

# 825. NEWS



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

VOL. 4 ISSUE 4

## 40-year members honored 71 reach milestone for continuous service



Honorees celebrate achievement with union brothers and sisters. A full house of Local 825 members were on hand to celebrate 40 years of continuous service logged by 71 fellow members. It was an

evening of recognition and gratitude for dedicated service, which included a reception, dinner, dancing and awards. See page 3 for more photos of the event and a complete list of the 71 honorees.

## VIEW FROM THE TOP

Greg Lalevee, Business Manager



# Transportation Trust runs on fumes as search for funding roadmap shifts into gear

## We're not there yet!

**N**o one wants to touch the gas tax issue. It's the toxic elephant in the room. Everyone knows it's there and everyone wants to avoid it.

The problem for Operating Engineers in New Jersey is that the \$8 billion, five-year transportation budget adopted in 2011 – which pays for highway, bridge and NJ Transit projects – runs out of money in 2016, according to outgoing Transportation Commissioner Jim Simpson.

"We're okay for 2015," Simpson said. "In 2016 we've got \$620 million dollars that we need to come up with."

Meanwhile, the Turnpike expansion that has kept many of our members employed for years is winding down to a close this fall, New York is facing its own budget woes and the federal transportation fund is running on empty.

## The day of reckoning

These issues hit a nerve with all of us. No one wants higher tolls or taxes. And we recognize that elected officials have helped squander some of these funds for political purposes and through inefficiencies.

But one thing is certain. Like it or not, a

depleted TTF will negatively affect every one of us.

According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, two thirds of New Jersey's roads are of poor or mediocre quality and 36 percent of bridges are either structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. They estimate that the average New Jersey driver already pays \$600 per year in added repair costs.

Businesses wanting to locate here require a robust transportation network to move their workers and their goods. Their decisions to come or go affect construction jobs – directly or indirectly – that impact our operating engineers ... so there is no wisdom in avoiding this difficult topic, just because it's unpopular.

## Let's explore all roads

We need to be open to all ideas, given the stakes.

State legislators are now wrestling with how to create a revenue stream in addition to the motor fuels tax, which is the main source of funding. That leads to considering higher tolls, motor vehicle taxes, registration fees and, of course, the gas tax.

There may be as much as \$2 billion of the higher education money that the voters approved that has not been allocated. Another \$1 billion of school construction money may be unallocated.

For us, the issue should come down to jobs. Do you want to spend an extra \$10 a week in fees, tolls or taxes and have a job? Or save \$10 and have no job?

We've seen other states face the same realities. Pennsylvania – even with a conservative governor and Republican legislature – passed a 25-cents-per-gallon gas tax.

## Ramping up for jobs

We're out there every day, fighting for every project and every job we can get. If there is a fix offered somewhere, we may need to be open to it and may need to mobilize as a union as we have in the past to contact our local legislators.

This is about more than road and bridge work. It affects all other development, our yards, equipment dealers and rental places. No member of this union would be unaffected if this problem doesn't get fixed.

Read about ELEC's new Transportation Trust Fund Resource Center on page 7.

## Also in this issue

Congratulations to all our members who passed their 40-year milestone with Local 825. Read about the event on page 3. And congratulations to our scholarship winners and their families ... see them all on page 4.

Have a great summer.

## CALENDAR

### JULY

**July 4 – Independence Day.**  
**Union holiday.**

**July 7 – Semi-annual meeting, 7 p.m.**  
Hilton East Brunswick

### AUGUST

**No meetings scheduled.**  
**Enjoy the summer!**

## Contact Information

### Local 825 Headquarters

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(973) 921 - 2918 FAX

### Wawayanda Office

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5 Allison Drive  
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(856) 470-1485 FAX  
6 Wesley Court  
Middletown, NY 10941  
(845) 674-9020  
(845) 674-9025 FAX

### Health & Welfare office

65 Springfield Avenue, 2nd FL  
Springfield, NJ 07081  
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### NJ Training Center

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

### NY Training Center

Middletown Training Center  
6 Wesley Court  
Middletown, NY 10941  
Office: (845) 692-3393

### ELEC Office

65 Springfield Avenue, 2nd FL  
Springfield, NJ 07081  
(973) 630 - 1010  
(973) 630 - 1013 FAX



# Local 825 salutes its latest 40-year members for dedication, commitment and inspiration

**F**or 71 active and retired members, May 17 was an evening of gratitude and recognition.

Together with their guests, they gathered together at the East Brunswick Hilton to receive their gold cards and pins. Cocktails were followed by dinner, entertainment and sharing old times.

Prior to calling honorees to receive their pins, Greg Lalevee and John Wood thanked them for their years of service as operating engineers and members of Local 825.

"A lot has changed since 1974 when these

members joined Local 825. Through all the changes in the economy and in technology, these members have remained loyal to our local and we are better for it," said Greg.

"We thank them for their dedication and commitment over four decades and for the inspiration they've provided to the members who have come after them. We wish them the best and hope they're with us for many more years to come."

To see more photos from the event, visit the Local 825 Facebook page and scroll down the timeline to May 22.



## Congratulations 40-Year Honorees

David J. Agar  
Gary J. Blanch  
John R. Cerana  
Richard Delanoy  
William J. Green  
Patrick J. Humphreys  
Floyd Makuen III  
John D. Milliner  
John A. Prisk  
John T. Smith  
Dominic E. Tufaro  
Robert S. Wallace  
Eddie Wright  
John Archie  
Frank C. Bruno  
Joseph A. Cerbasi  
Andrew T. Dickinson Jr.  
Frank D. Grigal Jr.

Nelson L. Johnson  
Roger R. Mayer  
John Olori  
Joseph L. Robinson  
Lawrence C. Taylor  
Gregory G. Underhill  
James Ward  
Girard W. Zichelli  
Joseph S. Bariexca  
Joseph Casey  
James Clark  
William D. Farr  
Kenneth T. Hood  
Steve C. Lesko  
Robert Melnyk  
Kenneth F. Pizzuto  
John A. Sears Jr.  
Daniel F. Tocco

Joseph M. Uzzalino  
James J. Winters  
Owen M. Ahearn  
John M. Bednar  
William R. Byrnes  
Michael A. Carr  
Anthony DeMarino  
Lawrence J. Hartman  
Larry J. McMillen  
Lawrence P. Pinto  
Stephen Sedlak  
Richard J. Smith  
Sam Vassallo  
William Almasi  
Roger D. Bensen  
John Callazzo Jr.  
Blaise Castaldo  
Michael J. Gonnello

Arthur E. Hobbs  
John W. Moore  
Charles W. Reiser  
Allen R. Seiss  
James Speno  
Arthur C. Ward Sr.  
Stephen J. Bariexca  
Frank Burg Jr.  
Michael J. Caputo  
Lewis R. Day  
Charles D. Hart  
Walter Johnson  
James W. Norris III  
Samuel Schlindwein  
William J. Smallwood  
Alan R. Stroud  
Robert T. Winzinger

# Higher education means higher costs

## Members award scholarships to help

**T**he cost of higher education goes higher and higher but thanks to Local 825 members, our children and grandchildren will have some welcome help.

In June, nine children and grandchildren of our members were presented with their scholarship awards, which they won for entering our annual scholarship program.

The scholarship program, which is open to family members of Local 825's, is administered by a team of educators from Rutgers University, headed by Dr. Tracy Chang.

The winners accepted their awards and enjoyed an evening with their family members at the Edison Sheraton.

To see more photos from the event, visit the Local 825 Facebook page and scroll down the timeline to June 3.



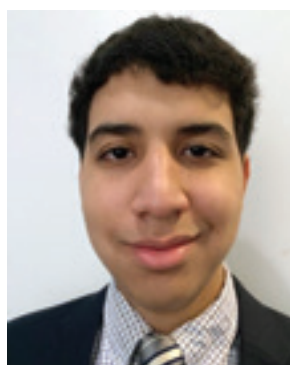
**Logan Campbell**



**Shauna Eltink**



**Bridget Ford**



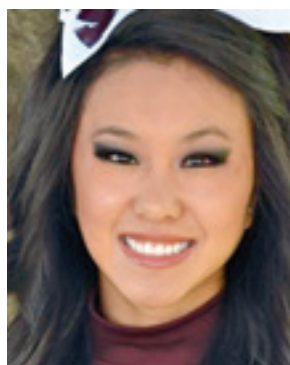
**Rami Kammourth**



**Chris King**



**Theresa Runsey**



**Gina Simone**



**Rachel Wigmore**



**Thomas Elijah Worobey**

## Family Members

A requirement for entry is that applicants must be the children or grandchildren of a Local 825 member. Here are the lucky family members of this year's winners:

Scholarship winners:

Logan M. Campbell,  
daughter of **James Campbell IV**

Shauna Eltink,  
daughter of **Peter Eltink**

Christopher King,  
son of **Joseph King, Sr.**

Gina Simone,  
daughter of **Joseph Simone**

Rachel Wigmore,  
daughter of **Ronald Wigamore**

Thomas Elijah Worobey,  
grandson of **Robert Newman**

Grant winners:

Athlete: Bridget Ford,  
daughter of the late **Francis Ford**

Service: Rami Kammourth,  
son of **Tarek Kammourth**

Union Appreciation: Theresa Rumsey,  
daughter of **Chris Rumsey**



*The winners, front row left to right, Chris King, Bridget Ford, Theresa Rumsey, Gina Simone, Shauna Eltink, Rachel Wigmore and Logan Campbell. Back row, Bob Davis, John Wood, Jim McGowan, Greg Lavee, Joe Logan and Jack Nacion.*



# Members swing into action for scholarships

**A** month before the 2014 scholarships were awarded, members, sponsors and friends joined together to have fun and raise money for scholarships, all in the same shot.

It was the second annual golf outing at Gambler Ridge Golf Course and it succeeded in both being fun and raising funds.

A shotgun start signaled tee-off and a sudden thunderstorm temporarily interrupted play, but not for long. Following the game, everyone returned to the clubhouse for food, beverages and prizes. Of course, the big winners are the students.

By all accounts, it looks like there will be a third annual golf outing in 2015.



# District 3 Health Fair

Members and family members take part in May's Health Fair in District 3 at Newark's Ramada Plaza Hotel, hosted by our dedicated Benefits staff and our health care provider-partners.

These members know that the best medicine is preventive medicine, staying healthy by maintaining periodic checkups and health screenings.

There's still two Health Fairs left in 2014, so be sure to attend at least one of them. They are scheduled for:

- Sept. 18 (District 4) at the Holiday Inn, Middletown, NY; and
- Oct. 9 (District 1), Runnemede Inn & Suites, NJ.

District 2's fair was held on June 18, as this newsletter was going to print.



## Benefits

# Discount tickets make getaways more fun

The summer months present their own challenges with keeping the kids happy while they're out of school. Thanks to our discount-ticket partners, we can help make some of those outings and getaways more affordable.

For complete details of discount programs and upgrades, visit the Local 825 website [www.IUOE825.org](http://www.IUOE825.org) and click on the "Why Join" tab along the top. When the

"Why Join" page opens, the 2014 Member Discount Programs will appear in the right-hand column.

There you will find information on discount tickets available to our members and how to access them using a private code. Ticket programs are offered for:

- Clementon Park & Splash World, in Clementon; and
- Morey's Piers in Wildwood. This year,

Morey's Pier is introducing a same-day combination ticket that allows you to enjoy all three of its amusement piers and beachfront water parks on the same day. This combination offer is not available to the general public.

So if you're looking for something fun to do for the whole family, you have plenty of options to choose from.

# Discount Union Plus® ... there when you need

In our last issue we reported on the financial benefits you can use due to our relationship with Union Plus®, offered through Wells Fargo Home Mortgage.

Examples of benefits include:

- Consultation on a home mortgage or second mortgage;
- First Time Home Buyer Awards;

- Grants and interest-free payment assistance in the event of a layoff, strike or disability.

To learn more or sign up for these benefits, contact our Local 825 Union Plus specialist, Debra Botulinski at (908) 608-2013.

You may also check her web page [www.wfwm.com/debra-botulinski](http://www.wfwm.com/debra-botulinski) or email her at [Debra.Botulinski@wellsfargo.com](mailto:Debra.Botulinski@wellsfargo.com).





# Social Media strategy connects with developers

**E**LEC is forging ahead with its social media program to connect with people involved in construction, transportation, regional planning, commercial real estate, and others, promoting economic development that leads to construction and infrastructure projects.

With now more than 1,100 likes on Facebook, we post updates on key union projects in the region, the status of construction-friendly legislation in the statehouse, and continually reinforce the need to fund and maintain the region's infrastructure.

On Twitter, ELEC is connecting with construction allies in the NJ State Legislature

and other groups that recognize the relationship between economic development, infrastructure improvements, jobs, and the quality of life in the region.

ELEC is using digital advertising to provoke thought over the choice between better roads vs. a higher gas tax.

We also track legislation and alert our followers to changes in status and when their help is needed.

If you haven't yet joined the movement, visit ELEC's Facebook page right now and click "LIKE" at the top of the page so that you receive updates as they are posted.

# ELEC opens Transportation Trust Fund Resource Center

**A** comprehensive and well-maintained infrastructure—roads, bridges, tunnels, and mass transit—are vital to the regional economy. New Jersey's Transportation Trust Fund, which finances many of these infrastructure projects, is in poor financial shape and heading towards bankruptcy. Unless something is done, the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) will run dry and our state's infrastructure will deteriorate faster than we can fix or improve it.

ELEC has established a new resource center to

keep you up to date on TTF news, activities, its history, current state and possible solutions.

Follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/ELEC825](http://www.facebook.com/ELEC825)) or Twitter ([twitter.com/ELEC825](https://twitter.com/ELEC825), hashtag #NJTTF) for our updates.

If you want to contribute your own, or find an article that is relevant, please message us on Facebook or Tweet us.

We will add new information in the hopes of informing and fostering intelligent discussion of this critical topic.



# OECP is for YOU

**T**he Operating Engineers Certification Program (OECP) is designed to provide members with a means to obtain a valid and reliable certification that accurately assesses their competence in crane operations, thereby directly promoting a safer jobsite environment

for the worker, the public, and the industry.

OECP is the only union nationally accredited certification program run by operating engineers, for operating engineers.

And, there's absolutely NO COST to members in good standing.

## TRAINING CALENDAR

Classes are subject to change. Always contact the Training Center to verify class availability.

If for any reason you are unable to attend a scheduled class, please call us so we can allow someone else to take your place.

### New Jersey Training Center (732) 798-2170

#### JULY 2014

8 HR. HAZMAT Refresher

- Saturday 7/2

OECP Study Day

- Saturday 7/2

OSHA 30

- Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.  
(7/15, 16, 17 & 18)

Rigging Class

- Saturday 7/19

OECP Study Day

- Saturday 7/19

OECP TEST

- Saturday 7/26

#### AUGUST 2014

CCO Classes

- Saturday 8/2
- Saturday 8/9
- Saturday 8/16
- Saturday 8/23

CCO Written Test

- Sunday 8/24

8-HR. HAZMAT Refresher

- Saturday 8/16

### New York Training Center (845) 374-2559

#### JULY 2014

No classes scheduled

#### AUGUST 2014

No classes scheduled



## International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825

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## BETTER BUILDING BEGINS HERE

# Aaron Grace joins rescue to save driver

**B**rother Aaron Grace was at the controls of his crane on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend when a dump truck bounced off a guardrail on the Great Egg Harbor Bay Bridge between Atlantic and Cape May County and plunged into the bay below.

He and Jason Armbruster, who was on a barge driving piles, lost no time. They immediately dove into the water to rescue the driver.

"The guy was at the window ...drowning I guess," Armbruster said. "So me and Aaron ... smashed the window with a hammer. We were just trying to keep his face out of the water until they could cut his seatbelt."

The two helped pull the driver out and he was transported by helicopter to Atlantic-Care City Division in critical condition.

We salute Aaron and Jason for their immediate response to save a life.

