



825News

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

VOL. 2 ISSUE 1

825Calendar

JANUARY

9 **Semi-Annual Meeting:**
Ramada Plaza Hotel – Newark

FEBRUARY

6 **District 1 Meeting:**
Kerri-Brook Caterers –
Hammonton, NJ

8 **District 2 Meeting:**
Days Inn – Bridgewater, NJ

13 **District 3 Meeting:**
Russian Hall – Garfield, NJ

15 **District 4 Meeting:**
Holiday Inn – Middletown, NY

MARCH

5 **District 1 Meeting:**
Elks Lodge – Toms River, NJ

7 **District 2 Meeting:**
Doubletree Hotel – Princeton, NJ

12 **District 3 Meeting:**
Holiday Inn – Budd Lake, NJ

14 **District 4 Meeting:**
Holiday Inn – Middletown, NY

New Labor-Management Fund pools efforts to win jobs

As we begin the New Year, we are determined to leverage our influence and our resources to proactively promote job creation for our members.

We planted the seeds for this effort last July, when we began a new Labor-Management Fund: the Engineers Labor-Employer Cooperative (ELEC). ELEC's mission is to foster collaboration between Local 825 and our signatory contractors to win construction projects.

A jointly funded labor-management trust, the concept is not new. Our fellow trade organizations—the carpenters, ironworkers, laborers—started such funds years ago and now have significant resources they use to promote their efforts and assist their members.

Our action now is a recognition that we can't wait for opportunities to fall in our laps. There is a possibility over the next 12 months



Greg Lalevee
Business Manager

that our members could be:

- Digging a water tunnel under the Hudson River in upstate New York
- Building a new Tappan Zee Bridge
- Building a new Goethals Bridge and
- Raising the Bayonne Bridge.

But we can't wait for what might happen—we have to make our own opportunities. We must:

- **Do more to promote** the unique value of our members.
- **Focus on productivity,** quality and price-to-value

for the contractors and project owners.

- **Look ahead and upgrade** our training, our skills and maintain required licenses and clearances.
- **Pursue areas of construction** that have been overlooked in the past, such as low-rise construction, utility construction and possibly providing services to municipalities.

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825Briefs

- **Spectra Watch** — In January we await The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Spectra Energy pipeline expansion project. The decision may come as early as April.
- **NJ DOT** has nearly \$29 million in state aid for the repair of 31 county-owned bridges considered structurally deficient, functionally obsolete or scour-critical. 21 counties will receive \$1 million to repair one or more bridges. \$4 million more will be distributed on a competitive, cost-benefit basis.

Ulster County Sheriff thanks Local 825

Sheriff Paul VanBlarcum has expressed his gratitude to Local 825 members for their donation of a 6' by 10' enclosed v-nose ramp-door trailer for the county's Swift Water Rescue Unit.

Our members suggested the gift after county rescue teams encountered difficulty pulling victims of Hurricane Irene to safety. Vital equipment and supplies could not be brought close to several rescue scenes because the team didn't have an equipment trailer designed to navigate the rugged conditions.

Despite their need, the dive team brought more than 30 people to safety. Seven were rescued from one house and three from another. Both houses had been ripped from their foundations and the families were trapped inside.

Being able to access such equipment in the future will allow quicker response time, greater efficiency, and much less nail-biting.



Greg Lalevee, John Wood and Andy Stomo were on hand to present the new trailer to Ulster County Sheriff VanBlarcum, far left.

Training Classes

Winter classes starting Monday, Jan. 9, 2012 at the NJ Training Center, unless otherwise noted.

COURSE DATE **TIME**

Signalperson Qualification Class

Saturday: **January 7** 8 a.m.

CCO Written Training Classes

Saturdays: **January 7, 14, 21, 28** 8 a.m.

Pipeline Class

Monday: **January 9** 7 a.m.

HAZMAT Refreshers

NEW YORK 7 a.m.

Monday: **January 9**

Saturday: **January 14, 28, Feb. 11, 25**

Wednesday: **January 18, Feb. 1, 15**

NEW JERSEY 7 a.m.

Saturday: **January 14, 21, 28 Feb. 4, 11, 25**

CCO Written Certification Exams

Sunday: **January 29** 8 a.m.

40-Hour HAZMAT Classes

NEW JERSEY 7 a.m.

Monday: **February 6**

Tuesday: **February 7**

Wednesday: **February 8**

Thursday: **February 9**

Friday: **February 10**

NEW YORK 7 a.m.

Monday: **February 27**

Tuesday: **February 28**

Wednesday: **February 29**

OSHA 30 8 a.m.

MOD 1 Tuesday: **February 21**

MOD 2 Wednesday: **February 22**

MOD 3 Thursday: **February 23**

MOD 4 Friday: **February 24**

How ELEC will work, how it will help and how you can learn more

The purpose of the Engineers' Labor-Employer Cooperative (ELEC) is to maintain a constructive relationship between Local 825 and its employers, to collaborate on winning construction projects and to help our members maintain their licensing and security clearances.

The ELEC Trust Fund began on July 1, 2011, with a 10-cent per hour contribution by members, matched by their employers. This contribution increases by 15 cents on January 1 to a total of 25-cents. Based on the fund's growth and performance, a tentative timeline could look like this:

- July 1, 2011 – Fund begins with joint contribution of 10 cents per hour from members and employers.
- Jan. 1, 2012 – Members and employers increase contributions by 15 cents, topping out at 25 cents per hour.
- April 1, 2012 – As funds build up, reimbursement for TWIC, SWAC and the South Jersey chemical card clearances are envisioned.
- Jan. 1, 2013 – Crane Operator's License for New Jersey and New York are planned.

Beyond that, depending on how the fund matures, CDL and CCO licenses may also be reimbursed.

Other ELEC Services

As the new ELEC office is established and funds continue to mature, the following services are planned:

- Marketing and Business Development
- Bid preparation assistance
- Communications
- Prevailing Wage Enforcement
- Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Monitoring.
- Project tracking

Coming soon: www.iuoe825elec.org

Watch for more information with the launching of a Local 825 ELEC website that will focus entirely on the new labor-management program.

Contact Information

Local 825 Headquarters

65 Springfield Avenue, 3rd FL
Springfield, NJ 07081
(973) 671 - 6900
(973) 921 - 2918 FAX

Health & Welfare office

65 Springfield Avenue, 2nd FL
Springfield, NJ 07081
(973) 671 - 6800
(973) 921 - 0706 FAX

District Offices:

5 Allison Drive
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
(856) 470-1480
(856) 470-1485 FAX

Training

338 Deans Rhode Hall Rd.
Dayton, NJ 08810
(732) 798-2170
(732) 798-2175 FAX

6 Wesley Court
Middletown, NY 10941
(856) 674-9020
(845) 674-9025 FAX

NY Training Center

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

BenefitsCorner

Coverage for Emergency Room Care

Medically necessary services provided within 48 hours of an accident or sudden or serious illness and billed by an emergency room provider that is a licensed MD or DO using procedure codes denoting emergency care are payable at 100 percent.

All other charges (for example, charges of a plastic surgeon to close a wound) are payable in accordance with the Plan's reasonable allowances, subject to the deductible, coinsurance, copayments. Additionally, if services are rendered by an out-of-network provider, you are responsible for charges billed by the provider, which may be in excess of the Plan's reasonable allowances. This is another reason to always use a Plan provider for maximum coverage.

Health/Safety Tip: Lifting Reduce your chance of back injury

Knowing how to lift heavy items can reduce your chance of back injury. When lifting something heavy, use your legs and not your arms. If the load is still too heavy, ask someone to help.

When operating a forklift, there may be times a load shifts or slides off and needs to be picked back up again. Know your own limits and especially know when to call for backup. Don't put your health at risk.

If you will be lifting heavy items regularly, wear a back support. Use steel-toe boots with thick soles to protect your feet. Wear the proper protective gear in bad weather and be extra careful in bad weather to prevent a slip or fall.



Heavy lifting is not always done by heavy equipment. Knowing the right techniques helps keep us all safe.

LEGISLATIVE & PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

By Mark Longo, Director of Public Affairs

Election Day held few surprises but positive results



Mark Longo

November's election had a historically low turnout—26% of eligible voters. Yet thanks to you, the overwhelming majority of candidates we endorsed—including every single one in the New Jersey Legislature—was elected.

We worked with both Republicans and Democrats, based on their positions on issues important to us.

While the balance of power in New Jersey stayed pretty much the same—Democrats added one seat in the Assembly—the leadership in both houses was turned upside down. Our candidates swept the key leadership positions.

Sen. Steve Sweeney (D-3) retained his Senate seat and the Senate presidency. Former Senate majority leader Barbara Buono lost her post to Loretta Weinberg, who we endorsed, of District 37 in Bergen County. In the Assembly, Joe Cryan of Union retained his seat but lost his post of majority leader to Lou Greenwald of Camden County. We had endorsed both of these candidates for reelection.

Sen. Sweeney, Sen. Donald Norcross (D-5) and Assemblyman John Amodeo (R-2) all won reelection despite losing AFL-CIO support prior to the vote. As these three leaders have a solid record on labor issues, we were proud to maintain our support for them.

On the Republican side, we made inroads by working with the Republican state committee and backing Jon Bramnick (R-21), Amodeo and Steve Oroho (R-24).

In short, we helped people who understand our interests and now we look forward to building on our relationship with them, advancing our agenda and promoting projects that will create more jobs for our members.

Our Most Recent PAC Meeting

We discussed these results in our latest PAC meeting at the end of November. We also discussed legislative activity we are monitoring, including "Design-Build" delivery systems for heavy/highway and building site construction projects. Design-Build promotes design efficiency, budget control and adherence to schedule ... speeding job completion and holding down costs for developers. We'll have more on this issue in our next newsletter.

Thanks again to all our members who voted.

You made a difference!



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Better Building Begins Here

ViewFromTheTop

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ELEC's role will be to differentiate the benefits our Operating Engineers provide, benefits which include superior training and experience, collaboration, job safety and efficiency that result in overall savings to developers – and to communicate these benefits through traditional and social media.

ELEC may also help members defray the high cost of licensing and credentialing that is required of us. For more information about how the ELEC Trust Fund will work, see the related story on Page 2.

Thanks for voting in November

Thanks to each of you who voted on November 8. Electing candidates makes a big difference when we want our calls answered and when we need help. Mark Longo has a wrap-up of the election results on Page 3.

Happy New Year

As we begin 2012, I wish you health, happiness and full employment in the new year!

Port Authority Announces It's Ahead of Schedule for Raising the Bayonne Bridge

The project to raise the Bayonne Bridge and allow it to accommodate larger cargo ships from the Panama Canal could be completed as early as late 2015 or early 2016, according to the Port Authority.

Deputy Executive Director Bill Baroni told real estate, shipping and logistics executives

at the New York Shipping Association Training Center in Elizabeth. He said the agency is preparing to hire its first contractor.

The span needs to be raised by about 65 feet in order to accommodate larger container ships that are expected to come through the Panama Canal, beginning in late 2014.

IUOE Local 825

Pride, Professionalism, Integrity

Mail or E-Mail: Your choice!

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.

Local 825—now on Facebook

Go to www.IUOE825.org, and click on the "F" under the greeting from Greg Lavee. Once on our Facebook page, click on the "Like" button to receive periodic updates.