

825. NEWS



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

VOL. 14 ISSUE 1

Conditions look optimal as the new year begins

Gateway Tunnel and NJ Turnpike expansion projects called 'historic'



Local 825 members welcomed the new year with hopes that conditions carry through over the next 12 months. Two projects long in the making are finally playing out and they dwarf projects that came before. The Gateway Tunnel has now begun and the NJ Turnpike expansion is in planning. As big

and important as they are, there are many other construction projects under way throughout New Jersey and in our areas of New York State. Will higher interest rate slow things down? Only time will tell. Read more on page 3 about the historic projects that shine optimism as 2024 begins.

EVENTS CALENDAR

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

January

1 - New Year's Day - UNION HOLIDAY

8 - Semiannual Meeting

East Brunswick Hilton
3 Tower Center Boulevard, East Brunswick

15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February

2 - Groundhog Day

5 - District 1 Meeting

Hammonton Fire Company Station 2
51 North White Horse Pike, Hammonton.

7 - District 2 Meeting

Hilton Garden Inn
304 Rt. 22 West, Springfield, NJ.

12 - District 3 Meeting

Sheraton Parsippany Hotel
199 Smith Road, Parsippany

13 - District 4 Meeting

NY Training Center
96 Bates Gates Road, New Hampton, NY

14 - Valentine's Day / Ash Wednesday

19 - Presidents Day - UNION HOLIDAY

21 - Blood Bank

12 Noon to 3 p.m.
NJ Training Center
338 Deans Rhode Hall Road, Dayton, NJ

24 - Corn Hole Tournament

Jamesburg Elks
74 W. Railroad Ave., Jamesburg, NJ 08831

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Greg Lavee, Business Manager



An employment year like none other ...

The New Year promises continued work for every member. If we weren't sure of this before, the groundbreaking and beginning of construction on the Gateway Tunnel has removed any doubt. The groundbreaking was just the latest of a long list of massive infrastructure projects that - all together - promise an employment year like none other in our history. See page 3 for more on these projects.

People have asked me if we will have enough members to handle the demand for these jobs. I believe we will. There are certain disciplines where we could use more people. As long as members remain flexible and continue to update their existing skills and be willing to learn new ones, we'll be fine.

A few years ago we saw increasing demand for paving work. We had an aging work force in the paving industry and knew we had to do something. We developed the STEAM program, expanded training accordingly and we met the challenge.

Today we see a need for operators who do utility work and we'll be looking for people who are willing to work underground in the tunnels. I'm hopeful our members take advantage of winter classes to prepare for these jobs. Classes begin in early January. See page 6 for more information.

Successful Holiday Party

The holiday party in December was a huge success and I want to thank all our members who brought gifts for the less fortunate among us. A small gesture like that does enormous good in the lives of children and it is something we can feel good about. See photos on pages 4 and 5.

Congratulations ELEC

Before signing off I want to recognize the work of our labor-management team, ELEC825. Since its beginning, ELEC has worked with state and local organizations, advocating for issues important to Local 825 and its members. Two of ELEC's staff were recently named to influential positions in two organizations. They join a number of staff members who have been providing similar input to other local groups. See page 7.

Upcoming

Mark your calendars for our Semiannual Meeting on Jan. 8; and the Blood Bank drive on Feb. 21 at the NJ Training Center in Dayton. The 2nd Cornhole Tournament in February is sold out and we hope everyone has a good time.

I wish all of you and your families a Happy New Year and good things to come in 2024.

Contact Information

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Springfield, NJ 07081
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(973) 921 - 2918 FAX

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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
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(973) 630-1013 FAX

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Massive construction programs taking shape

2023 to 2024 sees beginnings of biggest 'construction-palooza' in NJ history

Business Manager Greg Lalevee participated in the year-end groundbreaking for the future Hudson River Tunnel, bringing to an end the wait for the long-delayed, largest construction project in New Jersey history and setting up 2024 to be another great year for employment.

It's been 14 years since the first groundbreaking ceremony under former Gov. Joh Corzine in 2009," Greg said. "That was a false start and construction never began. This time, it's for real."

The ceremony marked the beginning of the project with a bridge over Tonnelle Avenue that – when it is completed in 2025 – will allow digging to begin on two new tunnels beneath the Hudson River. Overall, the project will provide 70,000 jobs.

The four-and-a-half-mile tunnels will be completed in 2035. Once in service, the existing 112-year-old tunnels will be rehabilitated, creating four tunnels in all.



Business Manager Greg Lalevee joins NJ officials in historic groundbreaking

NJ Turnpike plans construction-palooza

Another "biggest project ever" was unveiled by the NJ Turnpike Authority, which announced plans for a highway widening project in Hudson County. The project is an 8.1-mile portion of the Turnpike between Newark, Jersey City and Bayonne. It will expand the elevated highway and replace 29 bridges at an estimated cost of \$10.7 billion.

Construction is expected to begin in 2026 and will provide employment for more than 10 years, with completion projected around 2040.



Aerial view of Salem County wind port construction

Shifting winds

At the southern end of the state, construction continues on the Salem County wind port, despite a decision by key developer Orsted to pull out of its plan to develop the project.

Invenergy, a Chicago-based power company, has acquired the transmission project previously known as Atlantic Power Transmission and will continue to develop transmission lines under the new name Jersey Link.

Commenting on the change, Business Manager Lalevee said, "Jersey Link will provide the opportunity to create fair wage union jobs throughout our community. This project ensures that the work will stay local and will prioritize safety standards as New Jersey continues to build a clean energy industry."

Meanwhile ... in New York State

In New York, the "Roadway Quality Assurance Act" was signed into law late last year by Gov. Kathy Hochul. It strengthens New York's construction workforce by ensuring its members are paid at prevailing wage.

These projects are counting on Local 825 to supply operating engineers on the New Jersey side of the project and members are preparing to meet the challenges ahead.

A Good Year For Unions

The year just ended was also one of the best years for unions.

Worker protests throughout the year resulted in historic strike activity in our state and the nation. Throughout the country there were more than 200 strikes. In New Jersey, Local 825 members supported striking workers at UAW Local 2326 in Dayton after their contract negotiations with WestRock broke down.

And a four-day strike by academic workers at Rutgers University – the first in its 250-year history – secured a fair contract nearly a year after the previous one expired.

Public approval of unions hit 71 percent, its highest level since 1965, according to the most recent Gallup Poll and the public seems more supportive of unions helping workers through collective action.



Local 825 members join striking UAW Local 2326 in Dayton

Annual holiday party spreads holiday cheer

A mountain of toys piled high as members dropped off their donations

Members came together at the annual party in December to enjoy the holiday season with friends and to spread Christmas cheer to hundreds of children by donating gifts for less fortunate families in the area.

More than 400 members demonstrated their holiday spirit by adding their toys to the display outside the ballroom of the East Brunswick Hilton. Hundreds of gifts for boys and girls of every age were collected, destined for the Toys for Tots program administered by the U.S. Marine Corps.

The toys were packed into bins and transferred to the custody of the Marines, who also joined the party for dinner. Later, members and Marines alike rolled the bins to a storage area where they would be kept until they could be transported to the unit in Red Bank. Once there, the toys were sorted by age and gender and then matched with requests from various social service organizations.

The variety of foods were impressive and delicious, as always from the EB Hilton. Members socialized, renewed friendships and enjoyed the evening ... as the following photos will confirm ...





Funds Office again named among Best Places to Work

For the second year in a row, the 825 Funds Office was recognized as one of NJBIZ' Best Places to Work in 2023.

As an organization that takes member services seriously, our employees' professional and personal needs are important to us, said Chris Medich.

"When employees are satisfied, it has a positive impact on the services they provide to members. Also, this recognition allows our organization to attract and retain good employees."

"The award is based on anonymous surveys to our employees and we are judged based on their responses," explained Business Manager Greg Lavee. "That we can say our employees are happy working here, what could be better?"

When asked what they like about working for Local 825, Funds Office employees cited "a friendly work environment, competitive compensation, great benefits, recognition for efforts and opportunities to learn."

Important Benefits Changes

Some changes worth noting have been made to three of our plans during 2023.

Welfare Plan

The Welfare Fund was recognized as a non-grandfathered plan under the Affordable Care Act, as of July 1, 2023.

This means that a variety of preventive services can be provided without cost-sharing charges, when provided by an in-network provider. So for maximum benefit coverage, be sure to use a network provider. Some of these preventive services include: Well-woman office visits, comprehensive lactation support, FDA-approved contraceptive methods for all women of reproductive capacity, hearing screening for children, routine adult and children immunizations, colon screening bowel preparation medications, Type 2 diabetes screening.

Other changes include (but are not limited to): external review for claims involving medical judgment; implementation of cost-sharing limits for all in-network benefits; and coverage for approved clinical trials related to cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

The Welfare Fund is evaluating options for



PHOTO CREDIT: NJBIZ

promoting the well-being of participants and their families during the new year. As such, we are negotiating to restart health fairs.

Pension Plan

Under the Pension Plan, increases in the rate of benefit and maximum benefit accruals took effect January 1 and July 1 of last year (2023).

Additionally, the Plan was amended to permit retirees who satisfy certain criteria to return to work on a temporary basis without a suspension of monthly pension benefits. The

Union has to confirm that no qualified candidates on the Union's out-of-work list could otherwise have performed the work.

The Trustees will continue to monitor the markets and their impact on the financial condition of the Pension Fund for continued improvements to the benefit structure.

Profit Sharing

Modifications were made to the Profit Sharing program with the goal of reducing investment fees and diversifying the investment lineup.

Winter classes begin in NJ and NY Training Centers

The 2024 Winter Classes are beginning now and will run from Jan. 8 to March 15. This year there will be a total of 10 instructors at both facilities from January through March.

At the NJ Training Center there will be eight instructors: five for milling, paving, transfer, asphalt roller, loader cleanup and skid steer with milling head; and three instructors for utility class (to include combination backhoe, excavator and equipment maintenance).

At the NY Training Center there will be two instructors: one for GPS dozer, excavator and rover; and one for milling machine.

New Jersey Classes will include: 360 forklift; Bauer/Casagrande; basic crane; basic combo; basic dozer; basic excavator; CDL prep; GPS dozer, excavator, rover; paving classes (including milling machine, paver, asphalt roller and transfer machine); utility class / trench class; and welding class.

New York Classes will include: GPS dozer, excavator, rover; utility class / trench class; miller machine; paver; asphalt roller; and milling machine.

Appointments reinforce ELEC's founding mission

From day one, it's been ELEC825's mission to be involved with the organizations and conversations that drive public opinion, inform public policy, and influence business decisions that lead to a productive economic climate and work for our members. ELEC825 is a member of Chambers of Commerce and Business Organizations throughout the New Jersey and New York and as 2023 ended, members of the team were named to two more leadership positions.

Daniel Ortega was named to the board of

the Orange County Chamber of Commerce. And Gina Sullivan has joined the board of the Southern NJ Development Council. Along with other members of the ELEC825 team on other boards, Dan and Gina will represent the interests of Local 825 and help ensure that New Jersey and our areas of New York continue to be a good place to live and work.

Education and Advocacy

ELEC's educational campaigns also focus on energy policy, intended to shape the discussion

on energy policy around the 100% renewable energy goal. ELEC has become a driving force in social media. Its campaigns focus on Affordable Energy for New Jersey and New York.

Current additional policy initiatives include proposals on: NJ's New flood zone; Storm water management and building requirements; and Clean Water Projects.



Daniel Ortega

Apprentice Graduates

Keidron Alexander
John Angelli
Byron Armstrong
Keith Best
Donald Bingemann
Jordan Bisconti
Michael Blanchard
Nicholas Blevins
Randall Cravins, Jr
Thomas Creasy
Josue David
Travis Davis
Jody Donley
Sean Flynn
Joseph Ford
Charles Fritz
Andrew Glaser

William Griggs
Anthony Hamlin
Michael Harkins, Jr
Randall Hurst
Desiree LaLuz
Jagger Maggio
Vincent Mansuy
Matthew Marsh
Kevin Marshall
Jesse McClain
Matthew McCurrie
James McMaster III
Daniel Mount
Brendan Murphy
Jason Nestler
Marc Prager
Jeremy Rizziello
Brian Ruggiero
Connor Rumsey



Gina Sullivan

Gregory Sauer
Edward Sloat
Timothy Staley
Ryan Sullivan
Joseph Urbanovich, Jr
Robert Walker, Jr
Sean Wall
David Wallis

STEAM Graduates

Joseph Arciniaco
Christopher Callinan
Richard Callinan
Ronald Camp
Dominic Christiana
Kevin Costa
Tyler Cotton
Nicholas D'Arcangelo

Andrew Decker
John Fassl
Steven Feaser
John Ferreira
Peter Frontauria
James Grace IV
Matthew Kaminski
Lauren Kosonen
Michael Lambrecht
Devin Magnusson
Blain Palmer
Paul Peer
Pablo Pereyra
Ezio Recinelli
Jeremy Soto
Scott Tiver
Eduardo Vargas
Alfonso Vazquez

TRAINING CENTER CALENDAR

www.facebook.com/iuoe825Training

NEW JERSEY TRAINING CENTER

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

CCO

Sat. Jan. 6
Sat. Jan. 13
Sat. Jan. 20
Sat. Jan. 27
Sun. Jan 28

8-Hour HAZMAT

Sat. Jan. 13
Sat. Jan. 27
Sat. Feb. 3
Sat. Feb. 24

Signal Person Class

Sat. Feb. 3

Rigger Class

Sat. Feb. 10

NEW YORK TRAINING CENTER

(845) 673-3154
(All classes start at 7 a.m. unless noted otherwise)

8-Hour HAZMAT Refresher

Sat. Jan. 13
Sat. Jan 27
Sat. Feb. 3
Sat. Feb. 24

Asbestos Refresher
Feb. 10 & 17

Asbestos Handler
Feb. 12, 13, 14 & 15

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.



International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825

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BETTER BUILDING BEGINS HERE

Women's Committee ends year at DC conference

Local 825's Women's Committee was well represented at this year's North America's Building Trades Union's (NABTU's) Conference in December. Its theme was "Tradeswomen Build Nations — Solidarity, Strength, Sisterhood."

It was the largest turnout ever, with 3,800

tradeswomen attending. "This shows how far women have come in the construction industry," said Tammy Good, who leads Local 825's Women's Committee. "Unionism is not an 'I or me,' it is a brother and sisterhood that is about all of us together as one."

Local 825 sent Heather Coles, Jessica Sandberg, Alli Strosenruether, Savanna Skelly and Tammy Good. Kelly Raeuber also attended because of her membership in Tradeswomen Building Bridges.

This year's guest speakers included: Sean McGarvey president of NABTU; Liz Shuler, president of AFL-CIO; and Nancy Pelosi, former Speaker of the US House of Representatives.

Tammy Good was chosen by IUOE International Women's Committee along with a sister from Local 49 to represent all of IUOE Locals from North America and Canada to meet with



Left to right: Alli Strosenruether, Heather Coles, Savanna Skelly, Tammy Good, Jessica Sandberg and Kelly Raeuber.



Women's banner parade for solidarity

Pelosi. Two representatives from each affiliated unions also attended.

The IUOE sisters all had the opportunity to meet with IUOE General President James Callahan.