



# 825 News

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

VOL. 4 ISSUE 1

## Members Prep NY Training Center Site

Story and more photos on page 3

WAWAYANDA CLEARS HURDLES FOR COMPLETION IN 2014



**WELCOME TO WAWAYANDA** – Local 825 members are hard at work preparing the site at 96 Bates Gates Road, Wawayanda, N.Y., for the union's new training center. To date, progress has consisted of building roadside berms, excavation of a retention pond and site grading in prepa-

ration for building to begin. On a recent day in December, with temperatures in the 20s, more than 20 members were at work and took time out of their day to pose for a group photo. Building construction and schedules await approval of architectural plans. See more photos on page 3.



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# Calendar

## January 1.14

**1 New Year's Day**  
Union holiday

**13 Semi-Annual Meeting**  
Hilton East Brunswick  
3 Tower Center Blvd.  
East Brunswick, NJ

**20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

## February 2.14

**3 District 1 Meeting**  
Kerri Brooke Caterers  
755 S. White Horse Pike  
Hammonton, NJ

**6 District 2 Meeting**  
Days Inn  
1260 Rt.. 22 East  
Bridgewater, NJ

**10 District 3 Meeting**  
Russian Hall  
464 Outwater Lane  
Garfield, NJ

**12 District 4 Meeting**  
Holiday Inn  
68 Crystal Run Road  
Middletown, NY

**14 Valentine's Day**

**17 President's Day**  
Union Holiday

All District Meetings begin at 7 p.m.

## VIEW From The Top

Greg Lalevee | Business Manager

### Appreciation for 2013 and a measured optimism for the year ahead

**B**uilding construction, pipelines, roads and bridges all came to life during 2013.

While questions remain about the strength of the economic recovery going into the New Year, Operating Engineers will remember the past twelve months as the best for employment opportunities in recent memory.

It was a year that saw the completion of the Spectra Energy and Northeast Gas pipelines, the Belmar Boardwalk and the beginning of work on the new Tappan Zee crossing and other bridges throughout our area.

It was an election year that, with one notable exception, saw the candidates we endorsed all claim victory. Sadly, the one exception was our own retired member, John Amodeo, who lost his seat in New Jersey's second Legislative District. That said, we thank John for his years of service to our union and to our state.

As a union and as individuals we gave back to our communities and causes we value. We provided scholarships and grants to our members' families. We raised money for the Multiple Sclerosis Society and donated time to causes such as Habitat for Humanity. We encourage our members to play active roles in the towns, schools, charities and civic organizations where they live.

We closed the year on a high note with a holiday gathering on December



10 (see photos on pages 4 and 5) and we look forward to our semi-annual meeting at the East Brunswick Hilton on January 13.

We believe the New Year will bring continued employment opportunities for our members and we are doing everything in our power to promote job growth, including the mar-

keting outreach and promotion through our labor-management arm, ELEC. On page 7 you will see our latest ad that will run in key business and trade publications throughout New Jersey and our five counties in New York State.

As members, you also can do much to promote your own opportunities by enrolling in our winter training classes beginning in January. We're offering a range of training opportunities, including training on two new pieces of equipment on loan from Volvo (see story on page 3).

Training is a vital ingredient in what gives our members a competitive advantage in the workplace and we continue to invest in our training centers. Construction at our New Jersey center is scheduled to be completed by February and it is beginning at our new site in Wawayanda, New York.

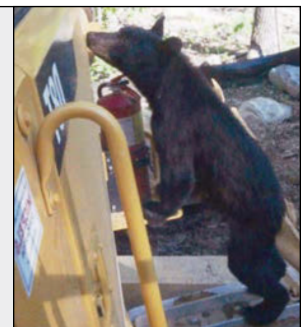
We look to 2014 with measured optimism and with a determination, with your continued support, to build on our momentum for the future.

Happy New Year to you and your families.



### BEARLY TIME FOR LUNCH

*As he munched on his sandwich during a lunch break on the Tennessee Gas Pipeline project in Hewitt, dozer operator Charlie Lavair was just glad he had shut the door to his cab before chowing down. As an uninvited guest approached, Charlie was able to finish his lunch in peace (and in one piece) and snap these photos.*





# Training centers keeping pace with demand

**T**raining is a vital element in what gives our members a competitive advantage in the workplace, which is why we continually invest in our training centers and programs.

Both of our training locations are in the midst of modernization.

## New York

After months of planning and working with local planning and zoning boards, work on our new location in Wawayanda, N.Y., has begun. While we prepare building design and blueprints, berms have been built along Bates Gates Road. These will be landscaped to provide a visual buffer for residents of the area.



**SITE GRADING** takes place in New York.



**BERMS GO UP** along Bates Gates Road

Other site work includes excavation, digging a retention pond and site grading. Once architectural plans are approved by local boards, construction can begin soon after.

Thanks to all our members who've helped during the cold winter months.

## New Jersey

Progress continues on the New Jersey Training Center reconstruction. The interior steel and stud work have been completed. The outside walls have been covered with Tyvek and brickwork has begun. Roofing panels were expected to



**TYVEK AND BRICKWORK** go up on the New Jersey Training Center

be in place toward the end of December. Once enclosed, plumbing, electrical and sheetrocking can be done.

## Winter training classes begin

Winter classes begin on Jan. 13 and provide an opportunity for members to take advantage of the less-busy months and learn new skills or refresh existing skills.

In addition to the standard classes in paving, milling, asphalt rolling, pile driving and guidepost pounding, there will be a new basic crane class and two new pieces of equipment provided by Volvo Equipment.

The Volvo PL3005 is a pipe-laying machine that works like a crane on an excavator body. The arm is attached to the upper works of the machine, which allows it to be rotated 360 degrees, which you can't do on a side boom.

The other piece of equipment – the Volvo EC340 excavator, features a vacuum works attachment that lifts pipe by suction and allows it to be maneuvered more easily.

Both machines feature increased maneuverability, good for use in close quarters, like transfer yards and boring pits.

Members are encouraged to sign up anytime before classes begin and even after, space permitting.



**THE VOLVO PL3005** is available for training in New Jersey.

# Training Classes

All classes begin at 8 a.m., unless otherwise noted. Call in advance to verify class dates and availability.

## January 2014

### New Jersey

**OSHA 10:** Mon. & Tues. 1/6 & 1/7

**OSHA 30:** Mon. 1/6–Thurs. 1/9

**8 Hr. Hazmat Refresher:** Sat. 1/4, Sat. 1/11, Wed 1/22, Sat. 1/25

**Rigging Class:** Thurs. 1/9

**Signal Class:** Thurs. 1/23

**CCO Classes:** Sat. 1/4, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25  
CCO Test: Sat. 1/26

### New York

**8 Hr. Hazmat Refresher:** Wed. 1/8, Sat. 1/11, Wed 1/15

**Rigging Class:** Sat. 1/18

**Signal Class:** Wed. 1/22

## February

### New Jersey

**8 Hr. Hazmat Refresher:** Sat. 2/1, Sat. 2/8, Sat. 2/22, Wed 2/26

**Rigging Class:** Thurs. 2/6

**Signal Class:** Thurs. 2/20

**CCO Classes:** Sat. 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22  
CCO Test: Sun. 2/23

### New York

**Rigging Class:** Wed. 2/5

**8 Hr. Hazmat Refresher:** Wed. 2/12, Sat. 2/22, Wed 2/26

**Signal Class:** Wed. 2/19

## March

### New York

**OSHA 30:** Tues. 3/4–Fri. 3/7

**Signal Class:** Wed. 3/19

**Rigging Class:** Sat. 3/22

**40 Hr. Hazmat:** Mon. 3/24–Fri. 3/28



# Holidays bring members



**A**n impending snowstorm briefly threatened this year's holiday party. In the end it was nothing worse than three inches and cold temperatures ... not nearly enough to keep members from enjoying an evening of holiday cheer with their brothers and sisters.

In fact, the snow added to the holiday mood, as it lined the branches of trees leading up the drive to the East Brunswick Hilton. Members packed the hotel and enjoyed dinner and time to catch up with each other for an evening.

Thanks to all who came, and thanks to all who worked to put together another top quality event. If you haven't seen them yet, here are some of the photos of the event. You'll find plenty more on the timeline of our Facebook page.





# together to celebrate





## BENEFITS: Keep up to date in 2014

We hope all of you had an enjoyable and safe holiday season. As we begin the New Year, take a moment and ask yourselves if you've moved in the past year or if your beneficiary information is up to date in our Funds Office.



fits office promptly if you change your address or beneficiary information

— Christine Medich

### The holidays aren't always happy for everyone

Many people suffer from stress and depression during the holidays, yet there are ways to help cope with holiday stress.

Likewise, recovering from holiday eating may involve a New Year's resolution to lose unwanted pounds. And if you're diabetic, you may be interested to learn of some things you can do to improve your eating habits.

Visit the Wellness page on our Funds Office website, [www.825funds.org](http://www.825funds.org). There you will find healthy tips and information all year round.

— Debbie Kelly

## New programs for wellness, charitable giving and community involvement

Local 825 is proud to introduce Community Health Charities as a new partner in our community involvement, charitable giving and wellness initiatives.

Community Health Charities works to unite members with the credible health information and charitable giving choices offered by more than 60 of the most respected health charities in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

## Pointers on safe shoveling and signs of when it is time to quit

### NEWSFLASH: Don't shovel snow if you're not physically fit

Shoveling snow can strain your heart and back. Try to avoid the job if you aren't in good physical shape or are older. Either hand the shovel to somebody who is fit or use a snow blower. Additional tips to keep in mind:

- Warm up your muscles before you shovel. Do warm-up stretches and flexing exercises to loosen up your muscles before diving into the job.
- A snow shovel should be lightweight, about 3 or 4 lbs, and the blade shouldn't be too large. The handle should be long enough so that you don't have to stoop to shovel.

- Push – don't lift. Push the snow rather than lifting it. If you must throw it, take only as much snow as you can easily lift.
- Face – don't twist. Turn your feet to the direction you're throwing. Don't twist at the waist. Don't throw snow over your shoulder or to the side.
- Rest and recover. Take frequent breaks and drink some warm non-alcoholic fluids. In extreme conditions, such as very cold and windy weather, 15 minutes of shoveling should be followed by 15 minutes of rest. Remember, pace yourself and if you feel fatigued, know when to quit.



Here is a brief description of each program now available to our members:

**Health Matters at Work** – Some of you may already be familiar with this program, which is available through the Wellness page of our Funds Office website [www.825funds.org](http://www.825funds.org). Health Matters at work offers our members and their families free, around-the-clock access to credible health information and support from the nation's most trusted health charities.

**Giving Matters 365** – Members can designate a charitable gift to one or more of their favorite health charities. Community Health Charities annually reviews its charities to ensure financial accountability, so you can be confident that your gift is supporting a credible non-profit organization.

To see how easy it is to get helpful information or to donate to the cause of your choice, visit the Wellness page of our Funds Office website, [www.825funds.org](http://www.825funds.org). If you have questions, please contact Melissa Kulas at 973-671-6911.

# New ELEC ads promote the benefits of collaboration

**I**n 2014, ELEC will build on the momentum that we established during the past 12 months.

We already introduced our new ad program, focused on the benefits to developers when unions and contractors work together. Our ad, shown at right, will be combined with editorial coverage in business and trade publications, such as New Jersey Business, NJBIZ, Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce, New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, N.J. League of Municipalities, Hudson Valley Business Journal, Construction Industry Council News and the UTCA's publication.

In addition to advertising, we continue to promote our contractors in personal meetings and events throughout the Local 825 area. In December, we participated in a redevelopment conference at the Bayonne Country Club and learned of exciting development possibilities for 55 acres of undeveloped land on the Bayonne Peninsula, overlooking New York Harbor.

We are in active pursuit of market recovery opportunities and gaining entry into projects such as site work, churches, assisted living facilities and more. We encourage public-private partnerships and look for opportunities across the board.

We will continue to encourage our members to take advantage of winter training classes and to obtain and maintain credentialing in TWIC, SWAC, South Jersey Chemical Card and the Certified Crane Operator's license for members who've completed OECP, all of which we reimburse for.

The advantage we offer contractors consists of our higher levels of skills and our being ready to work, day one.

— Mark Longo, Executive Director



## Developers win when Operating Engineers and Employers work together

Contractors and Local 825 employees who understand their common interests deliver the best construction results by striving for greater efficiency, productivity and profitability.

**An atmosphere of trust**  
Some of the best suggestions for innovations, cost savings and cost-avoidance have come from the people who perform the work. In an atmosphere of trust, everyone is a partner in success.

**Thriving on challenge**  
Local 825 members thrive on challenging work and employment stability that allows them to provide for their families. Contractors take pride in challenging projects, knowing they can deliver on time, on budget and above expectations.

**Investing in success**  
Local 825's state-of-the-art training centers are open to members and contractors in two states. They help keep our members highly skilled, fully licensed, credentialed and ready to work when you are.

**Learn how we can help.**  
Contact ELEC Director Mark Longo at 973-630-1010 or visit [WWW.ELEC825.ORG](http://WWW.ELEC825.ORG)

**The Engineers Labor-Employer Cooperative (ELEC) is comprised of:** International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825, Associated Construction Contractors of New Jersey, Construction Industry Council of Westchester & Hudson Valley and the Construction Contractors Labor Employers of New Jersey.

Left photo, Royal Casino Hotel; center photo, MetLife Stadium, courtesy of Shoruba USA; right photo, Montclair rail station & municipal parking lot, courtesy of Paterson Development Corporation.

## 825.Briefs

### Prudential office tower

Prudential is constructing a \$144 million, 20-story office tower on Broad Street across from Military Park. Demolition of buildings on the site began in May, with construction starting shortly after.

Prudential's global headquarters will remain in the landmark building at 751 Broad St. The new building will house staff currently in the Gateway Building in Newark. The insurer also has plans for another office tower adjacent to the new one.

### Construction employment up

Construction employment rose for the fifth straight month, to a 50-month high of 5,834,000, up 185,000 (3.3%) over the past year, according to the Bureau of Labor

Statistics. Total hours worked (aggregate weekly hours) in construction increased by 3.8% since October 2012, implying that contractors are extending working hours slightly as well as hiring new workers.

### Camden Aquarium

The Camden Aquarium will break ground early in 2014 on Skyview Tower, a 25-story observation ride. Expected to open in 2015, the \$5 million project will rise nearly 300 feet and offer views of the city and of Philadelphia from across the Delaware River.

### 38-story highrise breaks ground

The rapidly changing Downtown Jersey City skyline will soon have a new addition, with officials ceremonially breaking ground on a 38-story, 311-unit luxury apartment building known as M2. It is expected that the

project will create 400 construction jobs and 18 permanent jobs.

### Goethals replacement

Financing the replacement of the Goethals Bridge is now in place. The project — the largest public-private partnership in the region — is expected to be completed in 2017.

The new bridge will have wider lanes, a 12-foot wide outer shoulder and 5-foot wide inner shoulder, along with a sidewalk and bike path. It also will have the potential to add bus lanes or rail tracks in the future.

### Garden state growth zones

Paterson and Passaic may attract new development following their designation as "Garden State Growth Zones," which opens the door for "hundreds of millions" of dollars in corporate incentives.





## International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825

65 Springfield Avenue, 3rd Floor  
Springfield, NJ 07081  
(973) 671-6900  
(973) 921-2918 FAX  
[www.iuoe825.org](http://www.iuoe825.org)



**INSTRUCTOR BILL DAVIS**—Provides support during N.Y. Training Center maneuvers.

*Better Building Begins Here*

## 1,100 Facebook friends can't be wrong

Over the Labor Day weekend, the number of Facebook friends surpassed 1,000 and in December we were over 1,100. Why do more and more people "Like" our page? It's a great way to find out what's happening, see photos and videos of things we care about, and to catch up with friends.

If you haven't "Liked" us yet, find out why it's so popular. Go to Facebook.com and type Local 825 in the search field. When you see our steam gauge symbol, click it and our page will open. Be sure to click "Like" near the top of the page so you get to see information as it is posted to the site.



**Chuck Zigler and Freddie Lipp** pilot a 260-ton Liebherr crane through four miles of narrow wooded roads, using 4,000 mats along the way. As part of the Hewitt pipeline project, they were headed to the Mahwah metering station.

## Contact Information

### Local 825 Headquarters

**Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

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

### NJ Training Center

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

### Health & Welfare Office

**Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

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

### NY District Office

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

### NJ District Office

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

### NY Training Center Middletown Training Center

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

**\*\* NEW NY LOCATION \*\***

### Wawayanda Office

96 Bates/Gates Road, Wawayanda, NY 10958  
(845) 374-2559; (845) 374-2564 FAX