

# 825. NEWS



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

VOL. 12 ISSUE 5

## The family picnic returns to Local 825

A summer staple in prior years offers relaxed fun for every age



Matt Voorhees and family find that even the bears are friendly at Black Bear Lake. It was a day for families to enjoy a return to the popular picnics of years gone by. Food and activities were in full supply. Activities included everything from basketball to swimming, boating and

fishing. The weather cooperated with temperatures in the 80s under partly sunny skies. Black Bear Lake, situated smack in the middle of the Garden State, made it accessible to everyone. Watch for a repeat performance in 2023. *Story and photos on page 6.*

## EVENTS CALENDAR

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

### September

**5 – Labor Day – UNION HOLIDAY**

**6 – District 1 Meeting**

The Estate at Monroe

1351 North Black Horse Pike, Williamstown, NJ

**7 – Installation of Officers**

7 p.m., East Brunswick Hilton

**12 – District 3 Meeting**

Holiday Inn, 1000 International Drive, Mt. Olive

**13 – District 2 Meeting**

Holiday Inn, 160 Frontage Road, Newark

**14 – District 4 Retiree Brunch**

10 a.m. to 1 p.m., New York Training Center

96 Bates Gates Road, New Hampton, NY

**District 4 Meeting**

NY Training Center

96 Bates Gates Road, New Hampton, NY

**20 – District 1 Retiree Luncheon**

11:30 a.m., Crystal Manor

210 S. Delsea Drive, Glassboro

**21 – PAC meeting via Zoom call**

**22 – District 2 & 3 Retiree Brunch**

10 a.m., Union Hall

65 Springfield Ave., 3rd Floor, Springfield

**25 – 10th Annual Local 825 Motorcycle Poker Run**

**Rosh Hashana**

### October

**3 – District 1 Meeting**

Hammonont Fire Company Station Two

51 North White Horse Pike, Hammonont

**4 – Yom Kippur**

**5 – District 2 Meeting**

Holiday Inn, 2870 Hwy. 35, Hazlet

**10 – District 3 Meeting**

Russian Hall

464 Outwater Lane, Garfield

**Columbus Day**

**12 – District 4 Meeting**

New York Training Center

96 Bates Gates Road, New Hampton, NY

**31 – Halloween**

## VIEW FROM THE TOP

*Greg Lavee, Business Manager*



## Unions rise in stature as Labor Day nears

As Labor Day approaches, it is interesting that more people are viewing unions positively. This is indicated by polling, as well as by successful organizing at companies like Amazon and Starbucks. Our own Local has enjoyed successful organizing outcomes over the past few years. These successes are highly visible but there are also many smaller organizations that are reaching the same conclusions, that unions protect workers and worker rights.

The shutdowns, layoffs and health and safety concerns surrounding the covid pandemic undoubtedly played a part in it in this shift. The global supply chain disruption added to it and now the surge in inflation threatens to negate wage increases. If the economy slows, job insecurity may rise.

Given all this, it's no mystery that workers want to feel someone has their back.

How it all unfolds remains to be seen. The issues are complicated and will be with us for some time. There will be a temptation to chase inflation with wage increases. But if that's too aggressive it could lead to even more inflation. We all know that at some point, something has to give.

As we fight to keep from falling behind, we need to be mindful of the need to remain com-

petitive. We don't want to win the battle and lose the war by pricing ourselves out of project work that is subject to competitive bidding. We will remain focused on these issues in the months ahead.

### Summer full of events

We've had a great run of events so far this year, see pages 4 and 5 for photos of the annual Clay Shoot; our Fishing Trip and the Golf Outing. The Family Picnic made a successful return to our roster of activities this year, remembering days gone by when the Local used to have several picnics each summer. In the days before air conditioning, families could escape the heat and have fun by a lake and in the shade of tree-covered picnic grounds.

The last outdoor event of the year will be the Motorcycle Poker Run on Sept. 25. This year's ride will be from the NJ Training Center and we're looking forward to a big turnout. As always, a fun BBQ, door prizes and live music will be there at the end of the ride. Watch the Local 825 Facebook page for any last-minute announcements.

Happy Labor Day to all our members, families and friends. Enjoy the remaining days of summer.

## Contact Information

### Local 825 Headquarters

65 Springfield Avenue, 3rd FL  
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### District Offices:

3242 Route 206  
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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  
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# Anniversary dinner honors four decades of service

**T**wenty-nine members achieved their 40-year milestone in 2022 and were recognized for their service by a dinner dance in their honor.

Members and retirees met outside the East Brunswick Hilton ballroom for drinks and hors d'oeuvres as they got together with old friends. Business Manager Greg Lalevee, President John Wood and the officers greeted them as they entered.

Dinner followed, with entertainment and dancing. Greg and John gave official greetings, as did Secretary Bob Davis, Financial Secretary Joe Logan and Vice President Willie Vaccaro. Together, they called up every honoree and presented each with a 40-year pin.

Although the night was reserved for the 40-year milestone, Greg acknowledged members who have exceeded 40 years of service. The list is impressive. It includes:

- Eighteen 45-Year Members,
- Seventy-one 50-year members,
- Eighteen 55-year members,
- Fifteen 60-year members,
- Five 65-year members and
- And five members who have reached 70th anniversary of membership.

Each of these members will be recognized at the retiree breakfasts this month (September).



## Local 825 welcomes Transportation Secretary

**B**usiness Manager Greg Lalevee, Business Agent Lino Santiago and Lead Engineer Neil Hughes participated in the groundbreaking of the Portal North Bridge project on August 1.

Greg was joined by Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg for the ground breaking of the Portal North Bridge and shared the dais with only six other speakers, including Gov. Phil Murphy, NJ Transit CEO Kevin Corbett, Amtrak Chairman Anthony Coscia, NJ Senators Menendez and Booker and NJ DOT Chairman Diane Gutierrez-Scacetti.

Representing labor, Greg related how profound the ripple effect of this project will be on New Jersey workers. Even before construction begins, stone and sand must be quarried to make cement, which must be transported. All of these workers are feeding families, paying mortgages, sending kids to school ... to grab their share of the American Dream. Greg thanked the officials for their roles in helping to pass the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and helping to make projects like this one possible.



# What do golf clubs, fishing rods & shotguns have in common?

## Fun-loving, fund-raising summer events benefit our families & students

**S**o far this summer, three classic Local 825 events have been held, providing fun outings for members and friends of Local 825 and raising funds for next year's scholarship awards.

### Fourth Fishing Outing

The fourth fishing trip set sail from Belmar Marina in July with 75 anglers on board. Seas were mostly calm. Sea bass and fluke started taking the bait and were swung into the boat. Fisher men and women got in a full day at sea, leaving the dock at 7 a.m. and returning by 2:30 p.m.





## Rain Date Golf Outing

The annual golf outing was a makeup from the rain date in May. This time, the weather was perfect. Business Manager Greg Lavee and President John Wood were on hand to greet all the players. After check-in and lunch, a shotgun started play right at 1 p.m.



## Shootout in Coplay PA

Speaking of shotguns, the seventh annual Clay Shoot blasted off in Coplay, PA, at the end of June. Members arrived early, signed disclosures, got their shirts and ammo and socialized. Event organizer John Rocco welcomed everyone and laid out the day's activity. The safety officer reviewed the ground rules, then everyone rolled out to 19 shooting stations. Everyone had a blast!





# Everyone loves this summer picnic

**M**embers, spouses and children descended on Big Black Bear Lake in Millstone Township on the last day of July to celebrate the return of the union summer picnic.

"We registered 575 people all together," said Bob Spirito, who organized the event and recommended the location, with help from Kevin Young, Chris Lalevee and John Rocco.

Business Manager Greg Lalevee gave a thumbs up on the day's activity.

A 33-year-member, Bob remembers the picnics run by Richard (Richie) Lalevee, Greg's father, at Forest Lodge in "the old days." We just wanted to recreate these memories for the newer members and their kids," Bob said.

He thanked Taylor Oil of Somerville for providing t-shirts for everyone; and Tomco Construction for providing the hats.

A wide selection of food and drink were served under the shade of tents. Activities included face-painting, swimming, pedal boating, basketball, tennis and fishing.

Based on the comments and reactions, there is already talk of hosting a 2nd annual picnic again next year. Funds raised by the event benefit the Local 825 Scholarship Fund.



## TRAINING CENTER CALENDAR

[www.facebook.com/iuoe825Training](http://www.facebook.com/iuoe825Training)

### NEW JERSEY TRAINING CENTER

(732) 798-2170 (All classes start at 7 a.m. unless noted otherwise)

#### 8-Hour HAZMAT Refresher

Sat. Sept. 17

Sat. Oct. 15

#### CCO – Four Study Saturdays

Signup and TSS

Sat., Oct. 1

TWR at 7 a.m./TLL at 8 a.m.

Sat., Oct. 8

OVR at 7 a.m./LBT at 8 a.m.

Sat., Oct. 15

LBC & Review

Sat., Oct. 22

Written Test, 7 a.m.

Sun., Oct. 23

#### Asbestos Awareness

Sat., Sept. 10

#### Temporary Heat

Sat., Oct. 8

### NEW YORK TRAINING CENTER

(845) 673-3154

(All classes start at 7 a.m. unless noted otherwise)

Dates to be announced or call the Training Center for updates.

#### 8-Hour HAZMAT Refresher

#### OSHA 10

#### OSHA 30

#### 40-Hour HAZMAT Class

Please contact the New York Training Center to put your name on the list for a class or certification you need to take. If you do not see the class listed above, let them know and once we have enough names for a class, members will be notified.



# Years of advocacy for Hoboken project pays off

It took 15 years but Hoboken finally approved Hoboken Connect, a multi-phase redevelopment project in and around the Hoboken Rail Station.

"This has been a major area of interest for us for several years now," said Business Manager Greg Lavee. "We're pleased to see it finally approved, now we want to make sure our members get their share of the work."

The project will consist of public and private projects. They will include a new bus terminal, rehabilitation of the Ferry Terminal, redevelopment of Warrington Plaza and bicycle and pedestrian improvements to Hudson Place. The private component will include a mixed-use residential building, a 20-story Class A office building with a rooftop terrace, 5,000 square feet of retail space and related public open space investments.

It is estimated that approximately 9,800 construction jobs will be created. On completion, the project will directly and indirectly support 15,290 permanent jobs. In addition to jobs, the City of Hoboken will see millions of dollars generated in annual retail spending and revenue, while NJ TRANSIT will benefit from ground lease



payments and increased ridership.

Hoboken **Council President Michael Russo** said "The redevelopment of the transit hub is a big win for the residents of Hoboken and a big win for the residents of New Jer-

sey." Russo thanked the Operating Engineers for their help advocating for project approval over several years. "I am proud that they stood with us and I am proud to stand with them," he said.

# Security concerns & World Cup bid doom old grandstand

The Meadowlands Race Track grandstand, which opened in the Bicentennial year 1976 and hosted 25,000 patrons every Saturday night throughout its glory days, is being dismantled piece by piece.

Shuttered since 2013, it was replaced by a new \$100 million grandstand on the site of the former backstretch. The old building, which hosted the 1994 World Cup, is a sad reminder how times change.

Now, in an effort to once again host the World Cup soccer matches in 2026, the NJ Sports & Exposition Authority (NJSEA) approved a \$33 million plan to dismantle the

grandstand over a period of months.

"Work is going on inside as we speak," said Rich Decker a Local 825 member and Lead Engineer for the NJSEA. "The building itself is scheduled to come down later this year."

The NJSEA noted "security concerns" posed by the proximity of the old grandstand to the adjacent MetLife stadium. Along with the demolition will come roadway realignments and other site enhancements intended to improve the site and its chances to win the World Cup.

Decisions on host sites are expected to be announced as early as next spring.



**The track still hosts both thoroughbred racing and harness racing.**





## International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825

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## BETTER BUILDING BEGINS HERE

# Local 825 members benefit fellow veterans

**M**embers of American Legion Post 532 raised more than two thousand dollars for Veteran Haven North in Glen Gardener and Veterans South in Winslow, NJ. The facilities house and care for otherwise homeless veterans. Although the facilities are run by the state, they still accept contributions.

Post 532 is made up of Local 825 military veterans and is sponsored by Local 825. It has grown to 26 members since it was established in 2018, with six new members coming in as part of the current apprentice program.

"So we are brothers twice," said Joey Bove, Service Officer for the Post 532. "Veterans and union brothers."

Post 532 holds a monthly meeting. For members who find it too far to get to, it is also available via Zoom. Any military veteran is encouraged to join. "The more members we have, the more outreach we can offer and the more we can give back to the veteran community," Bove said.



**Joseph Bove, Service Officer for American Legion Post 532 and Union County American Legion Commander Robert Gentry present a check to two employees of Haven North veterans' home.**