



825News

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

VOL. 2 ISSUE 3

825Calendar

MAY

- 7 District 1 Meeting & Blood Bank:**
Runnemede Inn – Runnemede, NJ
- 9 District 2 Meeting:**
Holiday Inn – Hazlet, NJ
- 10 Health Fair:**
Ramada Plaza – Newark, NJ
- 13 Mother's Day**
- 14 District 3 Meeting:**
Holiday Inn – Mt. Olive, NJ
- 16 District 4 Meeting:**
Holiday Inn – Middletown, NY
- 28 Memorial Day – Union Holiday**

JUNE

- 4 District 1 Meeting:**
Grand Versailles – Maple Shade, NJ
- 6 District 2 Meeting:**
Days Inn – Bridgewater, NJ
- 7 Health Fair:**
Training Center – Dayton, NJ
- 11 District 3 Meeting:**
Russian Hall – Garfield, NJ
- 13 District 4 Meeting:**
Holiday Inn – Middletown, NY
- 14 Flag Day**
- 17 Father's Day**

JULY

- 4 Independence Day – Union Holiday**
- 16 Semi-Annual Meeting:**
Ramada Plaza – Newark, NJ

Large-scale Projects Move Forward, Others On Hold As Spring Begins

We have mixed news as spring 2012 leads to summer.

On the positive side, the large-scale N.J. Turnpike expansion program continues to employ many of our members. A further expansion of the highway construction program was announced in March. It includes work on the Garden State Parkway and the Turnpike (see story below).

Positive signs are also coming from New York state as the Thruway Authority recently qualified four consortiums of engineering and construction companies to bid on the \$5 billion Tappan Zee Bridge replacement project. Each consortium will submit a competitive bid with a hope that construction could begin by year's end.

However, this schedule could be threatened by the notoriously anti-labor Associated Builders & Contractors (ABC) of New York,



Greg Lalevee
Business Manager

which has called on Gov. Andrew Cuomo to exclude a PLA from the bid. Their move follows a victory in court by Lancaster Development — an ABC/NY member — to force a re-bid of the Route 17 project. The basis of their protest was over the inclusion of a PLA in the bid specs.

We are fighting back against ABC and working with the New York State Building Trades Association over messages and materials to counter ABC's appeal. The

national ABC has also endorsed GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney, based on his promise to eliminate the Davis Bacon prevailing wage law and establish a federal right-to-work law, so we see this group as clearly being anti organized labor.

The Spectra pipeline program got a boost in March from the Federal Energy

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Highway Construction Revs Up

In a good sign for new construction jobs, the N.J. Turnpike Authority announced a four-year, \$350-million construction program along the entire length of the Garden State Parkway and New Jersey Turnpike.

The project will include immediate Turnpike toll plaza repairs, construction of 30 maintenance buildings and four state police barracks and the rehabilitation of 60 existing facilities. It will be funded by the state's toll increases since 2009.

A full team of design consultants, engineers and a project manager will be organized by October, and contracts will be sought in the fall.

825Briefs

FERC: "Spectra Pipeline Environmentally Acceptable"

The much-awaited report on the Spectra Energy pipeline has declared the project "environmentally acceptable," clearing a significant hurdle to project approval.

The report, released by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, said the 20-mile pipeline would have "limited adverse environmental impacts," mostly during the construction phase. The plan still requires approval by the commission's board, although no vote has been scheduled.

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Training Classes

Upcoming classes up through August 2012 at the NJ Training Center, unless otherwise noted.

COURSE DATE **TIME**

Signalperson Qualification Class

Saturday: **May 5** 8 a.m.

CCO Study Days & Test Dates

Saturday: **June 2, 9, 16, 23 (study)** 8 a.m.

Sunday: **June 24 (test)** 8 a.m.

Saturday: **August 4, 11, 18, 25 (study)** 8 a.m.

Sunday: **August 26 (test)** 8 a.m.

OSHA 30

Tuesday, **May 1 – Friday, May 4** 8 a.m.

HAZMAT Refreshers

NEW JERSEY All Start Times are 7 a.m.

Saturday: **May 5, June 9, July 14, August 11**

Wednesday: **May 9**

NEW YORK All Start Times are 7 a.m.

Wednesday: **May 16, June 13, August 15**

Monday: **July 16**

40-Hour HAZMAT Classes

NEW JERSEY

Monday, **May 14 – Friday, May 18** 7 a.m.

Rigger Qualifications

Saturday: **May 12** 8 a.m.

OECP Study Days & Test Dates

Study dates were held in April.

Written Test Dates:

Saturday: **May 12, June 30** 8 a.m.

Practical Test:

Saturday: **July 28** 8 a.m.

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 Helps to Add 170 Lane Miles to NJ Turnpike

Our members are at work on one of largest construction projects in the U.S. – widening the New Jersey Turnpike as part of \$2.5 billion expansion started in 2009.

The project is designed to improve safety and reduce congestion by adding 170 lane miles between Interchanges 6 and 9. The roadway is being widened from six to 12 lanes between Interchanges 6 and 8A and from 11 to 12 lanes between Interchanges 8A and 9. There is also significant construction at five interchanges: 6, 7, 7A, 8 and 8A.

The work is going to eliminate the bottleneck known as the merge that results as the southbound Turnpike goes from six lanes in each direction to five lanes starting at Exit 9 in New Brunswick, then down to three lanes starting at Exit 8A in Cranbury. As Greg Lalevec was quoted by the Star Ledger, "I think we'll see less accidents and less wasted time sitting in traffic."

When complete, the Turnpike will be capable of accommodating projected traffic needs through the year 2032 and Local 825 will be able to add this to its list of achievements for the public good.



Local 825 Attends WILD Conference

This year, seven of our women members attended the NJ AFL-CIO Women in Leadership Development Conference at the Rutgers Labor Center.

The goal of the conference is to address how unions help women and how women help unions. It is also designed to ensure that union women have every opportunity to be educated, develop leadership skills, and build diversity within the labor movement.

Attending members shown in the photo are (from left to right) Tracey Anzano, Robin Castimore, Sandra Ellis, Lisa Lascelle, Kelly Raeuber, Tammy Good and Tara Anderson.

They had a chance to meet and talk with union leaders, organizers, educators, and authors, who shared the challenges they've faced and their strategies for advocating for and organizing workers.

The Conference is always held in March in honor of Women's History Month.



BenefitsCorner

Health fairs set for May 10 and June 7

Plan to attend one of our upcoming health fairs, scheduled for May 10 in the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Newark and June 7 at our New Jersey Training Center in Dayton.



Christine Medich

As our aim is to help you stay healthy, the fairs include a variety of health screenings — including cholesterol, triglyceride and glucose levels as well as PSA (prostate specific antigen) testing for men. You will also have the opportunity to meet with some employees of the Welfare Fund, MagnaCare and Caremark, who will be glad to assist you in better understanding your healthcare benefits.

These are important benefits and we urge our members to take advantage of them.

Health Tip: A Time To Barbecue

With the nice weather comes outdoor eating. Although casual meals can be fun, don't be casual about handling food for outdoor eating. Follow these tips:

- Avoid health problems when preparing food by washing hands. Unwashed hands are a prime cause of food-borne illness.
- Clean surfaces often and don't cross-contaminate. Wash plates, utensils, and cutting boards that held the raw meat or poultry.
- Cook to proper temperatures: use a thermometer to check the internal temperature of meat.
- Refrigerate promptly: keep cold food cold. Bring your own condiments in individual-sized packs.
- Use a plastic tablecloth on a picnic table so food particles left by previous picnickers won't cause allergic reactions among your guests.
- Bring anti-bacterial wipes and gels.

ContactInformation

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NY Training Center

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(845) 692-3393

LEGISLATIVE & PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

By Mark Longo, Director of Public Affairs

Permit Extension Legislation Closer to Passage



Mark Longo

We are working with Legislative leaders and all stakeholders to extend the Permit Extension Act of 2008 until December 2014.

The Legislation – S-743 and A-1338 – would allow previously approved projects that have been stalled due to economic factors an additional two years to begin construction. This would help ensure that New Jersey developers do not abandon previously approved projects, which would stop any job recovery dead in its tracks.

The bipartisan bill – sponsored by Sen. Steve Oroho and Paul Sarlo, and Assembly Majority Leader Lou Greenwald – was passed by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Sen. Oroho tours Dayton Training Facility

Senator Steve Oroho (R-24) visited our center recently. Oroho has consistently supported Gov. Christie's Transportation Trust Fund plan and serves on the Budget Appropriations and Economic Growth committees.



We appreciate Sen. Oroho's visit and tour of our training facilities, as well as his continued interest in issues important to Local 825 and to economic development overall.

Higher Ed School Construction Heads to Gov.

Public institutions of higher education will gain an additional 18 months to submit construction proposals to the NJ Economic Development Authority under two bills that have unanimously cleared both houses and now await signature by Gov. Christie.

The Public Private Partnerships for Higher Learning bills – S-1027 (sponsored by Sen. Ray Lesniak) and A-2271 (sponsored by Pam Lampitt), change current law by extending the application deadline for 18 months, from February 1, 2012 to August 1, 2013.

We also fought to include Project Labor Agreements in these projects, in which a private entity assumes full financial and administrative responsibility for any on-campus construction, provided that it is financed in whole by the private entity and that the institution retains full ownership of the land on which the project is built.



International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825

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Better Building Begins Here

ViewFromTheTop

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Regulatory Commission (FERC), which declared the project “environmentally acceptable.” The plan still requires approval by FERC’s board.

In member news, on Page 2 we recognize our 7 women members who participated in the Women In Leadership Development (WILD) program hosted by the AFL-CIO New Jersey chapter.

We thank all our members who donated blood during our drive in March.

And we will recognize 112 of our members who have served 40 continuous years with Local 825 at our 40 Year Dinner on May 19 at the East Brunswick Hilton.

As I pledged to you at the beginning of 2011, we will continue to keep you informed of all our efforts that affect you. In addition to this newsletter, now in its second year, we also update you using periodic email blasts, our website and Facebook page. If you haven’t yet “Liked” our Facebook page, see the article at right to see how easy it is to join in.

“Like” Local 825 on Facebook

As our Facebook “friends” grow toward 400, there are still thousands of you who haven’t yet visited our page.

This is important because Facebook allows us to share information and builds camaraderie. We use Facebook to post the latest information on jobs, project updates, legislative updates, to share photos of members and also to allow friends to post comments of their own.

If you’re already on Facebook, find our page by clicking on the Facebook link from

the homepage. When the Local 825 page opens, click “Like” at the top of the page.

If you don’t yet have a Facebook page, go to www.facebook.com and follow the directions to set one up. Then enter “IUOE Local 825” in the search box and click on our listing that will appear. Once you land on our page, click “Like.” You’ll be able to scroll back in time to see the photos and information you’ve missed so far and you’ll be notified whenever we update our information.

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The pipeline, which would run through part of Union and Hudson counties, is still opposed by environmental advocates and Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah Healy.

Union Construction Membership Rose in 2011

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported in January that union membership in private sector construction in 2011 rose nearly a percentage point over 2010.

Union roles hit 14% in 2011 (874,000 union members among 6.2 million construction employees), up from 13.1% in 2010 (801,000 union members out of 6.1 million construction workers).