

# 825. NEWS



6



7



View From The Top.....	P 2
Events Calendar.....	P 2
Golf Outing .....	P 4 & 5
Training Calendar.....	P 6
Funds Office Changes .....	P 8

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

VOL. 14 ISSUE 4

## Scholarship dinner honors recipients and families

Ten deserving students awarded \$10,000 each over four years



Ten families were honored at the annual scholarship awards dinner in June at the East Brunswick Hilton. Also on hand were representatives of Rutgers University, who independently review the applications and essays and determine the winners. The dinner and awards conclude a year-long process that includes fundraising events that are supported by members, friends and business

associates of Local 825. Pictured above are (front row, left to right): Reese Hagg, Nicole Alves, Gianna Shembari, Gianna Stipelkovich, Brielle Dixon and Helen Urias. (Middle row): Nicholas Franco, Sebastian Barrera, Tyler McDevitt and Edward Shinn. (Back row): Bob Davis, John Wood, Greg Lalevee, Willie Vaccaro, Joe Logan and John Rocco. Read more about each winner on page 3.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

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

### July

**4 – Independence Day – UNION HOLIDAY**

**21 – Sixth Annual Local 825 Fishing Trip**

7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Miss Belmar

905 NJ RT 35, Belmar, NJ

**28 – Local 825 Family Picnic**

Black Bear Lake, Millstone NJ.

Tickets and info for both events are on available online. Go to Eventbrite.com and in the Search bar, enter Local 825.

### August

**NO EVENTS**

## VIEW FROM THE TOP

*Greg Lavee, Business Manager*



## Apprentices graduate HCCC

It's gratifying when we work on a project and see it through to completion. That's true with countless construction jobs we've worked on. For me, it's equally gratifying to see a special project bear fruit that many of us have worked on over the past several years. That is the graduation of our first class of Local 825 apprentices who have successfully earned their Associates Degrees from Hudson County Community College. (See more on page 6).

This was the culmination of a project that started as a thought: How can we as Operating Engineers continue to evolve and remain vital in the construction industry as technology changes around us? We've seen other points in our history when changes in technology disrupted the status quo. Steam engines were replaced by hydraulics. In recent years, GPS and robotic systems have required us to learn more about the technology behind those systems. The emergence of Artificial Intelligence will continue to make changes in our lives that right now we probably can't imagine.

To remain vital in our industry, it is clear that we need to continue to learn new things and keep pace with changes. These changes

present opportunities, if we are willing to pursue them. This is why we embarked on a path to accredit our Training Center as a Technical College and to collaborate with Hudson County Community College to provide credits for apprentice training and provide relevant courses to broaden our knowledge base.

This graduation gives us great satisfaction and makes us proud. It is only the first class of many more to come.

### Summer Activities

With the July 4th Weekend upon us, we're looking forward to a great summer with special events in the weeks ahead. Having just completed our annual Clay Shoot in June, we're setting our sights on our annual fishing trip on July 21 and a return to Black Bear Lake on July 28 for another family picnic. Tickets are easy to obtain for both events. Go to Eventbrite.com, type 'Local 825' in the Search field and then scroll to our events.

I want to congratulate brother Cesar Gamio on his upcoming retirement and thank him for his years of dedicated service. I also want to welcome John Alvarado as our newest organizer.

Happy Independence Day!

## 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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# Scholarship winners and families honored at awards dinner

Throughout the years, Local 825 members and friends participate in a wide range of events that raise funds. Some of this support helps to fund the Local 825 scholarship fund, which in turn, helps fellow members bear the high cost of higher education for their children and grandchildren. Each year, the scholarship fund awards \$100,000 in scholarships, \$10,000 to each of ten winners. Many students apply for a chance to win these scholarships. Their applications and essays are submitted to an independent panel of judges from Rutgers University, who evaluate and select the winners. We are proud to announce their choices for this year's winning applicants:

**Reese Hagg** of Piscataway, the daughter of **Jason Hagg**, has been awarded an academic scholarship. A graduate of Piscataway High School, she will attend Kean University.

**Nicholas Franco** of Mahwah is the grandson of **Joseph Benardella II** and a graduate of Mahwah High School. An academic scholarship winner, Nick plans to attend the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA.

**Sebastian Barrera** of Ridgefield Park, the son of **Enio Barrera**, has been awarded an academic scholarship. A graduate of Bergen County Technical High School, he will attend Rutgers University.

**Gianna Rose Stipelkovich** of North Haledon, the daughter of **Joseph J. Stipelkovich**, has been awarded an academic scholarship. A graduate of Passaic County Technical Institution she will attend Ramapo College.

**Nicole Alves** of Monroe Township is the daughter of **Jose Alves**. She graduated from Monroe Township High School and plans to attend Sacred Heart University in the fall, where she will study nursing.

**Tyler McDevitt** of South Dennis is the son of **Harold McDevitt III** and the winner of an academic scholarship. A graduate of Middle Township High School he will attend the College of New Jersey to study civil engineering.

**Helen Uras** of Rahway, the daughter of **Osmin Urias**, has been awarded an academic scholarship. A graduate of Rahway High School, she will attend William Paterson College.

**Gianna Schembari** of Montgomery NJ and the granddaughter of **Joseph Bernardella** is this year's winner of the Service Scholarship. A graduate of Montgomery High School she will attend Sacred Heart University.

**Brielle Dixon** of Millville, the granddaughter of **William Paul Ewan, Jr.**, is this year's Appreciation of Unionism scholarship winner. A graduate of Millville Senior High School she plans to attend SUNY Cobleskill.

**Edward H. Shinn VI** of Whitehouse Station, the son of **Edward Shinn V**, is this year's Athlete Scholarship winner. A graduate of Hunterdon Central Regional High School he will attend Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY, where he will study Business.

Local 825 executive board members and the Rutgers University judges honored and congratulated each winner and their families on June 4 with a dinner at the Hilton Hotel in East Brunswick.

## EVENTS TO COME

- **Annual Fishing Trip July 21.** Boat leaves at 7 a.m. sharp from the Belmar Manutti Marina.
- **Family Picnic July 28** at Black Bear Lake, 457 Stagecoach Rd., Millstone Township NJ. Noon to 5 p.m. Tickets are: Adult \$100; Children from age 4 through 17, \$50. Children under 4 are free. For tickets, go to Eventbrite.com and search 'Local 825'. If you still have questions, contact Andrea Rossi at 973-671-6917.



Reese Hagg



Nicholas Franco



Sebastian Barrera



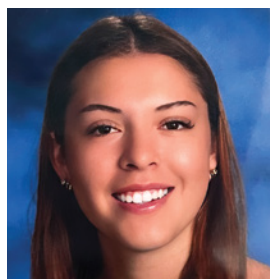
Gianna Rose Stipelkovich



Nicole Alves



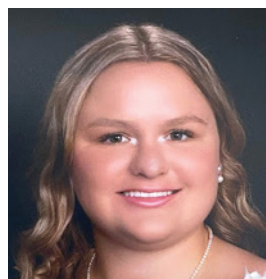
Tyler McDevitt



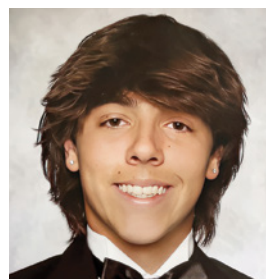
Helen Uras



Gianna Schembari



Brielle Dixon



Edward H. Shinn



# 11TH Golf outing tees off under blue skies

## Members, friends and business associates enjoy a full day of golf, food and fun

**T**he 11th annual Local 825 Golf Outing drew a full house and lots of friends and sponsors. A beautiful day of blue skies and puffy clouds magically appeared in between two rainy days, providing perfect conditions for golf and fun.

The golf outing sells out every year and this was no exception to the rule. The shotgun start

sent golf carts to all corners of Gambler Ridge Golf Course and foursomes took their positions on every tee.

Business Manager Greg Lavee met participants at the registration table, where everyone signed in and was assigned to a golf cart and their starting point. Event organizer John Wood thanked all the volunteers who helped plan the event and worked to make it the most popular and successful event.

The real winners of course were the Local 825 scholarship winners, the latest round of whom were selected and who appear on page 3 of this issue of 825.NEWS.









# 22 apprentices first to earn associates degrees

## Graduation is the culmination of an idea, the fulfillment of a dream

**A**n idea announced by Business Manager Greg Lalevee at the 2017 semiannual meeting came to fruition nearly eight years later as 22 Local 825 apprentices became the first apprentice group to earn their Associates degrees from Hudson County Community College.

"We congratulate these first Local 825 graduates," said Greg. "Their dedication and persistence – pursuing academic study simultaneously with working as apprentices – provides inspiration to those who will come after them."

The 22 graduates include: Christopher Colado, Derek Craddock, Joshua Creech, Alfirio Delgado-Rios, Eric DiDomenico, Kelvin Duran-Jimenez, Joseph Elhin, Tyler Fleetwood, Samantha LaMorgese, Richard Marvin, Myron McConnell, Jaye Meeker, Jonathan Meyer, Richard Recupero, Capri Rispoli, Dominic Serpineto, Brian Shaughnessy, Em Sneary, Jeremy Stevens, Nicolas Waterhouse, Cole Whitney and Monique Young.

The grads still have two years left of their apprenticeship but they now have an Associate's degree as well.

On hand to congratulate the graduates at Red Bull Arena in Harrison, in addition to Greg, were Training Director Willie Vaccaro, Shana Grace, Chris Szpila and Jenn Thomann.

Greg's 2017 announcement of his plan to convert the Training Center into a technical college was the easy part. A lengthy application process followed. Along with the development of a curriculum and the a novel Earn and Learn program with Hudson County Community College, the program took months and years before the first classes began.

Evolving technology changes in the industry were the driving force behind the move. Greg compared these changes to watershed moments in the past, such as when steam engines were replaced by hydraulics and many other changes that have taken place through the years.

"We survived as a union because our predecessors had foresight and adapted to changing circumstances," he said. "We owe it to the next generation to do the same for them. Advance thinking and preparation will position Local 825 to remain strong for years to come."



*Graduation day at Red Bull Arena.*

## 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

Saturday, July 27  
Saturday, August 17

#### 40-HOUR

Mon. thru Fri. August 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

#### OSHA-30

Saturday, August 3, 10, 17, 24

#### CCO

Saturday, July 13  
Saturday, July 20  
Saturday, July 27  
Saturday, July 28

#### OSHA 10

Saturday, July 13  
Saturday, July 20

#### SIGNAL PERSON

Saturday, August 3

#### RIGGER

Saturday, August 10

### 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 'Earn & Learn' graduates at the Dayton Training Center.*

# Members take advantage of Health Fairs return

**M**embers embraced the return of the Health Fair in May at the union hall in Springfield. Popular in the past, the health fairs were a casualty of the covid-19 pandemic. Bringing them back was a priority.

The new-and-improved health fairs were appreciated by the members who lined up early to enter. They especially appreciated the new features, such as: blood pressure screenings, biometrics and lab services that included a CBC (complete blood count); a CMP (to check the body's fluid balance; cholesterol levels; PSA tests for men; and a Hemoglobin A1C test to measure average blood sugar levels.

Testing was provided by Ramp Health. Many of the Local's other health partners were in attendance, as well as Fund's staff.

According to Funds Administrator Sherry Viso, there are two health fairs remaining for 2024.

The dates and locations are:

- District 4: 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 12 at the New York Local 825 Training Center, 96 Bates Gates Road, New Hampton, New York; and
- District 1: 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 16 at the DoubleTree Philadelphia/Cherry Hill, 2349 Marlton Pike, West Cherry Hill, NJ.



## 100 members mark their special milestones

Local 825 honors 100 members who are observing a milestone anniversary this year. Among them, our longest-serving members are Richard J. Kelly and George C. Brock Sr., both of whom mark 70 years as members of Local 825.

Congratulations to all our members.

### 50 Year

Lawrence P. Pinto  
Arthur C. Ward, Sr  
Michael J. Gonnello  
John M. Bednar  
Frank Burg, Jr.  
William R. Byrnes  
John Callazzo, Jr.  
Michael A. Carr  
Robert Melnyk  
James W. Norris III  
Samuel Schlindwein  
Allen R. Seiss  
William J. Smallwood  
Richard J. Smith  
David J. Agar

Larry J. McMillen  
John T. Smith  
Daniel F. Tocco  
James J. Winters  
Owen M. Ahearn  
Edward Bussian  
John R. Cerana  
Kenneth F. Pizzuto  
Steve C. Lesko  
James Speno  
William Almasi  
Nelson L. Johnson  
Walter Johnson  
James Ward  
Eddie Wright  
John Archie

Richard Delaney  
Kenneth T. Hood  
Frank D. Grigal, Jr  
Lawrence J. Hartman  
Robert T. Winzinger  
William D. Farr  
Roger D. Bensen  
Robert S. Wallace  
John W. Moore  
Charles W. Reiser  
Alan R. Stroud  
Sam Vassalo  
Girard W. Zichelli  
Blaise Castaldo  
Floyd Makuen III  
Larry D. DeMark

### 55 Year

Daniel Lyons Jr.  
John Oliva  
Robert A. Pearson  
Rodney Piper  
Pasquale Perticari  
Adam Bednarczyk  
Robert Kozan  
Robert Shwartz  
Jonathan Harrington  
Robert Kelly  
Roger Mooney  
James Mulvan  
Robert Nassaney  
J. R. Polgar  
Robert Tufaro  
Jerome Wigmore  
Edward Wisniewski  
Charles Belsole  
Richard Buchanan  
Michael R. Miles  
Larry Randolph

Barry Goldsmith  
Lester Preston  
Daniel Contillo, Jr.  
Jack S. Engle  
Gary Kapitko  
Frank Pongratz  
David Davenport  
Richard Hissim  
Bernard Hover, Jr.  
Anthony Gannelli  
John J. Wilson  
Sidney Quick  
Frederick McAnlis  
Donald C. Moore

### 60 Year

James Abel  
Edward D. Kerr  
Kenneth Guzzo  
Andrew H. Weatherby  
Robert A. Solano Sr.  
Kevin J. Dugan

John Hammond  
Paul S. Jennings  
Ralph Fantini  
Anthony Gorman  
Michael Liburdi

### 65 Year

John Kubicka Jr.  
Robert McSweeney  
Robert D. Potts  
Steven Bojczak  
John Ryan

### 70 Year

Richard J. Kelly  
George C. Brock, Sr.





## International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825

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## BETTER BUILDING BEGINS HERE

# Sherry Viso, Rachel Grodsky step up

**W**ith the retirement of Chris Medich at the end of April, a new era began in the Funds Office under the direction of Sherry Viso and Assistant Funds Administrator Rachel Grodsky.

Sherry and Rachel have a combined 60-plus years of experience working in the Funds Office. Sherry joined the office in July 1988 and Rachel joined in 1998.

"We are fortunate to have a strong bench to draw from," said Greg. "Sherry and Rachel know the ropes and they are dedicated to taking care of our members and their families. The transition will be very smooth."

Although it may represent a new era, don't look for radical changes to take place. "Our intention is to maintain the office flow that our members have become accustomed to," said Sherry. "I'm looking forward to continuing to provide service while furthering my understanding and knowledge of the organization from this new position."

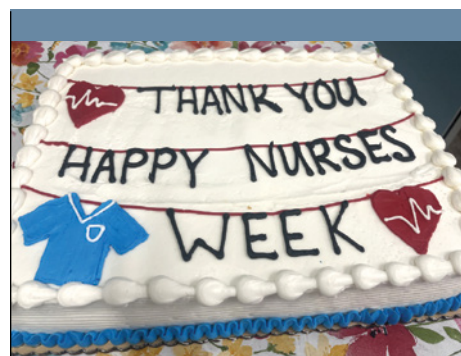
Sherry also said that their efforts will include "bringing back the normal," referencing restoring the health fairs to regular scheduling after they were discontinued during the covid pandemic.



**Sherry Viso**



**Rachel Grodsky**



## Let Them Eat Cake

*Thank you to all the nurses out there both in and outside of the Funds Office. National Nurses Week was celebrated by all during the first week in May.*