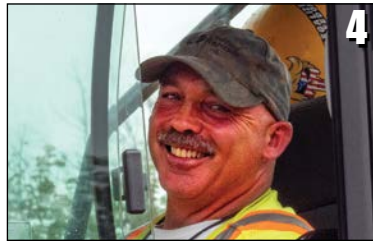


825. NEWS



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

VOL. 10 ISSUE 6

Local 825 to Round Valley: ‘We can dig it’ After 60 years, members return to fortify dike and two dams



New Jersey's largest reservoir gets a makeover to bring its structures into the 21st century. The New Jersey Water Supply Authority authorized \$75 million to rehabilitate the reservoir's three dams. Access roads were prepared to allow site clearing. Massive excavation was performed by bulldozers and hydraulic excavators. Dump trucks – each

carrying loads of 26 tons of filler material – moved the soil to stockpile locations. Following the placement of sand, stone and a drain-pipe system, the materials are returned. Shown above is the first embankment – known as the dike. The remaining two dams are scheduled for completion in the coming months. Story and photos on pages 4 and 5.

CALENDAR

Dates are subject to change. If changes are made they will be posted to the IUOE825.ORG website.

November

- 1 - Daylight Savings ends, turn clocks back one hour
- 2 - District 1 meeting - Webinar
- 3 - Election Day. Vote!
- 4 - District 2 - Webinar
- 9 - District 3 - Webinar
- 10 - District 4 - Webinar
- 11 - Veterans Day - UNION HOLIDAY
- 26 - Thanksgiving - UNION HOLIDAY

December

- 7 - District 1 - Webinar
- 9 - District 2 - Webinar
- 10 - Hanukkah
- 14 - District 3 - Webinar
- 15 - Christmas Party
Hilton East Brunswick, 3 Tower Center Blvd.,
East Brunswick - Tentative ... check
IUOE825.ORG for update.
- 16 - District 4, NY - Webinar
- 21 - Winter begins
- 24 - Christmas Eve
- 25 - Christmas day - UNION HOLIDAY
- 26 - Kwanzaa
- 31 - New Year's Eve

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Greg Lavee, Business Manager



Why we support Joe Biden and you should too

The decision to support Joe Biden for president was based on labor policies that are in the best interest of Operating Engineers and our families. A careful study of the issues - putting aside the politics and personalities that polarize society and distract from the realities we face - made our decision inevitable.

For nearly four years under the Trump administration we have watched the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) consistently adopt policies hostile to organized labor. NLRB policies have overturned precedents and diminished our rights. In addition, new proposals favor right-to-work initiatives, target Davis-Bacon prevailing wage law and threaten to reduce our wages.

All this is presented in more detail on page 6. If the information is not enough to win your support for Joe Biden, consider the following:

Joe Biden supports the IUOE position on labor policies, including Davis-Bacon prevailing wages, Project Labor Agreements and labor law reform. He has committed to sign the PRO (Protecting the Right to Organize) Act, which aims to reform labor law, fundamentally altering power between workers and employers.

This legislation eliminates the states' ability to enact right-to-work laws. It reestablishes unions' ability to establish secondary boycotts, ends the "two gates" system and allows "common situs" picketing. It increases penalties on employers that violate labor law, finally giving the law real teeth and discouraging employers from the frequent violations.

We have long-maintained a bipartisan approach to politics, supporting candidates on both sides when they support issues important to our interests. Leadership does not mean trying to make every member happy. It means standing up and being willing to fight for policies that benefit all Operating Engineers and our families.

That's why our international and our local support Joe Biden for president. We hope after careful considerations of the issues that you will too.

The 8th annual golf outing was a great opportunity for members to reconnect, while giving a boost to the scholarship fund. See page 3 for more detail and photos.

As we close out the year, remember to celebrate our veterans on Nov. 11. We wish all our members of every faith peace, health and happiness throughout the holiday season and look forward to a more normal year in 2021.

Contact Information

Local 825 Headquarters
65 Springfield Avenue, 3rd FL
Springfield, NJ 07081
(973) 671 - 6900
(973) 921 - 2918 FAX

District Offices:
3242 Route 206
Building A Unit 6
Bordentown, NJ 08505
Tel. 856-470-1480
Fax 856-470-1485

96 Bates Gates Road
New Hampton, NY 10958
845-674-9020 - Phone
845-674-9025 - Fax

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

96 Bates Gates Roads
Suite 70
New Hampton, NY 10973
(845) 374-2559
(845) 374-2564 FAX

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

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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Home Mortgage)
Debra Botulinski
(908) 608-2013

Golf outing raises funds, lifts hope for return to normal

The annual golf outing scholarship fundraiser got off to a shotgun start on September 19, more than three months after its originally scheduled May date was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With only two days left of summer, approximately 120 golfers carted off under sunny skies and brisk 60-degree temperatures to do battle with the little white ball.

"It's a great day to be outside and together again," said Business Manager Greg Lavee. Masks were worn indoors but most of the day was spent outside. The pre-game lunch and post-game dinner was arranged outside under tents and added to a festive atmosphere.

This year's first-place winners were: Tony Cip-

riano, Ted Barnes, Brit Lord and Charlie Bowen.

It was the only scholarship fundraiser to be salvaged for the year. The other events – the clay shoot, fishing trip, poker run and dinner dance – all were postponed or canceled. Despite the impact on the year's fundraising, the level of scholarship awards in 2021 will not be impacted, according to Greg.

"Our scholarship fund is healthy and the golf outing definitely helps," he said. "We'll maintain the scholarships next year and hopefully resume fundraising events in the months ahead."

For more golf outing photos, visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/IUOE-LOCAL825



Second generation of Local 825 members prep Round Valley for next 50 to 100 years

Sixty years after constructing the state's largest reservoir, dozens of Local 825 members are back on the site, updating the two dams and one dyke to ensure safety and continued use for the next 50 to 100 years.

The New Jersey Water Authority authorized rehabilitation of the three embankments in phases to bring them up to today's design standards.

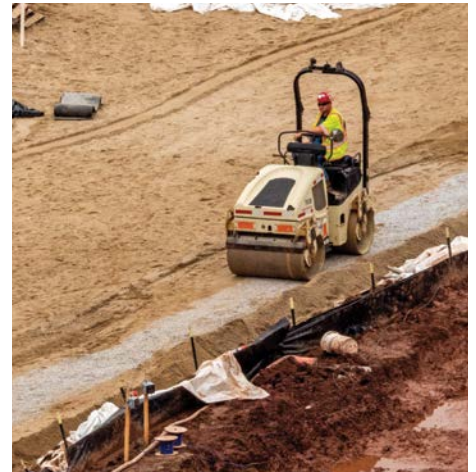
The first phase included grouting of the abutments at the North and South Dams as well as dredging of the intake channel at the South Dam. These two projects are nearing completion.

The final phase of the project began in Feb-

ruary, undertaken by general contractor Thalle Construction Company of Hillsborough, NC. This phase will see the installation of three new drainage features on each embankment, along with abutment grouting, dredging, security upgrades, instrumentation upgrades and a number of other improvements.

The work involves massive excavation, installation of layers of sand and gravel to facilitate drainage, requiring multiple trucks, each carrying an average of 26 tons of filler material.

The excavated soils and topsoil will be replaced over the new sand and stone filter. When work is complete, the entire area is replanted and restored to its prior natural condition.





PHOTOS: Members excavate and store dirt and dig sediment control basins with diversion channels and overflow spillways to capture runoff and control erosion. Layers of stone and sand are placed in the excavation to filter and collect water that seeps through the embankment from the reservoir. At the North and South dams, 24- and 40-acre parcels must be cleared for staging, basins and work. Once complete, the areas are reforested and returned to nature.

Round Valley dig is second go-round for Local 825



Local 825 members built the original three embankments that today enclose the Round Valley Reservoir. But the history of the site goes back hundreds of years.

The Lenni Lenape inhabited the round valley encircled by the Cushtunk Mountains. They grew maize, beans and squash. As settlers arrived from the Old World, those who wanted to farm came to the valley, away from the larger populations that grew in cities like Paterson, Newark and Elizabeth.

The valley remained a close-knit farming community. There was only one road into the valley. Electricity didn't arrive there until the 1940s. Families survived by hard work.

Periodic droughts created a desire to ensure a stable water supply. The crowded cities looked west for water. The Hunterdon County valley – called “the hole” because of its topography – was considered an ideal site for a reservoir.

On June 1, 1956, the NJ Legislature voted to appropriate the valley. Only Hunterdon County opposed the vote. \$46 million was approved to acquire the valley's 24 farms, build the reservoir and a pipeline. Sixteen families chose to sell their homes. Many moved their houses to the top of the ridge, which became Valley Crest Road. Ten families refused to sell and watched the state condemn their land for the greater good.

By 1960 the valley had been razed and was ready for construction. Dozens of Local 825

members were among the workers, including one crane operator named Richard Lavee, the late father of current Business Manager Greg Lavee and Chris Lavee. A dam was constructed across Prescott Brook at the southwestern end of Cushtunk Mountain and a dam and dike were built at the northwestern end, across South Branch Rockaway Creek.

To ensure it always remains full, a pump was constructed 3.3 miles uphill from the south branch and a 108-inch diameter pipeline connected it to the Delaware River. Filling began in 1966. It took nine years to fill the 2,400 acre-site, with depths up to 180 feet. Fifty-five billion gallons of water later, Round Valley Reservoir was completed. It was opened to the public for recreation in 1977.

Today, Round Valley is the state's largest reservoir, providing water during times of drought to towns throughout central New Jersey.

Flu shots are as important as ever

Even in the midst of a pandemic, a flu shot is as important as ever.

The dual threat of influenza combined with COVID-19 has public health experts warning of a “twindemic” effect that could sicken the population and overwhelm hospitals.

The CDC recommends getting a flu shot by November 1 but if you haven’t done so, get one as soon as possible. Flu season usually peaks between December and February and – even though antibodies begin building up right away – it takes about two weeks to reach the full level of protection. Coverage usually lasts about six months.

In addition, it’s not yet known whether people will become co-infected with both flu and



COVID-19 or what the consequences of that combination would be.

So play it safe. Reduce your chance of getting the flu and help keep hospitals and healthcare facilities available for those who may need it most.

TRAINING CENTER CALENDAR

NEW JERSEY TRAINING CENTER

All classes start at 7 a.m. Call (732) 798-2170 to register or request a certification.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 7 – Temporary Heat Fire Watch
Nov. 7 – Signalperson Qualification Class
Nov. 14 – Qualified Rigger Class
Nov. 21 – HAZMAT Refresher

DECEMBER

Dec. 5 – Temporary Heat Fire Watch
Dec. 5 – HAZMAT Refresher
Dec. 12 – OSHA 10 MOD 1
Dec. 19 – OSHA 10 MOD 2

NEW YORK TRAINING CENTER

Call (845) 673-3154 to request a training program or certification.

Follow our Training Center on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/iuoe825Training

NLRB agenda grows more hostile to labor

Over the past three years under the Trump administration, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has shown an increasingly hostile attitude toward labor, making it harder for blue-collar employees to organize and be represented. The following summarizes NLRB directives:

- NLRB General Counsel Peter Robb was sworn into office in Nov. 2017.
- Since then, the NLRB no longer requires employers to bargain with unions over serious discipline. The Board ruled that unionized employers have the right to unilaterally discipline or discharge employees without giving the union prior notice or an opportunity to bargain.
- NLRB has made it easier for employers to take disciplinary action against employees exercising their Section 7 rights. This means that the burden of proof rests with the NLRB General Counsel to establish that the employee was disciplined for abusive or offensive statements specifically in connection with Section 7 activity. This re-

quires the employer to prove that it would have taken the same action in the absence of Section 7 activity.

- The Board has ruled that employees who are laid off due to COVID-19 are not eligible to vote in representation elections, since the employees had “no reasonable expectation of recall.”
- Employees are now restricted from discussing workplace terms and conditions of employment on social media, requiring employees to be “respectful and professional” when making posts relating to their employer.
- Robb has made it harder for unions and employers to enter into neutrality agreements and made it easier to invalidate them.
- Robb would notify the charged party of any witnesses that were former supervisors or agents of the organization. Where it is claimed that an individual actor’s action at a certain time was binding on a party, i.e., they previously worked there, Regions are to apprise the party or its representative in

advance of communicating with the individual about the substance of the matter, even if the supervisory and/or agency relationship has concluded.

- Robb now requires the production of audio recordings prior to any merit determinations. Where the Region determines that an audio recording is relevant to the decision related to an unfair labor practice, Regions should apprise the charged party as to the existence of the recording, offer to play it and solicit the charged party’s position before deciding on the merits.
- Robb has requested the Regions reduce by 20 percent the amount of time their offices spend investigating unfair labor practice charges. This pressures the regional offices to close matters quickly, sometimes without a full investigation.

Against this onslaught of NLRB positions taken against labor, Local 825 will continue to fight for its members and keep you apprised of developments as they arise.

Help ELEC825 advocate for you

ELEC825 is using a multi-pronged media strategy to advocate for construction projects in the transportation, energy, and water infrastructure segments. You can help us help you by following our social channels and sharing and retweeting our posts. Here are the accounts that we encourage you to follow:



Affordable Energy for New Jersey

Facebook & Twitter: @AffordableENGNJ
www.NJAffordableEnergy.com

Affordable Energy for New Jersey advocates for energy projects, including much-needed natural gas pipelines. This issue faces substantial headwinds and will take a lot of effort to swing opinion in our direction. Our argument is for affordability: renewables are clearly the future but are much more expensive than natural gas. This is a big issue for fixed- and low-income households.



Road To Repair

Facebook & Twitter: @RoadtoRepair
www.RoadtoRepair.com

Road to Repair is focused on investments in transportation infrastructure. The Transportation Trust Fund is up for reauthorization in 2022 and we are already building the case for its continuation. Roads, bridges, tunnels and trains are the foundation of our society and need to be adequately funded.



ELEC825

Facebook & Twitter: @ELEC825

ELEC825 focuses on water and other policy issues. Water infrastructure does not get as much attention as the other two but as we've seen in Flint, Michigan and elsewhere, water infrastructure is just as important.

With so much public discourse taking place online, it's important that your interests are represented and that you have a voice. Please join our Facebook and Twitter accounts and join in the conversation.



Here are the three twitter accounts you should follow and take part in the conversation.

New Reimbursement for OSHA 30

We're happy to announce that we've added OSHA 30 credentials to our list of reimbursements. This is in addition to the OSHA 10 reimbursement that we already offer. For more information about credential reimbursements, contact Kathleen Kieck at 973-671-6794 or via email at memberhelp@elec825.org.



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

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BETTER BUILDING BEGINS HERE

Members ride again at famed Bowcraft park



One of many rides that kept families coming back year after year.

From 1946 through 2018, Bowcraft Amusement Park in Scotch Plains was a popular destination for families with young children. Each May through October the park was the site for joyful screams from the Tilt A Whirl, Scrambler, Paratrooper and two roller coasters, right down to a kiddie boat ride.

That all ended in October 2018. In later months, the rides were dismantled and sold off. The park was leveled in 2019. The site is being prepared now for construction to begin on 190 apartments – which will include 40 affordable housing units – 10 townhouses, a swimming pool, a club house, and 403 parking spaces.

Several of our operating engineers are working on the site for union contractor Underground Utilities. Project completion is scheduled for 2021.



The new rides are bright yellow and require a member of Local 825 to operate them.

