jersey and New York, collecting approximately \$1,750 worth of material goods to help them meet their personal needs.

The donations were divided between two veteran facilities: the Lyons Veterans Administration Hospital and Nursing Facility in Bernard's Township that also houses homeless veterans; and the Veterans Haven North, a transitional housing facility in Glen Gardner for homeless Veterans run by the Department

of Veterans and Military Affairs of NJ (DMAVA).

"As a legion, we took this effort on to help our fellow servicemen and women," said Commander Alfonso Vazques. "Knowing that we are in a place to be able to help our own makes a world of difference. Along with the Local and the Legion, we were able to bring that dream to reality."

"These donations came at a pivotal time for these facilities because most of their other donations are received between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays and they begin to grow scarce this time of year," explained Joey Bove, Legion Post adjutant.

The items were collected at four Local 825 drop-off locations: Bordentown Hall, the Dayton Training Center, Springfield Union Hall and the New York Training Center/Hall in New Hampton.



**Veterans Alfonso Vazquez (left) and Blaine Palmer, both fourth year STEAM program members, unload donated materials.**

Joey thanked the members who donated and everyone who participated in the drive, and expressed a special thanks to Business Manager Greg Lalevee, Training Director Willie Vaccaro, Vincent Kyzmia, Steve Norelli, the Business Agents, Dispatchers and Training Center personnel and all who donated their personal time to help achieve this goal.



**The Local 825 van arrives at the VA Lyons Campus location**

# Expanding PLA rights helps ensure equality for all

The battle to include roads, bridges and water pumping stations in Project Labor Agreement (PLA) is one of the most important labor fights of the new decade.

Gov. Phil Murphy had excluded road and bridge work from prior PLA legislation, which came as a major disappointment to ELEC and Local 825.

The issue was brought back to the Legislature a few weeks ago with modifications that expanded the inclusion of women and minority groups in the process. As with the previous bill, it received overwhelming support from both political parties, although the usual non-union companies spoke out against it.

## Members speak out

More than 500 Local 825 members attended a public hearing in the General Assembly and several spoke out at the hearing. The bill sailed through the Assembly and (bill S-3414) was passed in the Senate. It was sponsored by Senate President Steve Sweeny and Senator Linda Greenstein. Senator Nellie Pou co-sponsored it.

The bill promotes workforce diversity in public works projects and revises the definition of “public works projects” to include PLAs in more projects. If enacted, this would expand the use of PLAs to apply to highway, bridge, pumping station, water, and sewage treatment plant projects and add opportunities to recruit and train minority workers.

## Website promo

Business Manager Greg Lavee also made sure officials know the bill is a “must have” for Local 825, publishing a single-issue web page to promote the legislation and its benefit to racial and gender training and employment. The web page points out the bill promotes diversity in public works projects; revises “public works projects” definition to permit project labor agreements beyond contracts for building-based public works projects, thus allowing PLAs to be used for highway, bridge, pumping station, water, and sewage treatment plant projects.

Public improvement projects should include provisions that ensure workers will be paid good wages, good benefits and provided a career path that promises them a way to support their families, educate their children and save for retirement.

It is critical that the workforce that builds our public roads, bridges, transit, tunnels, water, solar and wind farms must be a true reflection of the population that pays for them and uses them.

Provisions like these will go a long way to helping achieve true racial and gender equality.

The bill is now on the governor’s desk, awaiting his signature. As of press time, we are awaiting news of his decision.



Local 825 is stepping up its programs to promote racial and gender equality

## Community outreach a tradition

Local 825 has a history of proactive training and recruitment efforts. From high school recruitment drives, to participating in panels and programs with county vocational-technical schools, maintaining a robust annual apprenticeship program and opening our training center to legislators and community groups, Local 825 routinely demonstrates its commitment to training and investing in equipment and training capabilities.

In coming weeks and months, we will develop new initiatives to increase our efforts to recruit and train women and people of color in the operation of heavy construction equipment.

More information will be unveiled about these initiatives as they are developed.



Although covid-19 interrupted the routine, Local 825 plans to resume outreach efforts as soon as it is permitted.

## ROI Recognizes Kate Gibbs



Kate Gibbs

ELEC Deputy Director Kate Gibbs was honored by ROI-NJ magazine in March for her role at ELEC, promoting the benefits of choosing union labor for businesses. For several years now, Kate has led advocacy efforts to stimulate infrastructure investments on behalf of Local 825 members in New Jersey and New York. In 2015 she was elected a Burlington County commissioner, becoming the youngest woman in New Jersey ever elected to countywide office.



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### BETTER BUILDING BEGINS HERE

# Two candidates earn endorsements

Local 825 has endorsed two candidates in New Jersey's primary election on June 8. Each has been in sync with union values and deserves our votes.

#### Senator Joseph Cryan

is up for reelection in the state's 20th Legislative District. As a state senator, and before that as Union County sheriff, Cryan has demonstrated a track record of supporting the women and men of the buildings trades. Cryan was the Union County sheriff before he ran for state Senate in 2018. He was a state assemblyman from 2002 to 2014, while he also worked as an appointed undersheriff.



Cryan

In announcing the endorsement, Business Manager Greg Laveve said, "Whether fighting for worker fairness, organizing rights and

infrastructure investment, Joe has always been there for Local 825 members and our families. We are proud to support his re-election to the Senate."



Johnson

Local 825 also endorsed **Assemblyman Gordon Johnson** in the Democrat primary for State Senate. During a distinguished career in law enforcement and in the state Legislature, Johnson has been a staunch supporter of labor rights. He is seeking election to replace Senator Loretta Weinberg, who is retiring after 16 years in the Senate and 12 in the Assembly.

Johnson, the Assembly Speaker Pro-Tempore, faces Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttie in the Democratic Senate primary.

"Whether enforcing worker protections, sup-

porting our right to organize or ensuring proper investment in our critical infrastructure, Gordon has shown his commitment to Local 825 members and their families," said Greg. "We are proud to support his election to the Senate."



**Local 825 members on the job for Linde Griffith make their way up Jersey City's Communipaw Ave.**