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

VOL. 5 ISSUE 3

ELEC taps liquidity to fund infrastructure Forum floats recipe for local development: Just add water



Water infrastructure investments can be huge, particularly for local municipalities with limited funding, who are also afraid of raising taxes on their residents. So our labor-management staff at ELEC researched funding opportunities that are available through the NJ Dept. of Environmental protection and the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust,

then organized a forum to bring the information to county and municipal engineers and business representatives throughout the state to stimulate development that would create new jobs for our members. The forum played to a full house and even attracted a former New Jersey Governor. Read more on page 7.

CALENDAR

MAY

4 – District 1 Meeting

Kerri Brooke Caterers
755 S. White Horse Pike, Hammonton, NJ

6 – District 2 Meeting

Sheraton Edison
125 Raritan Center Parkway, Edison, NJ

9 – Third Annual Local 825

Scholarship Fund Golf Outing at
Gambler Ridge, 121 Burlington Path
Road, Cream Ridge, NJ

10 – Mother's Day

11 – District 3 Meeting

Russian Hall
464 Outwater Lane, Garfield, NJ

11 – Blood Bank prior to District 3
Meeting, Russian Hall, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
(mobile bus)

13 – District 4 Meeting

Holiday Inn
68 Crystal Run Road, Middletown, NY

13 – Health Fair

3 to 7 p.m., Springfield Hall 3rd floor

16 – 40 Year Dinner

7 p.m., Hilton East Brunswick

25 – Memorial Day

UNION HOLIDAY

JUNE

8 – District 1 Meeting

Kerri Brooke Caterers
755 S. White Horse Pike, Hammonton, NJ

10 – District 2 Meeting

Days Inn
1260 Rt. 22 East, Bridgewater, NJ

14 – Flag Day

15 – District 3 Meeting
Holiday Inn, 1000 International Drive,
Mt. Olive, NJ

17 – District 4 Meeting

Holiday Inn
68 Crystal Run Road, Middletown, NY

17 – Health Fair

3 to 7 p.m., NJ Training Center

21 – Father's Day and first day of summer

24 – District 2 & 3 Retirees' Brunch

10 a.m. (\$20), Ramada Plaza,
160 Frontage Road, Newark, NJ

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Greg Lalevee, Business Manager



TTF funding and pipeline approvals require stepped-up support

As temperatures slowly increase, we can look forward to a solid season of full employment ahead.

Thanks to the nearby Marcellus shale deposits, there are more pipelines proposed in our areas of New Jersey and New York than at any time in our history. Most major bridges and many smaller ones are under construction or repair.

The failure to date to find a funding solution to the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund is one of our biggest disappointments. Given its importance to our livelihoods – not to mention to our safety – we will continue to work toward a solution, which will include backing candidates who are willing to take on the thorny issue of funding.

Apprentices

We welcome our 2015 apprentices on page 5, as they begin their careers with Local 825. They have been grouped into two classes of 13 and 16 to ensure a quality training experience for each.

40 Year Dinner

On the other end of the spectrum, we congratulate 22 of our members who have now logged 40 years as operating engineers. When they

began as apprentices, a gallon of gas cost 44 cents (see more on page 4). Time flies.

Golf Outing

This will be the third year in a row we tee off to support our Scholarship Fund. Details on signups and sponsorships are also on page 4.

Blood Bank and Health Fair

We have two health fairs and one blood drive taking place in the next two months. These are for everyone's benefit, so be sure to take advantage of the work put into them by our Funds Office.

I want to personally thank our members for their ongoing support, particularly when it comes to voting for our endorsed candidates and fighting hard for public policy issues. The number 6 ranking that we received from PolitickerNJ is really a reflection of the "power" that comes when we stand together as a group for what is in our best interests.

We have much to look forward to in the coming months. With all this potential, we need to stay informed through our district meetings, newsletters, website and posts on Twitter and Facebook and to continue to rally support for our interests among friends, family members and neighbors.

Contact Information

Local 825 Headquarters

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(973) 921 - 2918 FAX

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6 Wesley Court
Middletown, NY 10941
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Health & Welfare office

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(973) 921 - 0706 FAX

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

Wawayanda Office

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

ELEC Office

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

Union Plus®

(offered through Wells Fargo
Home Mortgage)
Debra Botulinski
(908) 608-2013

Member activism cited for “Strongest labor leaders”

Influential news outlet PolitickerNJ has ranked New Jersey’s top 30 labor leaders and Local 825 Business Manager Greg Lalevee is number 6.

“Our members are the reason we’re on this list at all,” Greg said. “They are the ones who’ve helped so many candidates win their seats, by getting involved and backing our endorsements. This list shows the combined strength we can exert when we stand united.”

Called “the strongest people in the labor movement in New Jersey,” this group is recognized as a force in electing candidates and guiding public policy favorable to working men and women.

In order, the top 10 on PolitickerNJ’s list are:

1. NJ Senate President Steve Sweeney
2. Bill Mullen
3. Ray Pocino
4. Mike Capelli
5. Charles Wowkanech
6. Greg Lalevee
7. Wendell Steinhauer
8. Robert Fox
9. Joseph Egan
10. Donald Norcross

PolitickerNJ cited Greg for “playing on both sides (of the political aisle) and landing on the winning team of Democrat James



Tedesco in the Bergen County Executive’s contest and with Republican U.S. Rep. Tom MacArthur in Congressional District 3.”

Work ‘springs’ into action on pipelines, bridges ... and maybe a tunnel?

With the change of seasons, work is springing up all over.

The Tappan Zee Bridge has had more than 200 Operating Engineers on site at times and is staffing up again as spring and summer approach. The Bayonne Bridge is moving along and will begin constructing the new deck this year. The Goethals Bridge and Pulaski Skyway are progressing, as are Route 72 and the Great Egg Drag Channel.

Some lawmakers, business and labor representatives have begun pushing for a Gateway rail tunnel beneath the Hudson (see page 8).

And at the same time, more pipelines have been proposed than at any other time in our history, thanks in part to the nearby Marcellus shale deposits, increasing energy demands and planned infrastructure upgrades.

You almost need a scorecard to keep up with the proposals and the status of each. Knowing that this information can change at any time, here’s where we stand:

Pipelines

• Spectra AIM advances but hurdles remain

On March 3, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved the proposed Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) project. The project would expand a natural gas pipeline through New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Spectra still needs approval from the

New York Department of Environmental Conservation. It hopes to obtain remaining applicable permits and be able to meet the project’s two-year construction schedule by November 2016.

• PennEast

Unless the 114-mile pipeline is built from Luzerne Co., PA, to Pennington, NJ, gas prices for New Jersey customers are likely to continue to rise as demand outstrips supply, the pipeline’s backers say.

Consumers in New Jersey paid an average of five times the rate paid in the gas-producing region of Pennsylvania, according to a study by Concentric Energy Advisors, Inc., a consulting firm.

• Transco Pipeline & Skillman Loop

Energy giant Transco got the go-ahead on April 8 from the NJ DEP to begin work on a 6.4-mile portion of its 42-inch gas line transmission line, called the Skillman Loop, through Princeton and Montgomery.

The DEP issued three permits to construct the \$650 million pipeline through the environmentally sensitive Princeton Ridge, representing the culmination of a comprehensive and extensive environmental review.

Construction is expected to begin around May 1, when gas to Transco’s existing 36-inch pipeline will be shut off. The company

says that pipeline is no longer large enough to handle increased production.

Transco wants to take advantage of cheap supplies of natural gas from the Marcellus shale formations in Pennsylvania and ship it from Central New Jersey to markets as far south as Holmesville, MS.

• Port Ambrose

The proposed LNG terminal known as Port Ambrose has been stalled by federal authorities, saying they lack enough information to determine the project’s financial viability. Port Ambrose was proposed to be built more than 20 miles off Monmouth Beach and about 19 miles off Long Beach, Long Island.

• Poseidon

A high-voltage, direct-current, undersea transmission line proposed from South Brunswick, N.J. to Huntington, N.Y. has received interconnection approvals from the PJM Interconnection and the New York Independent System Operator. The line is anticipated to deliver 500 MW of low-cost energy to about 500,000 homes.

• New Jersey Natural Gas Pipeline

The NJ Natural Gas “Southern Reliability

Continued on next page

Continued from page 3

Link” pipeline would cross 28 miles through parts of Burlington, Monmouth and Ocean county. This line would add reliability and supply diversity, particularly in the event of a storm like Superstorm Sandy.

- **The BL England Pipeline**

This 22-mile, natural gas pipeline would cross portions of the NJ Pinelands to the BL England electric generation facility in Beesley’s Point, 15 miles southwest of Atlantic City.

- **The Constitution Line**

Includes 42-miles in Local 825’s territory at the very top of Delaware County, NY, near Oneonta.

- **The Pilgrim Pipeline**

Awaiting review by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, this proposed line would carry petroleum products from the Albany area of New York State to Linden, NJ.

40-year honorees eye May 16

In 1975, a gallon of gas cost 44 cents, you could buy a new Ford Mustang for \$4,100 and the average annual wage was \$14,100. The United States pulled out of Vietnam, Sony introduced its Betamax videotapes and Jimmy Hoffa vanished.

That was also the year that 22 Operating Engineers became members of Local 825.

Local 825 will honor those members with a cocktail party, dinner and evening of awards and entertainment at 7 p.m., Saturday May 16, at the Hilton East Brunswick.

This year’s honorees are: Tony Azevedo, Robert Bieljeski, Salvatore Brescia, Roger E. Clark, Wilbur Crudup, Julio DeMatos, Paul F. Filippi, Dennis J. Florian, Thomas C. Freeman, Theodore B. Haven, Edward Hogrelius Joseph T. Logan Jr., John J. Lombardo, Arthur A. Mazzarella, Frank Mazzola, Harry B. Murtha Jr., Richard P. Noonan, Lewis M. O’Rourke, Jeffrey K. Payton, Frank A. Rice, Scott M. Sager, Ricky J. Tomasello



Get ready to hit the links for scholarship

Third annual golf outing ready to tee off

This year’s outing will take place on Saturday, May 9, at the Gambler Ridge Golf Club, 121 Burlington Path Road, Cream Ridge, N.J. Lunch begins at 11:30 and golf begins with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. The cost is \$200 per golfer and there are a number of sponsorships available as well.

The annual golf outing has become one of our biggest fundraisers allowing us to provide financial support to our members’ families. The event also helps us replenish the fund for future years. This year, children and grandchildren of Local 825 members have nine chances to win a \$10,000 scholarship, our largest payout ever.

The deadlines have passed to apply for five of the six scholarship programs – the remaining one, for Monmouth-Ocean County Central Labor Council expires on May 8. Local 825’s scholarship winners will be notified by May 8.

To join us for a fun day of golf or to inquire about any of our sponsorships, call Melissa Kulas at the union on her direct line, (973) 671-6911.



TRAINING CENTER CALENDAR

All schedules are subject to change. Always contact the training center to verify dates, times and availability. If you are unable to attend a scheduled class, please call us so we can fill that spot.

NJ Training Center (732) 798-2170;
NY Training Center (845) 374-2559.

NEW JERSEY TRAINING CENTER MAY 2015

8-HR. HAZMAT Refresher
• Sat. 16

JUNE 2015

CCO Study Days
• Sat. 6, 13, 20, 27

CCO Written Test
• Sun. 28

NEW YORK TRAINING CENTER MAY 2015

8-HR. HAZMAT Refresher
• Wed. 13

JUNE 2015

To be announced

Visit the Local 825 Training Facebook page for updates. Go to our page and click "Like" to receive updates.
www.Facebook.com/IUOE825Training

30 accepted into 2015 apprentice program

Two classes of apprentices have joined Local 825 and are now immersed in their training programs. The first class of 13 apprentices began on March 9. They are shown in the top photo. Pictured in the back row, left to right, are Tom Hickson, Trevor Grieco, Ernest Schumann, Chris Cooper, Eric Wieboldt, James McDermott. In the front row, left to right, are Paul Bezak, Megan Kiesel, Amber Weaver, Steve Pires, Alex Romanenko and Javier Fandino.

Not shown in this photo, Patrick Rafferty. The second class of 16 apprentices began on April 6. Front row, left to right: Scot Price, Michael Guarraci Jr., Patrick Hayes, Joseph McNally, Mark Davis Jr. and Jeremy Browne. Back row, left to right, Joseph Iorio, Christopher LoPiccolo, Frank Landolfi, Sean Williams, Daniel O'Keefe, Michael Wagner Jr., Matthew Holden, Richard Cravins, William Sykes and Dominick Giacobbe.



Wawayanda wins site plan approval, plans for groundbreaking

Our new training facility in Wawayanda, NY, took a major step forward in March, winning final site plan approval through the local planning process.

On March 11 the local Planning Board waived a public hearing requirement on

our amended plan, considering that it was not materially different from the one it previously approved.

At the March 25 Orange County Planning Department meeting, we responded satisfactorily to comments that had been raised

previously. Based on our Environmental Assessment Form, the Board reaffirmed that our project would not adversely affect the environment and approval was granted, clearing the way for groundbreaking to take place this spring.

NJ AFL-CIO Hosts WILD Conference

WILD is the only annual conference in the nation that brings together union women from across the state and all sectors of the labor movement in an effort to win equal rights for women.

Organized and presented by Laurel Brennan, NJ State AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer, WILD has earned national attention as the premier statewide union-women's leadership conference.

Each year, Local 825 sends member representatives to attend. Shown in this year's photo from left to right are: Chao I Chen, Karen Frostick, Donna Ballard, Sandy Ellis, Tammy Good, Heather Goldsmith, Lisa Lascelle, Kelly Raeuber and Tara Anderson represented Local 825 at the 12th annual Women in Leadership Development (WILD) conference this weekend at the East Brunswick Hilton.



Health Tips *5 Ways You Could Be Damaging Your Kidneys*

Our kidneys work 24/7 to keep your body healthy, filtering out toxins and regulating blood pressure. Damage to these vital organs could be irreversible, yet so many are unaware of what might be harmful.

The Community Health Charities organization identifies five surprising ways you might be harming your kidneys without even realizing it:

1. Long-term use over-the-counter anti-inflammatory painkillers. Especially at high doses, these can have a harmful effect on kidney tissue and structures and can also reduce blood

flow to the kidney.

2. Cigarette smoking. People who smoke are more likely to have protein in their urine, which is a sign of kidney damage. Smokers are also more likely to need dialysis or kidney transplants.

3. Exposure to contrast dye (commonly used in x-ray procedures such as angiograms and CT scans).

4. Consuming large quantities of salt. Diets high in sodium can cause high blood pressure, which can damage the kidneys over time and is a leading cause of kidney failure.

5. Drinking large amounts of cola-based soft drinks. Studies have shown that drinking two or more colas a day (diet or regular) is linked to a higher risk of developing chronic kidney disease. A recent news story even identified drinking (a gallon a day of) iced-black-tea as a cause of one man's kidney failure.

More than 26 million Americans have kidney disease. Millions more are at risk for getting it. You can test your own risk of kidney disease and learn healthy habits by taking a short quiz on the National Kidney Foundation website, www.kidney.org.

Funds Office opportunities: take a stand for health

Our health is our greatest asset. Good health allows us to support our families and to enjoy the activities important to us.

Taking care of our own health takes effort but we should also think about others who may need our support.

That's why our Funds Office hosts periodic Health Fairs and Blood Banks.

Health Fairs

Two health fairs are scheduled over May and June: there will be the standard health screenings and first-hand information from many of our health providers. These will be held:

- On May 13 – from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. – in Springfield Hall, third floor.
- On June 17 – from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. – in our NJ Training Center.

Blood Bank

On May 11 – from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., prior to the District 3 meeting in Garfield – there will be a Blood Bank in a mobile bus outside of Russian Hall, 464 Outwater Lane.

Make time to take care of yourself and to help another human being.

ELEC spotlights funding options for water infrastructure projects

More than 50 representatives from counties and municipalities filled a meeting room at the East Brunswick Hilton on March 23 to learn of funding options available for infrastructure construction of water and water-treatment projects.

The event – designed to help stimulate economic development – featured David Zimmer, Executive Director of the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust (NJEIT); and Eugene Chebra of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. The two organizations frequently work together to assist communities.

Former NJ Gov. Jim Florio attended and participated in the discussion.

ELEC Chairman, Greg Lavee intro-

duced the speakers, saying “We are hosting this program to inform local officials, staff and professionals, about how this program works in the hope that water-related infrastructure projects that might otherwise not be undertaken due to the cost of financing have an opportunity to be built.”

“Infrastructure investments are important to our members and contractors because of the jobs they create and because, as local residents, they benefit from having a safe, reliable and well-maintained infrastructure.”

Both ELEC Director Mark Longo and ELEC Management Trustee Bob Briant serve on the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust Board, demonstrating ELEC’s dedication to supporting infrastructure

maintenance, upgrades and expansion.

The New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust is an independent State financing authority that provides low-cost financing for the construction of environmental infrastructure projects that enhance and protect ground and surface water resources, ensure the safety of drinking water, and facilitate responsible, sustainable economic development. Thanks to a combination of low interest rates and other cost saving features, the Financing Program has saved New Jersey ratepayers and taxpayers over \$1.8 billion since its inception.

Thanks to ELEC staffers Mark Longo, Kate Gibbs and Daniel Ortega for staging a hugely successful forum.



ELEC aligns with public policy allies to wage TTF battle in social media

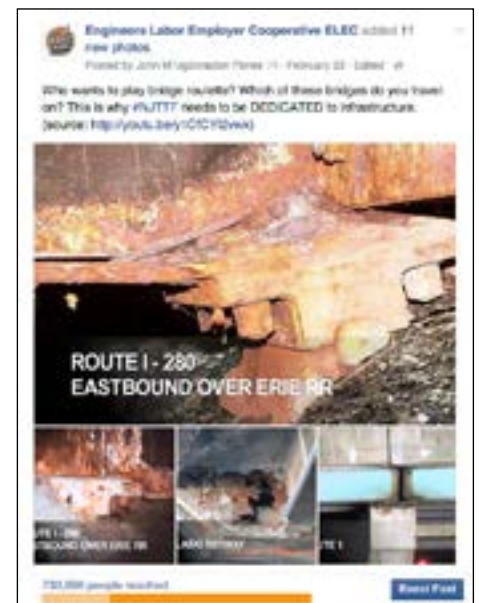
Along with Forward New Jersey, NJ SEED, NJ Alliance for Action, and others, ELEC continues to press for a solution to the nearly bankrupt Transportation Trust Fund. Using a series of online ads, ELEC highlights the sorry state of many New Jersey bridges and the impact that a bankrupt fund will have on county and municipal infrastructure.

Photos of rusted support structures generated a lot of interest and comments, and in the first quarter of 2015, ELEC’s ads were seen by more than 1.1 million people on Facebook, with more than 88,000 people

liking, commenting, or sharing them.

On Twitter, we have been retweeted and replied to by many notables including Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Senator Jim Whelan, the City of Hoboken, UTCA, Meadowlands Chamber of Commerce, Hunterdon Chamber of Commerce, Summit Mayor Ellen Dickson, and others.

“It’s critical that ELEC establish itself and maintain a public profile as a strong and vocal advocate for such important issues as infrastructure investment of all kinds,” said Kate Gibbs, ELEC’s business development representative.



This TTF post on the ELEC Facebook page reached more than 730,000 people in its appeal to dedicate funds to infrastructure.



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BETTER BUILDING BEGINS HERE

NJ leading voices rally to fund Gateway tunnel

Business Manager Greg Lavee joined with NJ Senate President Steve Sweeney and other political, business and labor leaders in March to call for funding the Amtrak Gateway rail tunnel, even if it means selling Port

Authority real estate.

The group called on the Port Authority to sell some of its real estate holdings to pay for the construction of a new railway tunnel between the two states.

Other state legislative leaders standing behind Sweeney in Newark Penn Station included state Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg and Senate Budget and Appropriations Chairman Paul Sarlo



Lisa Hunt practices moving 42-inch pipe with ease at the Deck Hand training given by Local 478 in Meriden, CT