

825. NEWS



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

VOL. 14 ISSUE 3

3rd Cornhole Tournament draws fans of all ages

Devotees fill the Jamesburg Elks Hall for fun in February



The third annual Local 825 Cornhole Tournament drew game devotees from all over central New Jersey in February. Fans of all ages participated and many more watched from the sidelines. Cornhole continues to grow in popularity. According to the American Cornhole League,

the number of players has grown from just a few thousand in the early 2000s to over a million today. This growth has been accompanied by the rise of local and regional cornhole leagues and activities like ours. See more photos on pages 4 and 5.

EVENTS CALENDAR

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

March

6 - District 1 Meeting

The Forum
109 N. Black Horse Pike, Blackwood, NJ

8 - District 2 Meeting

Hilton Garden Inn
50 Raritan Center Parkway, Edison, NJ

11 - 12TH Annual IUOE Local 825 Golf Outing

Gambler Ridge Golf Course
121 Burlington Path Road, Cream Ridge, NJ

12 - Mothers Day

13 - District 3 Meeting

Lake Hopatcong Elks #782
201 Howard Blvd., Mt. Arlington, NJ

15 - District 4 Meeting

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

18 - Armed Forces Day

22 - Health Fair, District 3

3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Local 825 Union Hall
65 Springfield Ave., Springfield NJ.

27 - Memorial Day - UNION HOLIDAY

June

3 - District 1 Meeting

Elks Lodge 1875
600 Washington St., Toms River, NJ

5 - District 2 Meeting

Embassy Suites
250 Connell Dr., Berkeley Heights, NJ

10 - District 3 Meeting

Russian Hall
464 Outwater Lane, Garfield, NJ

12 - District 4 Meeting

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

14 - Flag Day

16 - Fathers Day

17 - Semiannual Meeting

Prudential Center, 25 Lafayette St., Newark, NJ

19 - Juneteenth

20 - Health Fair, District 2

3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Local 825 Training Center
338 Deans Rhode Hall Rd., Dayton, NJ.

20 - Summer begins

23 - IUOE 825 Annual Clay Shoot

Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays
2750 Limestone Street, Coplay, PA

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Greg Lalevee, Business Manager



TTF: Déjà vu all over again

The 2016 Transportation Trust Fund agreement expired this year and has been replaced with a version that we opposed. That version, led mostly by the Democrats, called for a nearly 2-cent-a-gallon gas tax increase each year for five years. It also decreased the percentage of funds used for road and bridge construction and diverted them to NJ Transit.

We favored an alternative bill co-authored by Senator Latham Tiver and Senate Republican Leader Anthony M. Bucco. It would not have raised the gas tax. Nor would it have diverted funds to NJTransit. In fact, it would have called for an audit of NJTransit. Despite the Bucco-Tiver alternative, the Democrats passed their bill on a party-line vote and sent it for Gov. Phil Murphy's signature.

Fond Farewells

In this Spring issue of 825News, we recognize Chris Medich - our Funds Administrator for 26 years and our faithful employee for 44 years - for her loyal and dedicated service. For more than a generation many of you have come to rely on Chris for help understanding and making the most of your benefits. May 1, the date of this publication, is the first day of Chris' retirement. We wish her all the best.

See more information on how the torch will be passed in the Funds Office - story on page 3.

In addition to Chris's retirement, we also give our best wishes to John Reardon Jr., who is stepping down from our Executive Board. John served as a Trustee since 2020. A 38-year member of our Local, John is the grandson of Eugene Mark Reardon, who served as our president throughout the 1950s.

Health Fairs Return

After a four year hiatus initiated by the 2020 pandemic, we are bringing back the popular Health Fairs beginning this month. The 2024 health fairs will include new features, such as blood pressure screenings, biometrics and some lab services. These will make their way throughout our four Districts between May and October. See more detail on page 6.

Thanks to all our members who donated blood at our recent blood drives. Your contributions help people in need and may save lives.

Our 11th annual golf outing takes place on May 11. We hope to see many of you there, as we always have an awesome day while raising money for our children's and grandchildren's education.

Enjoy the weather and take time to enjoy your families this summer.

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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Debra Botulinski
(908) 608-2013

Chris Medich passes torch to experienced team

Members who have looked to the Local 825 Funds office for help with their accounts or healthcare or investments over the years have come to rely on the able assistance of Funds Administrator Christine Medich.

After 44 years at the helm of this vital office, Christine retires on May 1.

Christine joined the Local 825 Funds office as a secretary to the Funds Administrator in 1979. While working, she attended county college and then went on to Rutgers University, where she obtained her four-year degree in Business Administration, graduating in 1985.

Her steady hand and quiet competence led to a promotion to the Pensions Department where she became head of the retirement plans. However, that move was short-lived. Within a year after that she was named Funds Administrator, a position she served in for 26 years.

What's next

After her long and successful career, Christine plans to spend the near term getting acclimated to retired life: getting a better night's sleep;

being able to enjoy the outdoors on nice days; reactivating that YMCA membership that ended during the pandemic.

"We all have come to rely on her steady hand over the years," said Business Manager Greg Lalevee. "We are grateful to her for her years of service and wish her a very happy retirement."



Christine Medich, Funds Administrator

"The journey as your administrator has been great, and I have learned so much along the way," Chris said in her note to fellow workers. "I am thankful for the relationships developed and the goals we have accomplished together, as we worked daily to ensure the best for our members, their families and our employees."

Capable hands

Chris's last day on the job was April 30. Sherry Viso has been promoted to the position of Fund Administrator and Rachel Grodsky has been promoted to Assistant Fund Administrator/Director of Health & Welfare Services.

"I am confident that the Funds will continue to grow and thrive in the years to come," Chris said. "We're leaving everyone in capable hands."

Tiver goes to bat for TTF

It didn't take New Jersey's newest state senator long to speak out against a Transportation Trust Fund proposal to raise the gas tax and divert money from road repair to NJ Transit.

Sen. Latham Tiver, working together with Senate Republican Leader Anthony M. Bucco, introduced a counter proposal to the Democrat TTF bill announced in March. That bill would raise the gas tax each year for five years and reduce the percentage of money going to roads and bridges and turn it over to NJTransit.

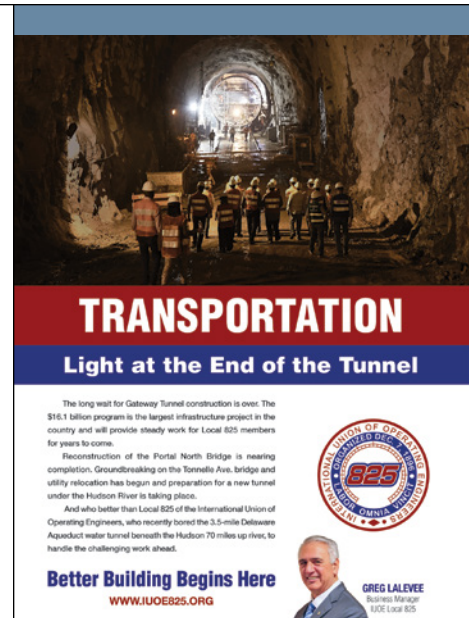
The Bucco-Tiver proposal would not raise the gas tax, would initiate an audit of NJ Transit and would not allow electric vehicle drivers to

escape paying into road repair.

"Is it fair that New Jersey drivers pay more at the pump ... while giving more money to NJ Transit and letting EV drivers get a free ride?" asked Tiver.

Tiver backed up his proposal citing a poll conducted in March by his campaign. It showed that while 62% of New Jersey voters oppose a gas tax increase, opposition grows to 72% when they learn that revenues will be used to fund NJTransit instead of road repairs.

Despite his efforts, the Democrats' original bill was passed and sent to Gov. Murphy to sign into law.



TRANSPORTATION



Light at the End of the Tunnel

The long wait for Gateway Tunnel construction is over. The \$16.1 billion program is the largest infrastructure project in the country and will provide steady work for Local 825 members for years to come.

Reconstruction of the Port of New York and New Jersey's Tappan Zee Bridge is nearing completion. Groundbreaking on the Tappan Zee Bridge and utility relocation has begun and preparation for a new tunnel under the Hudson River is taking place.

And who better than Local 825 of the International Union of Operating Engineers, who recently bored the 3.5-mile Delaware Aqueduct water tunnel beneath the Hudson 70 miles up river, to handle the challenging work ahead.

Better Building Begins Here
WWW.IUOE825.ORG



GREG LALEVEE
Business Manager
IUOE Local 825

Local 825 ad highlights members' expertise

The largest infrastructure construction program in the nation – the \$16 Billion Gateway Tunnel Project, – serves as a backdrop for our latest ad, showcasing the unique skills of our members.

The project kicked off with a groundbreaking ceremony last year, will eventually bring us to the banks of the Hudson River, where we will participate in digging the new tunnel to the New York border, beneath the Hudson River.

The ad's headline: Transportation: Light at the End of the Tunnel refers to the long wait between the tunnel's first groundbreaking in 2009 and the recent groundbreaking, which actually got the project moving. The ad also cites Local 825's recent experience in digging a 2.5-mile bypass tunnel 700 feet beneath the Hudson River to repair a section of the 85-mile long Delaware Aqueduct Water Tunnel. That project was the largest repair job ever undertaken in the more than 175-year history of the New York City water supply system.

3RD Cornhole tourney provides a fun afternoon for everyone

Nearly 100 members and friends of Local 825 took part in the third annual Cornhole Tournament in February at the Jamesburg Elks Hall in Jamesburg.

Business Manager Greg Lavee was on hand and thanked event organizers Kevin Young, Mark Davis and John Paul Fischbach. The event attracted cornhole fans of all ages,

from youngsters on up. Even those who didn't trust their pitching arm and just wanted to watch the fun were able to relax with friends and share a drink.

Will there be a fourth annual event next year? Many members have already requested it. Odds are pretty good from the looks of it! Thanks to all who came out and had fun.





Member Assistance Program logs milestones

The Member Assistance Program (MAP) has been quietly growing and providing support in several areas.

With its 2nd anniversary of Sober Sunday meetings, members appreciate having a source of sharing and support. The meetings are open to anyone.

The "Tag your machine" campaign continues to grow, with MAP decals showing up on heavy equipment on worksites across the state. The decals are a quiet but steady reminder of MAP's existence, that it offers "Support, Guidance, Help and Advice." It shows an email address – MAP@iuoe825.org and a phone number – 973-671-6753 – making it easy for someone to reach out for that first contact. Use the email or phone number to request a decal for your machine.

Help and understanding is available to anyone. All it takes is that first contact and these decals and periodic reminders are intended to encourage that first contact.

Toxic Sites Get Funding

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced \$33 million in funding for three Superfund cleanup sites in New Jersey:
- The Matlack, Inc. site in Woolwich;
- The Raritan Bay Slag site in Old Bridge and Sayreville; and
- The Roebling Steel Company site in Florence

The bulk of the funding — roughly \$30 million — is going to the Matlack site, which was used for decades to clean trucks and tankers carrying hazardous substances. The Raritan Bay Slag site will get roughly \$1 million to help clean lead waste slag in the mile-long waterfront of Raritan Bay. And about \$2 million will go to the old Roebling Steel Company site along the Delaware River, which was once home to heavy steel manufacturing.



Local 825 MAP
Sober Sunday Virtual Meeting
Sunday - 8am

Zoom
ID: 822 5160 8337
Password: 625319

Everyone Welcome

TRAINING CENTER CALENDAR

www.facebook.com/iuoe825Training

NEW JERSEY TRAINING CENTER

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

8-HOUR HAZMAT

Saturday May 18
Saturday June 22

40 HOUR

Mon. thru Fri. May 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

OSHA 10

Saturday June 8
Saturday June 15

OSHA 30

April 30 through May 3

SIGNAL PERSON

Saturday May 4

RIGGER

Saturday May 11

ASBESTOS AWARENESS

Saturday June 1

NEW YORK TRAINING CENTER

(845) 673-3154

(Classes are scheduled on request and start at 7 a.m. unless otherwise noted.)

Please contact the New York Training Center to put your name on the list for a class or certification you need. Once we have enough names for a class, members will be notified.

Local 825 members donate 'gift of life'

More than 100 Local 825 members responded to the call for blood at the first two blood drives of 2024.

The blood drives were conducted at the NJ and NY Training Centers in Dayton by Vitalant, one of the nation's largest nonprofit blood and biotherapies healthcare organizations, providing hospitals and patients across the country with a safe blood supply.

According to Training Director Willie Vaccaro, 36 units of blood were collected in New Jersey, exceeding the organization's

goal of 25 units; and 53 units were collected in New York.

The blood donated saves the lives of trauma victims, patients with blood disorders, cancer and many other life-threatening injuries and illnesses. Shortages occur throughout the year, especially in this area of the country.

If you missed this opportunity to donate blood, watch for future opportunities to donate through Local 825, or look for a blood drive in your local community.



Members welcome return of health fairs

One of the 2020 victims of the covid-19 pandemic was the Local 825 health fairs.

Prior to that time, health fairs were a regular activity in each district, allowing members and their dependents to have various health screens, blood work and to learn more about their benefits.

Covid-19 restrictions changed all that and it has taken more than three years to resume the popular program.

"We are excited to be able to offer health fairs once again to each of our four districts as part of our Wellness Initiative," said Sherry Viso, Funds Office administrator.

There are some new features to the new health fairs. Local 825 has partnered with Ramp Health, who will perform blood pressure screenings and biometrics. In addition, some lab services will be offered, such as:

- A complete blood count (CBC), used to diagnose and monitor numerous diseases.
- A Comprehensive Metabolic Panel (CMP), which provides information on the body's fluid balance, levels of electrolytes and how well the kidneys and liver are working.
- Cholesterol Levels
- PSA tests for men
- And a Hemoglobin A1C test, which measures average blood sugar levels over the past 3 months.

Many of the Local's Health Partners will be in attendance as well as Fund's staff. Before

each event there will be a mailing to members residing in each district, along with registration information. The dates and locations are as follows:

District 3

Wednesday, May 22

3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Local 825 Union Hall

65 Springfield Ave.,

Springfield, NJ

District 2

Thursday, June 20

3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Local 825 Training Center

338 Deans Rhode Hall Rd

Dayton, NJ

District 4

Thursday, Sept. 12

3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Local 825 Training Center

96 Bates Gates Road

New Hampton, New York

District 1

Wednesday, Oct. 16

3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

DoubleTree Philadelphia/Cherry Hill

2349 Marlton Pike West

Cherry Hill, NJ



YMCA discounts available in New Jersey

Local 825 members and their eligible dependents can now receive a 15 percent discount on monthly memberships at participating New Jersey YMCAs, simply by showing their Horizon member ID cards. Locations are subject to change and restrictions may vary by YMCA locations.

New YMCA members can also get their initiation fee waived. The discount will begin with your Horizon member ID card verification at a participating YMCA. This discount is valid through Dec. 31, 2024.

Key publication names Gibbs '2024 Influencer'

Advocacy – to help create jobs for Local 825 members and its union contractors – was one of the founding purposes of the Engineers Labor-Employer Cooperative (ELEC). That's why it's gratifying that Deputy Director Kate Gibbs has been recognized for just that, a Women In Business 2024 Influencer by ROI-NJ magazine.

Since joining ELEC in 2014, Kate has been aligning ELEC with business and industry trade groups. She also has been responsible for building the organization's brand awareness

communications and outreach to building contractors in New Jersey and New York. Her efforts on both fronts have served Local 825 well.

"Kate is uniquely suited to help ELEC 825 achieve its core objectives," said ELEC Director Mark Longo. "With her background in politics, public affairs and organizational management, she has established a strong record of shaping policy, building coalitions and implementing successful plans, which include political advocacy, government relations and communications in pursuit of organizational goals."



Women represent Local 825

Local 825 women attended the 18th Annual Women In Leadership Development (Wild) Conference in March.

Liz Shuler, AFL-CIO president, was the keynote speaker.

The members met with Shuler, along with other labor leaders, such as Charles Wowkanech, President of the NJ AFL-CIO and Secretary-Treasurer Laurel Brennan. Members attended workshops focusing on "Labor's Role in Democracy" and "Women's Workplace Wellness."

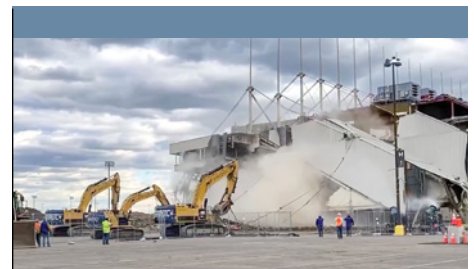
It was a great conference overall meeting women from all types of unions throughout New Jersey and spending time with our IUOE Local 825 Sisters.

The WILD Conference is designed to ensure

that union women have every opportunity to be educated, develop leadership skills and build diversity within the labor movement. Attendees at the annual WILD Conference meet and talk with national and state union leaders, organizers, educators, and authors – all of whom detail the challenges they face as well as their strategies for organizing and advocating for workers.

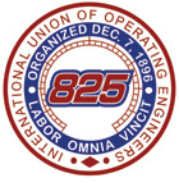


LEFT TO RIGHT: Emily Furrigoueson, Kelly Raeuber, Christine Carman, Liz Shuler, Alli Stroessenreuther, Desiree Laluz, Capri Rispoli, Ivette Ellis



Local 825 gets an assist in World Cup

Local 825 Operating Engineers can share in New Jersey's success in securing the 2026 World Cup finals at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford. A requirement for consideration was the demolition of the old Meadowlands Racetrack grandstand. And this weekend, the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) announced that the World Cup final will be held at MetLife Stadium in 2026. Thanks to brother Rich Decker and the NJSEA for providing this photo.



International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825

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BETTER BUILDING BEGINS HERE

Route 22 work stalls before completion

Route 22 traffic still slows down as it passes Echo Lake Park in Mountain-side. That's because the \$9 million federally funded project to replace the culvert under the Route 22 stalled out when an adjacent property owner declined to authorize access to his property.

Part of the box culvert that goes beneath the eastbound lanes of the bridge have been replaced. One section still remains to be finished under the westbound lane. The original bridge was opened to traffic nearly 100 years ago, in 1929.

According to Lead Engineer Anthony Paglia, the state halted work until an agreement can be worked out. The project was being done in stages in order to maintain all travel lanes throughout the project. The completion date was originally expected in the fall of 2024. It is not yet clear whether that date is still feasible.



1. Traffic must negotiate the zigzag lanes until the project is complete.

2. The box culvert has been replaced under the eastbound lane; the westbound side still needs to be completed.