

825. NEWS



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

VOL. 5 ISSUE 1

Productive 2014 points to busy year ahead *Progress Edition* reviews gains, lifts expectations for 2015



A flotilla of cranes dots the Hudson River to support construction of the new Tappan Zee crossing. The steady work was just one of several major bridge projects that kept our economic picture afloat during one of the busiest years in recent memory. From bridge building and renovations to heavy highway

construction, highrises, pipelines and all-around business expansion, Local 825 Operating Engineers were kept busy with plenty of challenging work over the past 12 months. And as a new year begins, business analysts are predicting an economic expansion awaits us. Pages 4 and 5.

CALENDAR

NOTE: All District Meetings begin at 7 p.m.

JANUARY

Jan. 1 – New Year’s Day – UNION HOLIDAY

Jan. 12 – Semi-Annual Meeting
East Brunswick Hilton
3 Tower Center Blvd, East Brunswick

Jan. 19 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

FEBRUARY

Feb. 2 – District 1 Meeting
Kerri Brooke Caterers
755 S. White Horse Pike, Hammonton

Feb. 4 – District 2 Meeting
Days Inn, 1260 Rt. 22 East, Bridgewater

Feb. 9 – District 3 Meeting
Holiday Inn
1000 International Drive, Mt. Olive

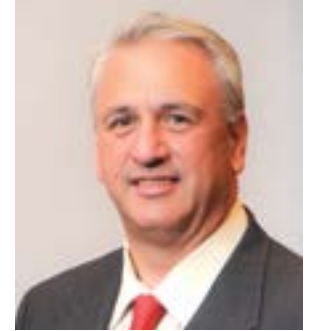
Feb. 11. – District 4 Meeting
Holiday Inn
68 Crystal Run Road, Middletown, NY

Feb. 14 – Valentine’s Day

Feb. 16 – President’s Day – UNION HOLIDAY

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Greg Lalevee, Business Manager



Looking back. Looking ahead. We see progress and continued promise.

As we close the books on 2014 and look ahead to a new year, one word comes to mind. *Progress.*

This edition of 825 NEWS is devoted to summarizing the year’s milestones and preparing for 2015. The last 12 months have been challenging but productive, providing one of the best work environments in recent memory for all our members.

Business and industry leaders are predicting a construction boom in New Jersey over the next two years, (page 4). Projections are for \$39.8 billion in work to start in 2015 and 2016, some 29 percent higher than 2014. There are no guarantees, of course, but all signs are lining up for a continued period of healthy growth.

One stumbling block that remains is finding a long-term funding solution to the state’s Transportation Trust Fund. This is our number one issue because lack of a solution would jeopardize the backbone of our work. Together with our ELEC staffers, Mark Longo, Kate Gibbs and Dan Ortega, we have been conducting an aggressive advocacy campaign to promote funding alternatives. We’ve visited with the editorial boards of major newspapers, including the Philadelphia Inquirer, published Letters to the Editor and maintained an aggressive

social media campaign – all geared toward finding a funding solution, (page 7).

In terms of advocacy, we’ve also taken a high profile to promote several major pipeline projects currently in the planning stages. Predictably, these are being blocked by environmental groups and we are doing everything we can to present a balanced, positive perspective on the safety and the benefits of allowing these projects to move forward.

In other news:

- Thanks to all who voted in November. Some of the candidates we endorsed in key races won their elections, such as Tom MacArthur in New Jersey’s 3rd Congressional District, Frank LoBiondo in the 2nd CD and Sean Patrick Maloney New York’s 18th CD. In Bergen County, James Tedesco won a four-year term as Executive.
- The Scholarship Fund dinner dance was a great success and will contribute to the long-term health of the scholarship program, (page 3).
- The first Semiannual meeting of 2015 will be held on Monday evening, Jan.12 at the East Brunswick Hilton ... we hope to see you there. Thanks to all of you who contributed to a very successful 2014 ... We join you in looking forward to more of the same, with hopes of a healthy, prosperous New Year.

Contact Information

Local 825 Headquarters

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

District Offices:

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

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

Wawayanda Office

96 Bates Gates Road
Wawayanda, NY 10973
(845) 374-2559
(845) 374-2564 FAX

Health & Welfare office

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

Training

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

Union Plus®

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Debra Botulinski
(908) 608-2013

Dinner dance scores ‘a huge success’ for scholarship fund

More than 434 tickets were sold to the first Local 825 dinner dance to be held in several years. Along with proceeds from ads in a hefty souvenir journal book, funds will be earmarked to benefit the Scholarship Fund. Members, vendors, friends and guests crowded the East Brunswick Hilton’s banquet hall and enjoyed a sumptuous feast, beverages and a night of dancing.

“Being that this is the first dinner dance we’ve done in a long time, we really didn’t know what to expect,” said Local 825 President John Wood. “We were really overwhelmed and grateful for the support.”

In addition to John, the event was planned by a committee that included Jim McGowan, Bob Davis, Latham Tiver, Mike Ham, Andrea Rossi and Melissa Kulas.

“We were glad everyone had a great time,” said Greg Lavee. “Most of all, we’re pleased we raised money to help us increase scholarship payouts to \$90,000 in 2015 to benefit the children and grandchildren of our members.”



2014 in Review: Forecast For 2015

The year 2014 will be remembered well and 2015 is shaping up to look even better.

While there are always setbacks that balance out gains, there were none this year that could in any way detract from the positive year we've had. For the most part, our union hall was empty and that was good news all around.

Looking back

We saw enormous bridge construction projects begin construction or continue. The Tappan Zee crossing, the Bayonne Bridge, the Wittpenn, the Goethals, Pulaski Skyway and the Manahawkin Bay bridges all kept our members working.

The Turnpike expansion, which kept many of our members working for years, was brought to completion on time before Thanksgiving.

Highrise construction, particularly in Jersey City, was robust with more building in the planning stages.

Our funds

In addition to positive employment, the financial condition of Local 825 funds have improved steadily. In 2010, our Pension Fund was funded in the 60-percent range. Today it is funded at 91 percent, which is almost the highest it has ever been in its history (92%).

In 2010 the SUB fund was 14 months away from bankruptcy. Today – without taking in another nickel – the fund has enough to cover another two years of benefits.

The Scholarship Fund will award as much as \$90,000 to our children or grandchildren in 2015, an achievement that should make us all proud!

Looking ahead

Members will be busy for the foreseeable future on all types of work: new public train stations, continuing bridge work and high-rise construction and at least five pipelines currently in the planning stages:

- The Constitution Line, which includes 42-miles in Local 825's territory at the very top of Delaware County, NY, near Oneonta.
- Spectra Aim includes horizontal directional drilling under the Hudson River.
- PennEast pipeline, which is mostly in Pennsylvania but includes an HDD under the Delaware River and about 5.5 miles into the Princeton area.
- The Pilgrim Pipeline, to carry petroleum products from Linden, NJ, to upstate New York.
- The BL England Pipeline, a 22-mile, natural gas pipeline across portions of the NJ Pinelands to the BL England electric generation facility in Beesley's Point, 15 miles southwest of Atlanti City.



The Roundout Water Tunnel

The repair project for the Delaware Aqueduct West Branch Water Tunnel, which leaks approximately 35 million gallons a day as it carries drinking water from Newburgh to NYC, will go to bid this year.

A significant portion of this project – which connects the Rondout Reservoir in Ulster County to the West Branch Reservoir in Putnam, specifically in the towns of Newburgh, (Orange County) and Wawarsing, (Ulster County) – falls in our area.

The Port Authority is planning to start \$2.4 billion in work over the two years, including more than \$400 million for massive renovations to the Harrison and Grove Street PATH stations, as well as upgrades in the future to the George Washington Bridge and the Newark Liberty International Airport's Terminal A.

The Turnpike Authority presented some \$930 million in additional projects, which included bridge work on the Hudson County extension, and some \$25 million in signage for 2015.

The National Association of Industrial and Office Properties forecasts some \$4.6 billion in work over two years, as municipalities begin to plan large-scale office complexes.

NJ Transit forecasts \$1.5 billion in work over the

next two years, including a new rail station in Elizabeth and rehabilitation of the Cranford and Roselle stations, as well as a whole new rail route from Port Morris to Andover, in Sussex County.

The New Jersey Institute of Technology and Rowan University each estimate roughly \$150 million in construction projects, half of the Rutgers University estimate of \$300 million. The state's 14 independent colleges and university estimated \$828 million in forthcoming projects. The state's county colleges placed their estimates, based partly off state bonds, at \$150 million.

The year ahead

We are proud that, as an organization, we've taken a huge step forward.

We invested wisely in advertising, which continues to raised our profile and our reputation. The construction industry leaders and developers clearly know we're alive and well and that we're ready to partner with them to build the future.



TRAINING CENTER CALENDAR

The following schedule is subject to change. Always contact the training center to verify dates, times and availability. NJ Training Center (732) 798-2170; NY Training Center (845) 374-2559.

NEW JERSEY TRAINING CENTER

JANUARY 2015

CCO

- Sat. 3, 10, 17, 24

Written Test

- Sun. 25

8-HR. Refresher

- Sat. 3,17,31

40 Hour HAZMAT

- Mon. through Fri. 5 – 9.

OSHA 30

Mod 1 • Tues. 27

Mod 2 • Wed. 28

Mod 3 • Thurs. 29

Mod 4 • Fri. 30

(Must Attend ALL 5 Days To Receive Card)

OECW WRITTEN

- Sat. 31

FEBRUARY 2015

8-HR. Refresher

- Sat. 7, 21, 28

OECW PRACTICAL

- Sat. 28

MARCH 2015

CCO

- Sat. 7, 14, 21, 28

Written Test

- Sun. 29

NEW YORK TRAINING CENTER

JANUARY 2015

8-HR. Refresher

- Sat. 10
- Wed. 14
- Sat. 24
- Wed. 28

Investments in training mark 2014

Local 825 continued its investments in training with the completion of its Dayton addition and renovations and approval to build its new site in Wawayanda, NY.

In New Jersey

As part of the renovation, we installed new exterior and interior LED lighting in the shop area and classrooms to enhance visibility and reduce energy costs.

In a move to modernize the training equipment, we auctioned seven pieces of equipment at the Middlesex Fairgrounds in November. These included our old Barber Greene paver; a Komatsu wheel loader, two Case combination backhoes, a Terex forklift, a Caterpillar excavator and combination backhoe.

Receipts helped to purchase newer equipment, including a Caterpillar Rough Terrain 530 Grove Crane; a 12-M Grader; a 320 and 321 Excavator; a Caterpillar 318 rubber tire excavator; and a TH514 RT Forklift.

We also await delivery of a 23-ton National Crane boom truck and a National fixed-cab crane.

Community Outreach

As in past years, we've continued community outreach activities, participating in programs run by vocational schools, 10 jobs fairs and events in Bloomfield, Mercer and

Sussex counties, the Arthur Schalick High School in Pittsgrove and the Veterans Appreciation Day in Woodbridge.

We hosted training with the State Police, OSHA and the NJ Task Force. We participated in trench rescue exercises over three weeks in June. In October we participated with OSHA and the State Police in a simulation and briefing for a workplace shooter scenario.

We conducted pile driving classes with The Wharf and Dock Builders, Pile Drivers and Divers Local Union 454 from the Philadelphia area and again with The Dockbuilders and Timbermen of Local 1556 in New York City.

Apprentice program

In September we gave out 200 apprenticeship applications, conducted aptitude testing in October and interviewed 188 prospects in December. Those selected will begin their apprenticeships this spring.

In New York

Our new training site in Wawayanda New York also made strides. A new well was installed and passed its PERC test. The building plan was approved and trees were cleared from the building pad area in November. Plans will be put out to bid early in the year, with the hope of a spring groundbreaking.



Training Center hosts members of NJ Task Force One



Joint pile-driving training took place twice during the year

WINTER CLASSES

Winter classes will take place over a seven-week period, from Jan. 12 through Feb. 27 at the New Jersey Training Center. Call early to reserve a seat in the class of your choice because class sizes are limited. Make sure to also list a second choice in case your first choice class is full. The courses offered are:

PIPELINE CLASSES

- Angle Blade Dozer
- Excavator
- Side Boom
- Forwarder
- Prentice Truck (Pending Machine Availability)
- Bending Machine (Pending Machine Availability)

CRANE CLASSES

- Basic Crane
- Pile Driving
- All Terrain

PAVING CLASSES

- Milling
- Paver
- Roller
- Transfer

ELEC promotes development opportunities, Leads social media debate with #NJTTF



Political cartoons advocate solutions now, not in the next generation

2014 was a pivotal year for ELEC, as we evolved from an introductory phase toward economic opportunity stimulation targeting contractors and developers to create more job opportunities for our members.

Activities centered on building relationships with professional associations and local chambers of commerce in key regions, such as the Mid-Jersey Chamber of Commerce, NJ Alliance for Action and NJ SEED. At the same time, we ratcheted up our push for a long-term funding solution to the state's Transportation Trust Fund (TTF).

Media activity

ELEC maintains a strategic presence in select business and construction trade publications. In 2015, we tailor our advertising to distinguish messages for both contractors and developers, letting them know what tools we offer them to grow their business.

In addition to traditional advertising, we established a successful online media operation during 2014. Because more people are getting their news from the Internet and mobile devices we've built a strong presence online, which is critical to ELEC's outreach.

Our mission

Our goal is simple: spur job growth by getting people to support economic development projects throughout the Local 825 area. In mid-year we launched an online effort to find a long-term fix for the TTF.

Our Facebook and Twitter accounts are now followed by more than 2,000 people

Twitter hashtag #NJTTF has been adopted by the media, politicians, and policy groups around the state

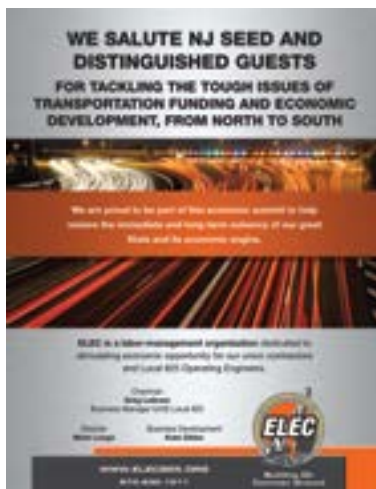
By the numbers, we've reached nearly 200,000 people on Facebook and our tweets have been seen more 300,000 times. Our TTF political cartoons that push for a long-term solution to funding capital improvements are seen by hundreds of thousands of people on PolitickerNJ.com, NJSpotlight.com, NJBiz.com, and elsewhere.

The year ahead

For 2015, we plan to leverage this momentum and continue to promote economic development projects that create jobs for our members. Because more people are using smartphones to access the internet, we intend to redesign the ELEC825 website to display better on mobile devices.

ELEC has established itself as a strong advocate for its members. We are pleased that our efforts have been recognized by key players, public officials and "influentials" and we look forward to expanding our activities in the months ahead.

If you haven't joined us already, please do! Find us at Facebook.com/ELEC825 and join us on Twitter @ELEC825 to help us spread the word!



Ongoing marketing materials are used to promote ELEC efforts



Meadowlands USA carries cover story on ELEC's activities

who are interested in politics, economic development, public policy and infrastructure. Included are politicians, political reporters, and business and trade organizations throughout the state. Our messages are regularly liked, shared, and re-tweeted and our



**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



BETTER BUILDING BEGINS HERE

Hillsborough Rotary recognizes Local 825

Training Director Al Zabicki accepts an award on behalf of Local 825 members from the Hillsborough Rotary Club. The honor was given in observance of Veterans Appreciation Day for the union's role in supporting "Operation Chillout" and "Operation Shoebox."

All proceeds and donations from the two operations support our military personnel abroad and our homeless Veterans in New Jersey.

Operation Shoebox collects and assembles holiday care packages for U.S. troops stationed around the world for them to receive in time for Christmas.

Operation Chillout focuses awareness of the plight of tens of thousands of homeless veterans living in the United States. In New Jersey alone there are reported to be nearly 8,000 homeless veterans. Many live on the street and endure acute PTSD or chronic illness of body, mind and spirit. Veteran homelessness is now the fastest growing sector of the homeless population and is escalating as our young troops return home from their military service tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Al Zabicki accepts an award on behalf of Local 825 members from the Hillsborough Rotary Club.