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

VOL. 10 ISSUF 4

New Portal Bridge on the horizon

FRA awards \$91.5 million to restore Northeast Corridor span



The Federal Railroad Administration has awarded \$91.5 million toward replacing the Portal Bridge that spans the Hackensack River connecting Kearny and Jersey City. The Portal Bridge also connects Washington DC with Boston and is a linchpin in the Northeast Corridor that runs 457 miles through eight states. The 110-year-old bridge carries

450 trains and 200,000 on average every day but has a nasty record of getting stuck and causing bottlenecks. The new bridge would provide a 50-foot clearance above the river and would no longer need to open for passing marine traffic. *Portal North Bridge rendering courtesy of Gateway Development Corp.*

CALENDAR

Note, all district meetings begin at 7 p.m. unless noted otherwise.

July

At this time, all dates are subject to change. Please check the IUOE825.ORG website for updated information.

4 - Independence Day - UNION HOLIDAY

6 - Semi-Annual Meeting

Hilton East Brunswick 3 Tower Center Boulevard, East Brunswick

19 - Second Annual Fishing Trip

7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. aboard the Miss Belmar 905 NJ-35, Belmar

August

No Events schedule this month

TRAINING CENTER UPDATES

The New Jersey and New York training centers each began two new apprentice classes in June. The first began on June 8, including fifteen trainees in New Jersey and five in New York. The second class started on June 22, with another fifteen in New Jersey.

Study classes for NCCCO certification (National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators) were also held in June.

If anyone's current certification is set to expire on cranes, forklifts, etc., contact the training center. As our state governors lift restrictions and establish safety guidelines we will schedule training opportunities as needed in July and August.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Greg Lalevee, Business Manager



Independence Day signals freedom after shutdown

After nearly twelve weeks in lockdown, New Jersey and New York have begun a gradual return to normal, allowing construction projects to resume in time for a union holiday on July 4.

The majority of our members to had continued working throughout the period as many of our projects had been designated "essential." But by June, about ten percent of our members were still out of work and we are doing everything we can to get them back on the job, even increasing our advocacy efforts to promote large-scale infrastructure programs. (see story on page 3).

Achievements

We won funding commitments for major work on New Jersey toll roads and the Portal Bridge. We won a favorable ruling from the National Labor Relations Board allowing employees at the Phillips 66 Bayway refinery in Linden to vote by mail over whether to join our local. Votes were expected to be counted by June 19 and at press time we were awaiting the outcome with cautious optimism.

Anniversaries and scholarships

In this issue we congratulate two groups

of people. First, our members who have achieved anniversary milestones from twenty-five to thirty-five years (pages 6 and 7). Second, the ten student winners of this year's scholarship contest (pages 4 and 5).

Status of events

We are sorry to miss some of our popular event this years, including our Semiannual meeting, the second annual fishing trip and the annual Clay Shoot.

We've rescheduled the eighth annual golf outing for September 19.

Still tentative are the Poker Run, the biannual Dinner Dance and the 100th Anniversary Dinner at Harrah's Marina in Atlantic City.

As soon as we have clear direction from our governors on social distancing requirements we will make a final decision and post the information on our website and Facebook page.

Happy Independence Day

We thank everyone for your patience and cooperation during these very trying weeks. We ask everyone to keep the faith and hang together. Independence Day is a beacon of better days ahead.

Contact Information

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NY Training Center

Wawayanda location 96 Bates Gates Road New Hampton, NY 10958 845-673-3154 - Phone 845-674-9025 - Fax

ELEC Office

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

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Local 825 digging out of Covid-19 pandemic

Sustained advocacy leads to large-scale infrastructure commitments

ob by job, Local 825 members are going back to work as COVID-19 restrictions are loosened.

Since the overall lockdown began in March, the local has taken extraordinary steps to keep members and staff safe, while fighting for "essential" designation of jobs and commitments for spending on massive infrastructure projects.

Business Manager Greg Lalevee named a COVID 19 Response Unit in March and teams tackled Information, Administration and Job Assistance. Virtual meetings were held to keep members updated and informed and key funds services were maintained.

In May, virtual district meetings were resumed, allowing business agents to provide reports of construction activity taking place and planned for their regions.

On the federal level, IUOE General President Jim Callahan was named to a presidential advisory group on reopening the economy. On the state side, Greg was named to Gov. Murphy's Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee to restart New Jersey's economy.



Pat Muscatell keeps the equipment running in Dayton.

Infrastructure projects get a boost

Joined by ELEC Director Mark Longo, the Road to Repair team, the NJ Chamber of Commerce and other business and industry groups, a coalition pushed successfully for \$24 billion to fund an infrastructure



Joe Logan feeling right at home on the forklift.

improvement program on the NJ Turnpike, Garden State Parkway and A.C. Expressway. The Federal Railroad Administration awarded \$91.5 million toward replacing the Portal Bridge and an electrical substation 41 in Kearny.

Greg also published an Op-Ed calling for a commitment to replace aging water mains that affect drinking water, sewers and the environment.

These largescale commitments promised additional jobs and raised hopes that a return to normal was possible.

"Infrastructure investment always has been inextricably linked to job expansion and economic growth," Greg said. "This time will be no different."

NESE Pipeline defeated

The news was not all good, unfortunately, as governors Cuomo and Murphy both shot down the Williams Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Project, which would have provided 3,000 construction jobs in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. Williams Transco announced that it would not refile for project approval.

Training Center updates

Work also continued at the training centers, including equipment maintenance, building and fence maintenance, landscaping, utility tie-ins, electrical updating and shop lighting. Outdoor classes were held for forklift recertification, CCO testing and recertifications and trenching classes.



Jason Hodges preps for his practical test on the Lattice Boom Crane.

Congratulations to Local 825's 2020 scholarship winners; best wishes as you begin your college journey

ongratulations were awarded to this year's ten scholarship winners, all children or grandchildren of Local 825 members. Each will receive \$2,500 per year for four years, totaling \$10,000 over the course of their education.

Funds are raised throughout the year through the generosity of our members and friends of the Local and with the help provided by our volunteers from the local, the funds office and the training centers.

The applicants are reviewed and winners are selected by a team of educators from the Rutgers University School for Management and Labor Relations, headed by Carla A. Katz, Esq., and James Cooney, Esq. Applications are evaluated based on transcripts, SAT scores, individual essays and letters of recommendation.

Three of the ten won awards in specific categories. Seven were awarded scholarships based on academic criteria. Here are this year's winners.



Kayla McLagan of Hackettstown, the daughter of David McLagan, is the winner of this year's Outstanding Student Service Scholarship. A graduate of Warren Hills

Regional High School, Kayla volunteered as a classroom aid in the local elementary school and also as a third-grade assistant catechist. In the fall, she will attend the University of Maine to study environmental science. Kayla's goal is to work in the field of sustainability



Hugo Gini of Bedminster is this year's Outstanding Student Athlete scholarship. A graduate of Bernards High School, he is the son of Hugo C. Gini. In addition to his

four years on the football team, Hugo also performed volunteer work for the Intergenerational Prom and with the Junior Mountaineers. He will attend Middlebury College and study economics. His career goal is to work in the field of athletics.



Thomas Ulmer of Branchburg and the grandson of Thomas J. Stevens, is the winner of this year's Outstanding Understanding and Appreciation of Unionism and Labor

Movement Scholarship. A graduate of Somerville High School, Thomas played on the youth football and lacrosse teams, participated in the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run and was a member of the Key Club. He will attend Moravian College in the fall and plans to study environmental science. His career goal is to work in the field of law enforcement.

The following seven students were awarded academic scholarships.



Monroe Maki of Shokan, NY, is a graduate of Onteora High school in Boiceville, NY.

As a student, Monroe participated in a fundraiser to raise awareness

for our homeless veterans and children and performed community service at First Steps Universal Pre-K. She plans to attend Quinnipiac University to major in athletic training and physical therapy and ultimately work in that field. Monroe is the granddaughter of Donald VanKleeck.



Jessica Frey of North Haledon, is a graduate of Northern Highlands Regional High School in Allendale. Jessica was a volunteer at the Valley Hospital in Ridgewood,

working in the Emergency Room and Pediatrics areas. She plans to attend Clemson University and major in Nursing with minors in Psychology and Spanish. Her long-term goal is to become a nurse practitioner. Jessica is the daughter of Todd Frey.



Luciana Marie Farro of Morristown is a graduate of Villa Walsh Academy, where she served on the executive board of the Villa Walsh Service Club. She also volunteered as

a lacrosse coach for the Morristown recreational lacrosse club, Lady Colonials. She will attend Lehigh University to major in business and computer science with the goal of opening her own business. Lucianna is the daughter of Vincenzo Farro.



Robert Schroeder of Oceanport, graduated from Shore Regional High School in West Long Branch. Robert volunteered at the Jon Bon Jovi Soul Kitchen,

a nonprofit restaurant that provides meals in Red Bank. He also volunteers at the St. Dorothea food bank, stocking shelves and delivering meals. He will attend Quinnipiac University to major in Psychology and take part in their accelerated Law Program. His long-term goal is to earn a JD degree and work in employment law. He is the grandson of John S. Young, III.



James Kohmuench of San Antonio, TX, is a graduate of Cornerstone Christian High School. During high school, he volunteered as a stage manager for a local children's

theater program. He plans to attend Texas A&M University in College Station in the fall to major in business administration. He plans to work in the field of business management or logistics.

James is the grandson of William Kohmuench.



Candida Migueis of Newark graduated from the Essex County School of Technology/West Caldwell Tech. Through the school's Key Club, she distributed food to the

homeless and donated gifts to children in hospitals. Candida will attend the Stevens Institute of Technology and plans to study computer engineering. Her goal is to work in the field of

engineering to research and develop innovations that help improve society. Candida is the daughter of Joaquim Migueis



Isabella Onofrietti of
Toms River graduated
from Toms River High
School North and will attend Monmouth University. During her college
Oyears she was active in

the Jersey Shore Girl Scouts and was a Jersey Shore Honoree and ambassador. She performed volunteer work for the American Cancer Society, was a National Anthem Soloist and served on the planning committee of the Toms River Relay for Life. Isabella is the granddaughter of Steven S. Dudek.

We wish all of our graduates and scholarship winners the best college experience and success in their studies.

Members built state's longest roadways



Road improvements reported on page 3 are the latest in the history of the New Jersey Turnpike and Garden State Parkway.

The two roads have provided years of solid construction jobs for Local 825 Operating Engineers that included surveying, demolition, grading, paving, building construction and installation of lighting, landscaping and guiderails.

Gov. Alfred Driscoll initiated the Turnpike's construction to make travel easier to various localities within the state as well as to the borders with New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware. The road he envisioned would stretch from Delaware Bay to the George Washington Bridge at a cost of \$230 million.

The completed road opened to traffic on November 5, 1951, becoming the first modern-day toll road in New Jersey and the third



Cars line up on opening day to pay tolls



Completing the Hackensack Run section of the NJ Turnpike. Credit: Gottscho-Schleisner Collection, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

in the country. The entire length of roadway was planned as a divided highway with no stop lights and no left-hand turns. All the rest areas were reached by making right turns and in the north, divided lanes separated cars from trucks.

Originally the turnpike was just four lanes in width and 118 miles in length. The four lanes have since grown to fourteen lanes in some sections. Its length eventually grew to 148 miles after the addition of the Newark Bay extension to the Holland Tunnel in 1956; the western spur to Giant Stadium in 1970; and the I-95 extension in 1992.

The Garden State Parkway was envisioned in 1946 by N.J. Gov. Walter Edge to connect northern New Jersey with the resort towns along the Jersey shoreline.

By 1955, 165 miles of the Garden State Parkway from Paterson to Cape May opened and by 1957 the entire 173-mile length was complete.

The GSP aimed to be the safest, most efficient road of its day, combining the scenic beauty of New Jersey with the conveniences of a modern superhighway.

The final cost of the completed GSP was approximately \$330 million.



On Sept. 14, 1960, Business Manager Peter Weber (second from right) met then-Senator John F. Kennedy at the International Association of Machinists convention in St. Louis, Missouri. JFK, who was running a hard campaign against Vice President Richard Nixon, appealed to the union workers to "... be partners in a great and historic journey toward a new Frontier."

His words that day ring true nearly sixty years later. "Only an America which is building a better life for its own people – only a vital and growing America – can build the strength necessary to keep the peace, and serve as a source of hope and aspiration to the struggling people of the world."

Saluting our 25-, 30- and 35-year members

hen COVID-19 knocked out our district meetings, we couldn't let it keep us from recognizing our long-serving members. We had barely finished our meetings with District 1 and District 2 when, out of concern for safety, we canceled remaining meetings.

To give our members the recognition they deserve for their years of dedication and hard work, we publish those who this year have achieved their 25th, 30th and 35th anniversary service awards.

Thank you for your service!

25-YEAR PINS Disrict 1

Roy J. Baldwin, III Stanley Cassidy, Jr. Robert J. Crawford, Jr. John N. Fox Edward J. Kalinowski Edward Cranmer, Jr. Charles J. Donato Glynne E. Dubil Eric M. Glick Michele M. Grace James J. Grace, III William L. Grant Ervin A. Kebert Christopher T. Liberatore Donald T. McGowan Robert S. Vallauri John Bittle Joseph B. Daquila Peter A. Eltink John A. Formoso Michael J. Fracassi William R. Hargrove Dale R. Morrison

District 2

John Oliveira, Jr.

Michael T. Proto

Gray H. Sprague

Michael R. Torre

Julius W. Fulop

John A. Provini

Jeffery Rausa

David H. McFarlin

Kenneth Staudinger

Robert J. Crawford, Jr.

David J. Vanderslice

William J. Bernardo, Jr.

Andrew T. Bennett Joseph Glova George C. Brock Carlos A. Duarte Michael J. Forte Raymond Hassler Thomas D. Herring Stephen J. Hesslein Robert W. Koetzle Robert B. Linton, Jr. Brett A. Miller Donald A. Smith Scott G. Sprague Clifford Stout John P. Utter Richard A. Yannetelli Joseph W. Graham Harry N. Kline, Jr. Robert C. Lee Theodore M. Polichak William J. Greene John W. Higgins Joseph F. Minogue Walter A. Prickett, Jr. William E. Rogers, III Jose A. Roque Jeffrey Shannon **Brian White**

District 3

Matthew J. Callahan Brian W. Ferguson Michael R. Kelly Glenn S. Kunstle Scot J. Tufaro Michael R. Vitale Wayne J. Data Frank F. Dagostino David J. Lamperti William M. Lemiska Richard Lovero Ronald P. Olmstead John S. Olson Albert Somoracki Pasquale Berardo Carmen Borrometi Larry A. Brian Christopher R. Bush William Cappiello Lance H. Del Nero

Bruce Goodheart

Charles A. Lavair
David R. Perna
Michael A. Pierro
Clifford J. Schaefer
Glen A. Trosky
Jairo Gomez
Donald W. Greenhalgh
Michael J. Lippincott
Joseph T. Untisz
Roland W. Mathews

District 4

Michael J. Ham Philip C. Balsamo Joseph V. Cacioppo, Jr. Donald G. Irwin Paul R. Lovelace, Jr. Jeffrey F. Zuill Jeffrey A. Burghardt Frank C. Clark, Sr. Frank J. Demarco James A. Graziosi, Jr. Gary J. Habinowski John W. Harkin, II Scott Horenstein Stephen R. Hughes Daniel A. Odell Vitali Oprisek John T. Paxton, Jr. Derrick K. Vandunk Gordon Gilmore, Jr. Lloyd G. Henry, Jr. Christopher M. Kruszka Philip F. Kuhn, Jr.

30-YEAR PINS Disrict 1

Thomas W. Calhoun Harvey C. Cooey Mark S. Dellane Frank Dinger, Sr. Ivette Ellis Daniel L. Fanelli Wendell D. Grubb James M. Harkins Matthew J. Olive, Jr.
Peter Stieglitz
Scott W. Tiver
Edward P. Truskowski
Joseph V. Zavada
Robert D. Dixon
Dale Pongratz
Mary E. Scrivani
Dean R. Allibone
Richard C. Osborn
Nicholas P. Pettrow

District 2

Robert H. Bennekamper, Jr.
Edward A. Febo
Elbert O. Hannah
Greg S. Koss
Raymond K. Nelson
Byron L. Reed
James A. Dannunzio
Herbert Maynard, Jr.
Jay E. Brown
James B. Campbell
Michael P. Corcoran, Sr.
Antonio S. Ramos
Darryl E. Smith

District 3

Raymond Bumbera, Jr.
Alfred J. Frontauria
Stacy Glaab-Gulick
Lisa Lascelle
James Butrymowicz
William Scherba
Lawrence P. Shears
Michael W. Sudziarski
Richard J. Roos
Richard J. Bradson
Louis M. Mitschele
Antonio J. Norte
Thomas B. Pagliara
Vincent J. Territo
Albert Anema, Jr.

District 4

Edward W. Flanagan Lee W. Steinmetz Philip A. Badami Dennis Deponte Frank Kutch Michael A. Lukaszewski Robert Pettit Donald M. Tarquini, Jr. Lee Baty Kenneth C. Colfax Philip M. Goetschius James S. Vaughan

35-YEAR PINS Disrict 1

Thomas A. Cipolla Leonard Digilio Francis J. Dignam, Jr. Darnell Drummond Charles Tronick John W. Zammarrelli Frank Dimatteo Kevin D. Grace Kevin McGovern John S. Ogg Thomas W. Hill Andrew J. Schultz James P. Hogan Brooke J. Minarchi

District 2

Sean Flynn
Thomas F. Gorman
Frank Irvin, Jr.
Bobby Morgan
Robert L. Parsil
Roger W. Pryor
Larry N. Stith
Giuseppe Fusari
Thomas E. Jones
Daniel Pannucci, III
Daniel J. Santaniello
Vincent J. Ferrante
Kevin Hammel

Cecil D. Hughes
John E. Hull
Michael Minarchenko
John Paradise
Joseph Parise
Michael Piasecki
Michael M. Reinbeck
Dean J. Rossi

District 3

Frank J. Eaton, III Ann R. Free Peter Gregory Robert W. Hamill Otto Klindt Tommy Kotter William D. Okeefe Roger Saunders Michael S. Depiero
John Keller, III
Tim Lawless
Madison (Buddy) E. Sherrer
James N. Shires, Jr.
Robert M. Steinhart
Fredrick Struble
John W. Meyer, Jr.

District 4

Edward Garland Gene Newton Rodney Pena Stephen P. Cypert John Tucker, Jr. Cindy Stanger

ELEC NEWS

ELEC drives effort to fund \$24 billion in construction on major toll roads

sustained advocacy effort by ELEC paid off in late May as Gov. Phil Murphy approved a substantial capital spending plan to improve the NJ Turnpike, Garden State Parkway and Atlantic City Expressway.

ELEC's efforts included writing and placing Op-Eds in key publications, backed by an aggressive digital advertising campaign. Business Manager Greg Lalevee, Director Mark Longo and ELEC staff marshaled representatives from labor, industry, business and trade

groups in a united effort to promote adoption of the program.

The capital plans are multi-year, multi-billion-dollar programs that will bring jobs to our members and stimulate economic development throughout the region.

"We saw the effect that widening the Turnpike brought to central New Jersey," Mark Longo said. "Logistics companies were quick to construct new warehouses and this new program will provide a similar result, benefiting



our members and the economy."

The news was especially welcome, coming in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic as it promised to bring more members back to work in the coming months.

While the Federal stimulus packages will help, the long-term solution is creating jobs and getting people back to work. And those jobs should include infrastructure.

"There's historical precedence for this," Mark said. "The Great Depression saw the economy in shambles and unemployment rates as high as 23%. FDR's Works Progress Administration (WPA) of 1935 put 8.5 million Americans back to work."





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BETTER BUILDING BEGINS HERE

Mountain Ave. paving extends from Westfield into Mountainside

embers were at work during the lock-down, milling and paving Mountain Avenue from East Broad Street in Westfield and across the border into Mountainside during May. New Providence Road was repaved from Mountain Avenue to Route 22.

Traffic was diverted and crews practiced



social distancing while keeping the economy moving.

Union contractor is Smith-Sondy, a high-volume operator specializing in road construction, bridge deck repairs, paving and other construction projects throughout New Jersey and New York.



