

825. NEWS



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

VOL. 6 ISSUE 1

Holiday generosity yields Toys for Tots Members share spirit with donations for less fortunate



More than 400 members demonstrated their holiday spirit by giving generously to the Toys for Tots program. Hundreds of gifts for boys and girls of every age were collected during December's holiday party and placed on display outside the East Brunswick Hilton Ballroom. Joined by President John Wood and Business Manager Greg Laveve, Marine

Corps Sergeants Jessica Velez (left) of Lake Hopatcong and Douglas Bennett (right) of Shrewsbury were on hand to transport the toys by truck to their unit in Red Bank. There, the toys will be sorted by age and gender and matched with requests from 177 organizations, spreading holiday cheer from the members of Local 825!

CALENDAR

JANUARY

1 – New Year's Day
UNION HOLIDAY

11 – Semiannual Meeting
Hilton East Brunswick
3 Tower Center Blvd., East Brunswick

18 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

FEBRUARY

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

2– District 2 Meeting
Days Inn
1260 Rt. 22 E, Bridgewater

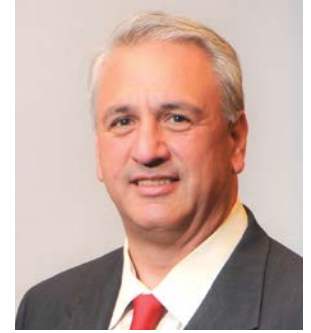
15 – President's Day
UNION HOLIDAY

16– District 3 Meeting
Russian Hall
464 Outwater Lane, Garfield

17– District 4 Meeting
Holiday Inn
68 Crystal Run Road, Middletown, NY

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Greg Lalevee, Business Manager



Strong performance sets stage for 2016

Our Local will remember 2015 as a good year. We enjoyed a positive construction environment with virtually full employment.

Our outreach and advocacy efforts extended throughout New Jersey and the Hudson Valley, as we made our case for pipeline safety, transportation infrastructure funding and all forms of responsible development.

Advocacy

ELEC pulled out the stops, launching a powerful media combination that included a new website, continued social media advocacy and our first TV ad campaign, which reached more than two million households.

We reached another two million people through social media. This has become such an important platform from which to spread our messages that we will encourage more of our members to give it a try in 2016 (see page 6).

Looking Ahead

We begin the New Year on the right foot: several pipeline projects are in construction or ready to start.

Large-scale bridge construction continues. High-rise developments and other projects are being stimulated by ELEC. All in all, circumstances are lining up to provide a continued positive backdrop for 2016 employment.

Looming Challenges

The new year will be judged by the outcome

of two critical events: The need to replenish the Transportation Trust Fund and the presidential election.

TTF: The TTF is at the core of our work. We can't overstate how important it is to re-establish adequate funding for long-term maintenance and improvement of our transportation infrastructure. Together with ELEC, we are focusing our resources on this initiative, joining with a broad coalition of labor and public interest groups. We will continue reporting to you on these activities and we will let you know how you can help.

Presidential election: We're following the rhetoric and debates of the election season.

We are concerned about anti-union chatter that has been coming out of the Republican camp. Certain Republican-led states – such as Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, West Virginia and Indiana – have already demonstrated their anti-worker agenda and these issues are at the heart of what we fight for.

Despite other issues, we could not support candidates who express sympathy for "right-to-work" legislation or have aligned themselves with any group that advocates the repeal of prevailing wage laws.

Winter classes

Winter Training class registration is taking place now. See page 5 for details.

Best wishes for a healthy, happy 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

Health & Welfare office

65 Springfield Avenue, 2nd FL
Springfield, NJ 07081
(973) 671 - 6800
(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
(973) 630 - 1010
(973) 630 - 1013 FAX

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Debra Botulinski
(908) 608-2013

Bold action in 2010 changes course for funds

From near catastrophe to \$49 million in assets

From dangerous lows in 2010, the levels of Local 825 funds continue to improve and actions approved by members for 2016 will ensure continued growth and stability.

The future didn't always look so rosy. Five years ago, the Supplemental Unemployment Benefits fund (SUB) was on a course for depletion in two years. The economy was bleak, unemployment was up something had to be done.

The climb from 2010 lows

The fund's balance had declined to \$15.8 million. Income was only \$6.7 million while expenses were \$17 million, accounting for a \$10 million drop in the fund's level. Our projections showed that by 2013 – unless we took serious corrective action – SUB would've been left with only a \$300,000 balance at the end of 2013.

The members agreed to a \$3 contribution to shore up SUB.

"The move to shore up SUB was aggressive," said Greg. "But members agreed to bite the bullet and now we have the benefit of a \$49.6 million balance."

As a result, with the SUB fund balance now at \$49 million, the current contribution of \$2.50 will be lowered to \$2, as the 50 cents mentioned above is directed into Savings. This will be the third time we've decreased the SUB contribution, as it has steadily improved since its lows of 2010. We had decreased the contribution twice before. The

first time it was reduced from \$3 to 2.75. The second reduction was to 2.50.

Savings Fund

Due to the improvement in SUB, attention turned next to the Savings Fund.

"First members wanted SUB fixed because that was a necessity," said Greg. "Now that SUB is at a good level we can turn to the Savings fund next."

The Savings fund contribution will double, from \$1 to \$2 in 2016. In addition to the \$1 already going into the fund, the 50-cent contribution from SUB will be matched by another 50-cent contribution that will come from a \$1.15 raise members who are covered under outside construction contracts will receive beginning on Jan. 1. (They will receive another \$1 per hour raise on July 1.)

The remaining 65 cents of the \$1.15 raise is being directed into the Profit Sharing Fund (formerly called the Annuity Fund. This will increase the contribution from \$4.65 to \$5.30 an hour. Since 65 cents was moved from this

fund in 2010 to contribute toward the increased SUB fund contribution, we are actually back to the prior contribution level.

Welfare Fund

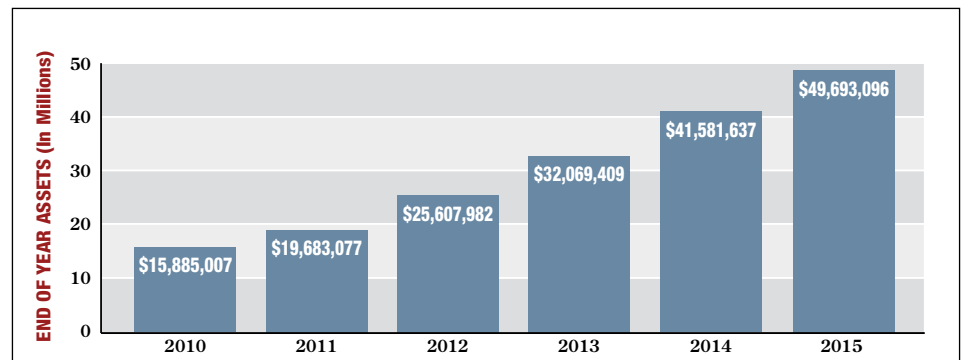
The Welfare Fund already enjoys a surplus, so no changes are being taken there.

Net results

The net result of these actions are positive for our members. As we enter 2016 the:

- Welfare fund, which shows a surplus, remains unchanged;
- Profit Sharing fund's contribution returns to 2010-level;
- Contribution to the Savings fund doubles; and
- SUB reaches a net asset value of \$49.7 million level.

We are grateful to our members for their foresight in dealing early with a situation that very nearly had grave consequences," said Greg. "They were willing to bite the bullet to help save the day."



Holiday cheers to all!

It was a chance to get together and celebrate the holidays in style at the East Brunswick Hilton on December 15.

While members enjoyed the evening, they donated hundreds of toys to the Toys for Tots program. Following the presentation of the gifts to the U.S. Marine Corps representatives, members transferred them by carts to the ground level, to a box truck outside.

There, the gifts were loaded for the trip to Red Bank, where Santa's helpers would sort them to fill requests from 177 organizations acting on behalf of needy families

throughout the region.

It was a great evening for everyone and a fitting way to demonstrate a spirit of generosity and to celebrate the holidays.



*Christine Medich***Blood testing and health fair schedules**

The 2016 schedules have been announced for the Local 825 SMAC Blood and Health Fairs.

The blood clinic provides testing that serves as a general screening tool. If deviations from normal ranges are identified, patients are advised to consult with their physician for further evaluation.

The Health Fairs attracts our health partners who are on hand to answer questions and provide general health information. This year's schedule is as follows:

**May 11, 2016 (Wednesday)
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

District 3
Local 825 Headquarters
Third Floor
65 Springfield Ave., Springfield, NJ

**June 8, 2016 (Wednesday)
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

District 2
Local 825 Training Center
338 Deans Rhode Hall Road
Dayton

**September 14, 2016 (Wednesday)
2 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

District 4
Holiday Inn
68 Crystal Run Road
Middletown, NY

**October 19, 2016 (Wednesday)
3 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

District 1
Kerri Brooke Caterers
755 South White Horse Pike
Hammonton, NJ

Security step by NJ unemployment office requires action from sub recipients

Local 825 members who have filed for SUB benefits must provide proof of identity because their social security numbers have been removed from their files by the NJ Unemployment Department as a security measure.

The NJ Unemployment Office made these changes to protect recipients from identity theft due to an increase in the use of false social security numbers and identity fraud. However, as a result of the removal of SSN numbers from their Certification pages, there is no longer any identifying information for Local 825 to verify deposits.

What you must do

In order to confirm your identity, members must submit one of the following documents Local 825's S.U.B. Department. You may submit this via Email, Fax or Mail to process your claim.

1. Prior paperwork from your local unemployment office with your Claimant Identification Number and Name, (your name can be found on the back of the page).

OR

2. A bank statement that shows the Unemployment Deposit with your name or the last 4 digits of the account number, along with a voided deposit slip or voided check showing your name to cross-reference the deposit.

OR

3. The Unemployment Claim Status Report. Members who choose to submit this report must log out of the NJ Unemployment's web portal. After re-certifying with S.U.B., go back into the NJ Unemployment website to obtain the Claim Status Report.

(If needed, please print the prior week's report before certifying for the current week. After you certify, if the current week is not present, wait a few minutes to give the system time to update and then log back into the website.)

Once you have any one of the three

documents, Print, Email or Fax the Claim Status Report and submit to the Local 825 Funds Office:

CONTACT INFORMATION

Fax: (973) 315-9005
Email: SUBinfo@825funds.org
Tel: (973) 671-6761 or (973) 671-6760
Address: 65 Springfield Ave., Second Floor
Springfield, NJ 07081

We regret any inconvenience caused by the NJ Unemployment Office's action. Our interest in notifying you is to prevent any delay in processing your application.

CONGRATULATIONS! 2015 Apprentice Graduates

John Abramski
Sterling Mitchell
Brian Bogie
Darian Brooks
Todd Jordan
John Bednar
Michael Corbo
Charles Haughey IV
Jason Hodges
Christopher Perjesy
Patti Gillison
Peter Callahan
Joseph Palma Jr.
Christopher Murphy
Shirley Armstrong
Paul Izzo
Andrew Blois
Anibal Pineiro
Joseph Holoboski
Jenine Cornell
Kenneth Meadows
Gary Mattaur
Augustino Sylvestri

Training Center gears up for annual winter classes

Reserve a place in advance for your first-choice class

Although training classes take place throughout the year, more classes are offered and more members participate during the winter months.

“Traditionally, this has been because work slows down and members make use of their downtime to enhance their skills and learn new ones,” says Keith Adolf, Co-Director of Training.

This year’s winter classes will be taught by Warren Kuhlthau on the Bauer Drill and Brian Bogle on the Casagrande drill.

Classes will run from Jan. 11 through March 4. Because class sizes are limited, Keith advises members to call early to reserve a spot in their first choice class. They should also list a second choice in case their first choice is already filled.

Classes are available in the following:

- Basic Crane
- Pile Driving and Sheet Driving
- Blacktop (Paving, Milling, Transfer Machine, Roller)
- Pipeline (Angle Blade Dozer, Side Boom, Excavator, Log Loader Truck)

- Casagrande Drill
- Bauer Drill Rig
- GPS and Rover
- Brokk
- Bauer Drill Rig



Ryan Spirito and Warren Kuhlthau take turns on the Bauer drill. This and the Casagrande drill will be offered for training during winter classes.



Getting up close and personal with the Casagrande are operators (left to right) Randy Brown, Kevin Abreu, Mike Guarraci, Kevin Young, Kevin Grace and Brian Bogle.

TRAINING CENTER CALENDAR

Always check your expiration dates on your certifications

NEW JERSEY TRAINING CENTER

All classes begin at 7 a.m.

JANUARY

9 – CCO class begins, Saturdays 9, 16, 23, 30. Test Day January 31
16 – Saturday HAZMAT Refresher
23 – Saturday HAZMAT Refresher
25 – 28 (Mon. through Thurs.) Evening HAZMAT Refresher

FEBRUARY

20 – Rigger Class
20 – Saturday HAZMAT Refresher
27 – Saturday HAZMAT Refresher
27 – Signal Person Class
27 – March CCO class begins, Saturdays Feb. 27, March 5, 12, 19. Test Day March 20.

MARCH

5 – March CCO class continues: 5, 12, 19 – Test Day March 20
12 – Saturday HAZMAT Refresher
19 – Saturday HAZMAT Refresher
28 – 31 (Mon. through Thurs.) Evening HAZMAT Refresher

NEW YORK TRAINING CENTER

All classes begin at 7 a.m.

JANUARY

9 – Saturday HAZMAT Refresher
23 – Saturday HAZMAT Refresher

Middletown Training Center hosts apprentice applicants

Our New York training center in Middletown conducted interviews for apprentice applicants in December.

“The Apprentice program is a great career opportunity,” said Keith Adolf. The program offers individuals classroom and practical training for various certifications and equipment. The program includes a minimum of three years and runs between 4,000 and 6,000 job hours. The progression through the apprenticeship is based on certifications, evaluations and on job hours.

“Apprentices get out of it what they put into it,” Adolf said.

Research debunks road construction myths in push for long-term TTF funding

“\$2 million per mile” claim wildly inflated

In the fall of 2014, a libertarian foundation published a report claiming that it cost \$2 million to build a mile of road in New Jersey.

While the claim was so outlandish, it was accepted as fact by media and public officials alike. It ended hope of a bipartisan to fund the TTF.

Aside from cutting off debate, the study by the “Reason Foundation” was wildly flawed. A new study now sheds light on how the Reason Foundation arrived at inflated numbers.

The new research was conducted by Peter Phillips, PhD. Professor of Economics at the University of Utah, Dr. Phillips was sponsored by ELEC to delve into the “\$2 million” claims.

Dr. Phillips found that the Research Foun-

ation included the interest cost of debt service payments as part of the road construction cost.

While the Philips study establishes New Jersey’s construction industry as one of the best equipped and most productive in the country, opponents are continuing to use the \$2 million claim to sabotage new TTF funding.

To break the stalemate and stand up to the misinformation that continues, ELEC has launched its own campaign to inform the public and elected officials of the facts.

The ads and posts that are running on social media are shown here. When you see one of these messages – join us in fighting back against misinformation and in calling for a long-term TTF funding solution – click “Like” and “Share” on it to spread the word to your own friends and followers.

Additional Dr. Philips’ findings

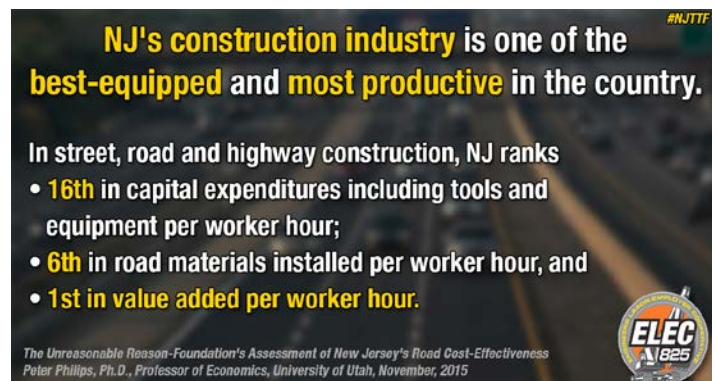
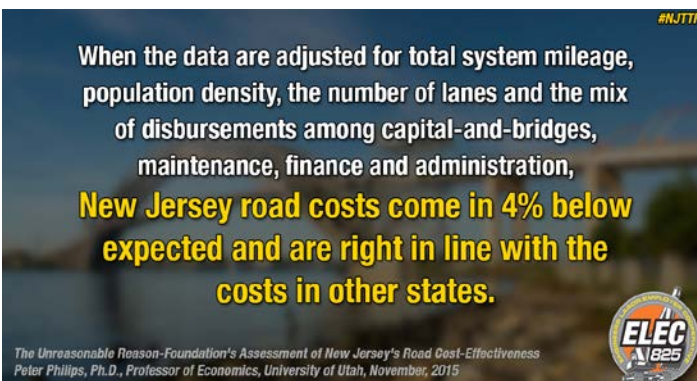
Dr. Philips study about the cost of road construction in New Jersey found that:

- We are sixth in the country in road materials installed per-worker-hour;
- We are 16th in capital expenditures (tools and equipment) per-worker-hour;
- We are first in value-added per-worker-hour

From ELEC’s own polling, we learned that:

- 82% agree that politicians need to stop playing political games with NJTTF and come up with a bi-partisan solution.
- 81% agree that politicians in Trenton should stop raiding NJTTF to fund pork barrel spending projects
- 79% agree that Trenton needs to pass a long-term transportation funding plan
- 57% want a tax reform plan that raises the state’s gas tax while reducing the “death tax”

For more details on these and other TTF funding updates, visit the ELEC website – www.ELEC825.org.



Thousands of members like us on Facebook

Get latest news and help spread the word

Thousands of union members have turned to Facebook and other forms of social media to get their news, voice their views and see photos of fellow workers or events.

But these sites have other benefits. They can help us organize and recruit. They can help us mobilize quickly. And they can help us influence and send messages to our public officials.

Collective voices

When we participate in social media it has more impact than just talk. It is like talking through hundreds of megaphones. We reached two-million people over social media last year.

Members who participate with us on Facebook help share our voice more than if they had a conversation in person. On Facebook, your views are read by thousands of participants ... and every time someone "Likes" or "Shares" a post, it is seen by that person's friends and followers.

Here's what to do

1. Visit our Facebook pages and click "Like" at the top of the page.
2. Then read the latest posting(s). You can

"Like" those, too.

3. "Comment" on the posts – add positive comments and combat negative posts with facts. Don't attack other commenters or call them names when you disagree with them. Stick to the facts and make your point.

4. "Share" the posts to your own Facebook page, (just by clicking "Share.") This will add the posting to your own Facebook page and helps us spread the word to all your followers.

Local 825 has three Facebook pages to Like. To find each one, just go to Facebook.com. In the search field, enter:

- IUOE Local 825
- ELEC825
- IUOE Local 825 Training

When our logo shows up, click on it and the page will open.

If you don't have a Facebook page, go to www.Facebook.com and create a profile. You can put in as much or as little information as you want. Then visit our Facebook pages and click "Like" at the top of each one. You will begin receiving new information as it is posted.

Visit the Facebook pages every day. "Like" and "Share" posts that interest you.

Become active and stay active. It helps our union, it advances our interests and it strengthens relationships.

How to comment on Facebook

Their names have been blurred but their comments show what people are talking about.

It's important to weigh in, especially if people are talking about the union, prevailing wage, infrastructure and construction projects. If you see a comment that you agree with, say so. If you disagree, say why! (But don't attack the commenter ... keep it civil).

Here are some examples of what people have posted. This is how easy it is:



Securing signatures for TTF funding

ELEC staffers worked through the holiday party to make sure all attendees signed three postcards for each of their legislators urging a bipartisan solution to rescue the Transportation Trust Fund.

Mark Longo, Kate Gibbs, Daniel Ortega and Jennifer Rachaner provided the postcards, which read:

"We must put forth and pass a bill that reforms the state tax system and holds the line on property taxes. This can be accomplished by raising the gas tax, which would



help solve New Jersey's transportation funding crisis, while at the same time reducing the inheritance tax and the estate tax to provide much needed tax relief for people here in NJ.

"Time is running out. Bridges and roads are crumbling.

"The political games need to stop and your leadership on this issue can end them."

The postcard push is just one of several initiatives ELEC is conducting in our behalf to force the issue to a positive outcome.



International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825

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BETTER BUILDING BEGINS HERE

Decline of middle class is a wake up call for union members to stand united

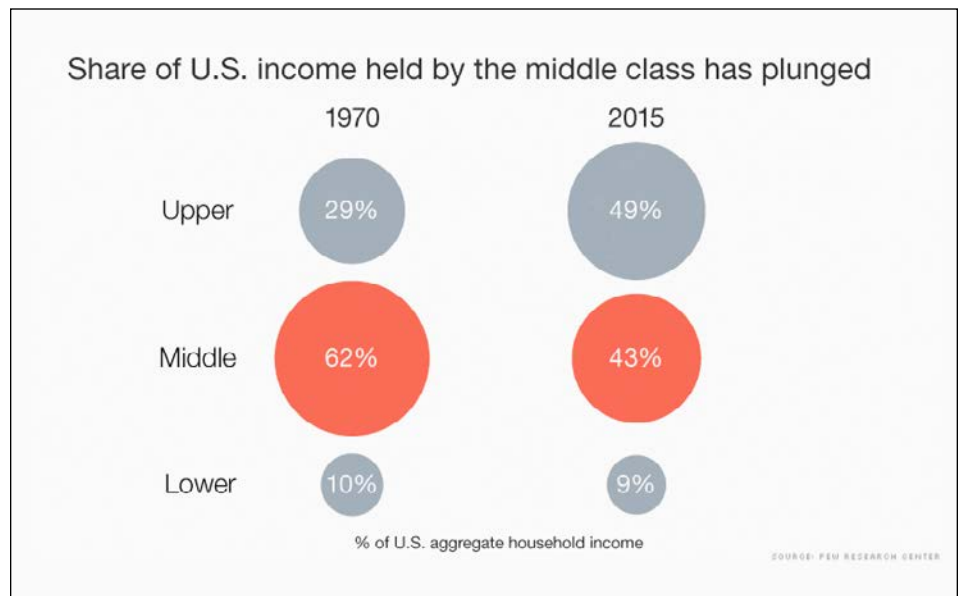
The once-strong middle class no longer dominates America.

Middle class Americans now comprise less than half, or 49.9%, of the nation's population, down from 61% in 1971, according to a Pew Research Center report.

Pew defines middle class Americans as those who live in households earning between \$41,900 to \$125,600 for a three-person household in 2014.

For decades, the middle class had been the core of the country. A healthy middle class kept America strong, experts and politicians said. The middle class used to earn the largest slice of the nation's income. It held 62% in 1970, but that share has since fallen to 43%.

More recently, these residents have struggled under stagnating wages and soaring costs. Presidential candidates on both sides of the political aisle are campaigning on ways to bolster the nation's middle class and increase opportunities to climb the economic ladder.



CREDIT: Pew Research Poll as reported by CNN Money