



825News

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

VOL. 1 ISSUE 3

825Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- 7 **District 1 Meeting:**
Kerri Brooke Caterers –
Hammonton, NJ
- *8 **First Annual PAC Meeting:**
6:30 p.m – Sheraton Edison Hotel
Raritan Center, Edison
- 12 **District 2 Meeting:**
Springfield Motel – Springfield, NJ
- 14 **District 3 Meeting:**
Holiday Inn – Mt. Olive, NJ
- 19 **District 4 Meeting:**
Knight's Inn – Newburgh, NY

OCTOBER

- 3 **District 1 Meeting:**
Holiday Inn – Runnemede, NJ
- 5 **District 2 Meeting:**
Holiday Inn – Hazlet, NJ
- 10 **District 3 Meeting:**
Russian Hall – Garfield, NJ
- 12 **District 4 Meeting:**
Holiday Inn – Middletown, NY

NOVEMBER

- 7 **District 1 Meeting:**
Kerri Brooke Caterers –
Hammonton, NJ
- 9 **District 2 Meeting:**
Days Inn – Bridgewater, NJ
- 14 **District 3 Meeting:**
Holiday Inn – Mt. Olive, NJ
- 16 **District 4 Meeting:**
Knight's Inn – Newburgh, NY

DECEMBER

- 5 **District 1 Meeting:**
Grand Versailles – Maple Shade, NJ
- 7 **District 2 Meeting:**
Holiday Inn – Hazlet, NJ
- 12 **District 2 Meeting:**
Russian Hall – Garfield, NJ
- 14 **District 4 Meeting:**
Holiday Inn – Middletown, NY

Labor Day is a day of pride for union and non-union workers alike

To many, Labor Day means a final, long weekend at the shore, a picnic or barbecue or a sale at the mall. On this Labor Day, take a moment to remember how it all began and how we got here from there.

The original Labor Day in 1878 was called to honor the men and women whose labor built this country and advanced our society through hard work, dedication and skill.

We share a sense of pride that many of the labor movement's gains have also helped non-union workers and the rest of society. The entire middle class of America grew to its healthiest in the 1950s and 60s, when union membership was at its peak. From child labor protection, the eight-hour day, minimum-wage laws and health and welfare benefits, the labor union's gains have been a force for positive advancement for all American workers, not just for union workers.

Today unemployment nears 10% and the economy is stuck in low gear. At the same time, unions are under assault and declining in membership. Do we see a connection?

We do. If this isn't a time to make unions stronger, when is?

This Labor Day commit yourself to restor-



ing American labor's role as a positive force for continued economic advancement.

- **Don't be a silent witness.** Speak up. Let your friends and neighbors know you're a proud union member and why.

- **Get involved in your community.** Help out in charitable and civic activities. Attend municipal meetings and voice your support for issues that affect jobs in your community.

- **Attend our district meetings.** Join the discussion with the officials who meet with us and listen to what is happening in your area.

- **Get involved with our Political Action Committee (PAC)** to empower candidates who support our issues.

And above all, vote. In late October we will send a roster of the candidates we endorse. Make your own decision but at least be aware of the issues that matter to us. This November every seat in the New Jersey state Legislature is up for election. This is our moment to come together and pick people who will respect labor and fight for jobs.

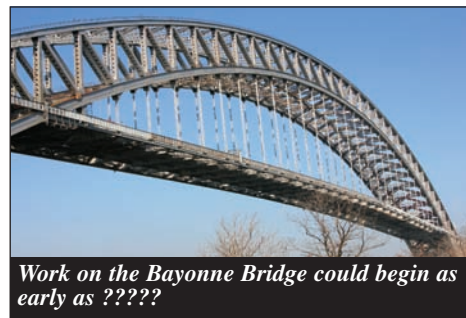
As you enjoy the Labor Day holiday, take a moment to look back and take pride in the role you can play in the future.

Happy Labor Day.

The Bayonne Bridge Navigation Project

The Port Authority has authorized \$25 million for planning, and architectural and engineering services for the Bayonne Bridge Navigation Project. Ports

Newark and Elizabeth support approximately 269,000 jobs in the New York-New Jersey



Work on the Bayonne Bridge could begin as early as ?????

region. The roadbed of the bridge has to be raised to allow larger cargo ships to pass beneath it. The project will involve the reconstruction of the existing approaches, ramps and main span roadway to a higher elevation that would

allow the crossing to accommodate larger ships for years to come.

TrainingClasses

All Courses are held at The NJ Training Center

COURSE DATE **TIME**

HAZMAT Refreshers 7 a.m.

Saturdays: **Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 19, Dec. 3**

Signalperson 8 a.m.

Saturday: **Sept. 17**

Rigger Qualification 8 a.m.

Saturday: **Oct. 1**

CCO Classes 8 a.m.

Saturdays: **Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22**

CCO Tower 8 a.m.

Saturday: **Oct. 15**

Operator GPS (Topcon) 8 a.m.

Saturdays: **Oct. 15, Nov. 5**

CCO Overhead 8 a.m.

Saturday: **Oct. 12**

CCO Test 8 a.m.

Saturday: **Oct. 23**

ContactInformation

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(973) 921 - 2918 FAX

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6 Wesley Court
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Health & Welfare office

65 Springfield Avenue, 2nd FL
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(973) 921 - 0706 FAX

Training

338 Deans Rhode Hall Rd.
Dayton, NJ 08810
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(732) 798-2175 FAX

NY Training Center

6 Wesley Court
Middletown, NY 10941
(845) 692-3393

American Dream Awakens Hope for 9,000 Jobs

In late July, Gov. Christie signed a bill into law that gives tax incentives to the American Dream Meadowlands developers needed to continue development of the megamall and entertainment complex in East Rutherford.

"We couldn't build the project without it," said Maureen Bausch, executive vice president of Triple Five, the project redeveloper.

The bill allows Triple Five to qualify for a grant through the Economic Development Authority for the project, formerly known as Xanadu. The developer still needs to apply and be approved for the grant before public and private financing will be approved.

Bausch also said the project has already been lucrative for the state, with \$1.9 billion of private funding already invested, generating payroll and sales taxes. "There are 9,000 construction jobs projected to finish it in the next year-and-a-half," Bausch said. "That really helps unemployment in the construction industry."

The bill also amends the Urban Transit Hub tax credit program to include residential projects in the nine cities eligible for this funding.

At the bill signing, Christie credited bipartisan cooperation for giving more incentives for redevelopment projects, saying projects "from Newark to Camden to New Brunswick ... and the American Dream in the Meadowlands all will benefit from the legislation that we just signed."



Gov. Christie welcomes Triple Five's Chairman Nader Ghermezian to the Meadowlands.



The American Dream will feature an all-year-round indoor water park, among other attractions

BenefitsCorner

Christine Medich, Funds Administrator Keep Beneficiary Designations Current

When you get married, have a child, get divorced, move to a new address, tell us so we can update your records.

And remember to review your beneficiary designations. Subject to spousal rights, your death benefits are payable to your last named beneficiary, regardless of what may be in your will. We've seen lawsuits because, under the terms of the Plan, a benefit is payable to a participant's former spouse or fiancée and beneficiary if they are so named. So be sure to update your designations if your circumstances change.

There are separate beneficiary designation forms for the Welfare, Annuity and Pension Funds. If you would like to review your last-named beneficiary, write to us. For reasons of confidentiality, the Funds Office will not release beneficiary information over the telephone. However, we will promptly respond to written requests signed by a participant.

We will mail copies of beneficiary designations on file at the Fund sOffice and/or provide new beneficiary designation forms. Before mailing new beneficiary designations to the Funds Office, it's a good idea to make photocopies and file in a safe place.

Call our Funds Office at 973-671-6800 for further information.

Seasonal Health Tip: Local 825 offers flu shots to members

Flu season begins in late September and continues through winter. A simple flu shot can go a long way to shielding you and your family from sickness. Since a case of the flu can mean a week or two of missed work, flu prevention may be like money in your pocket.

We have arranged for flu shots to be provided to members at our upcoming district meetings in October, the perfect time to receive a flu shot. Here's the schedule:

- Oct. 3 – District 1 Meeting, Holiday Inn – Runnemede, NJ
- Oct. 5 – District 2 Meeting, Holiday Inn – Hazlet, NJ
- Oct. 10 – District 3 Meeting, Russian Hall – Garfield, NJ
- Oct. 12 – District 4 Meeting, Holiday Inn – Middletown, NY

825Briefs

• Gov. Chris Christie Nominates Lalevee

Gov. Chris Christie has nominated Local 825 Business Manager Greg Lalevee to serve on the NJ Transportation Trust Fund Authority as a public member representing a trade union. The nomination is important because it demonstrates the recognition and respect afforded to Local 825. The Governor's nomination is subject to the advice and consent of the State Senate.

• Spectra Update

In June, The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission provided the following update to the Spectra Energy pipeline expansion project application. FERC's final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project will be issued in January 2012. Since there is a 90-day deadline to announce an authorization decision, the decision date will be April 2012.

LEGISLATIVE & PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

By Mark Longo, Director of Public Affairs

Developers' Fee Quashed for now

Private builders who worried about a 2.5% "developers' fee" on non-residential building permits can breathe easier, now that legislation that we supported has passed both houses of the Legislature.

The bill has the potential to create jobs, which is our number one priority. This law removes a deterrent to new construction by extending a moratorium against the fee for two years, through December 2015. Projects approved before July 2013 are now exempt from the fee, provided that developers obtain building permits by December 31, 2015.

The bill extends the moratorium back to July 2010 and allows developers that paid a fee to claim a refund within 120 days.



Mark Longo

First Local 825 PAC meeting

In accordance with our PAC's by-laws, we will hold the first annual PAC meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday Sept. 8 in the Sheraton Edison Hotel Raritan Center, 125 Raritan Center Parkway, Edison.

We'll discuss the PAC's end-of-year finances and preview the November election. The following speakers have been invited to attend: Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, Assemblyman (Asm.) John Amodeo, Asw. Allison McHose, Asm. Gary Chuisano, Asm. & Democratic State Chairman John Wisniewsk, Senate Majority Leader Barbara Buono, Sen. Steve Oroho and Sen. Paul Sarno.

Be on the lookout for a list of endorsements we'll send you at the end of October. We ask that you consider these candidates carefully. We've examined their records, listened to their positions and believe they would represent our issues favorably.

Election Update

The primary election in June has set the stage for the November election. Thanks in part to your support, our favored candidates withstood their primary challengers.

• Union County Democrats state **Sen. Raymond Lesniak** and **Asm. Joseph Cryan** fought off tough challengers. Assembly majority leader Cryan won in June with his running mate **Asw. Annette Quijano** (D-Union).

• **Asm. Thomas Giblin**, Local 68 Business Manager, has been a consistent supporter of transportation projects and labor issues.

• **Congressman Jon Runyan** voted to support Davis Bacon, the federal prevailing wage law, fighting off a vote to abolish it and keeping it intact on federally funded construction projects. Runyan is also trying to get more construction projects on McGuire AFB.



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Operating Engineers Local 825**

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Better Building Begins Here

NY contractor delays NYSDOT project



We continue to monitor the situation in Orange County, NY, where non-union Lancaster Development of Richmondville has objected to the NYSDOT's award of the Route 17/exit 122 construction project to a union bidder.

Lancaster's bid was submitted in March on the condition that it would not have to sign or participate in the mandatory Project Labor Agreement (PLA). NYSDOT rejected their bid and awarded the contract to the second bidder. Lancaster claims their bid would have saved \$4.5 million on the project.

At issue is the right of the state and federal government to require Project Labor Agreements on construction projects using federal funds.

We believe Lancaster is playing to public opinion, trying to take advantage of anti-union sentiment and claiming they could complete the project for \$4 million less. We dispute this claim and believe it is simply rhetoric.

Even though their claim is without merit, in our opinion, Lancaster has managed to delay the project while the cost of materials has been going up. Their dispute will end up costing taxpayers more, not less. It's a wrong turn.

IUOELocal 825

Pride, Professionalism, Integrity

Mail or E-Mail: Your choice counts!

Remember, if you'd rather receive this newsletter via email instead of a copy that is printed and mailed, please send an email to Dave Daleo – ddaleo@iuoe825.org – and let him know.

www.iuoe825.org