

825. NEWS



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

VOL. 14 ISSUE 5

Picnic draws 'kids' of all ages to Black Bear Park

Hundreds gather at Black Bear Lake Day Camp for 825 picnic



Business Manager Greg Lalevee greets guests at Black Bear Lake Day Camp for a fun-filled family picnic on July 28. The weather was mostly sunny, providing ideal conditions for swimming, boating and a range of activities. Event organizer Chris Lalevee

was pleased with the turnout. It was a great day to be at Black Bear Lake. The event took place a week to the day after the Local 825 fishing trip, which was also a big success. See more photos and info on the fishing trip and family picnic, page 5.

EVENTS CALENDAR

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

September

2 – Labor Day – UNION HOLIDAY

3 – District 1 Meeting

The Forum

109 North Black Horse Pike, Blackwood

4 – District 2 Meeting

Holiday Inn, 160 Frontage Road, Newark

8 – Grandparent's Day

12 – Health Fair, District 4

NY Training Center, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

96 Bates Gates Road, New Hampton, NY

16 – District 3 Meeting

Lake Hopatcong Elks #782

201 Howard Blvd., Mt. Arlington

17 – District 1 Retiree Luncheon

210 Delsea Dr. S., Glassboro

18 – District 4 Retiree Brunch

NY Training Center

96 Bates Gates Road, New Hampton, NY

18 – District 4 Meeting

NY Training Center

96 Bates Gates Road, New Hampton, NY

19 – District 2 & 3 Retirees Brunch

Union Hall

65 Springfield Avenue, 3rd Floor, Springfield

22 – Autumn Begins

22 – 11th Annual IUOE Local 825

Motorcycle Poker Run

27 – PAC meeting (Virtual)

OCTOBER

2 – Rosh Hashanah

7 – District 1 Meeting

Hammonton Fire Company Station 2

51 North White Horse Pike, Hammonton

9 – District 2 Meeting

Holiday Inn, 2870 Hwy. 35, Hazlet

14 – District 3 Meeting

Sheraton Parsippany Hotel

199 Smith Road, Parsippany

14 – Columbus Day

14 – Yom Kippur

16 – Health Fair, District 1

Cherry Hill DoubleTree Hotel, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.,

2349 Marlton Pike W, Cherry Hill

16 – District 4 Meeting

NY Training Center

96 Bates Gates Road, New Hampton, NY

31 – Halloween

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Greg Lalevee, Business Manager



More than a regular holiday

As summer draws to a close we look forward to the Labor Day weekend. In addition to celebrating the holiday with family and friends, take a moment to reflect on what the Labor movement has meant to all of us.

Over the years, beginning with the late 1800s, many labor advocates died fighting for rights we now take for granted. These include the eight-hour work day, safer working conditions, health benefits, pensions and more. We stand on the shoulders of those who went before us and we should never forget that. As we reap the benefits of a better life, it is incumbent on us to continue to stand for rights that will remain in place for future generations to come. Remain vigilant. Stay united and strong. And then, enjoy the holiday with those you love.

Politics in motion

Labor Day is also the time that the political tempo picks up and moves faster until we reach Election Day in November. Following the transition from President Biden to Vice President Kamala Harris, this political season has been different.

With the changes and the stakes involved we should all be prepared for just about anything. The political season could be disruptive.

There will be no shortage of attack ads and wild claims on both sides, as each side tries to outmaneuver the other.

As you prepare to go into the voting booth, think long and hard about what is in your best interest. The Biden administration passed the infrastructure investment act and has been favorable to labor. The NLRB approach to workers and workers' rights have been more receptive to our interests than under the Trump administration. We expect a Harris administration would have a similar outlook.

Remember what really matters when it's time to go into the voting booth and don't be baited into emotional attacks or appeals.

Poker Run

Our annual favorite Poker Run is ready to ride again on Sept. 22, starting from the NJ Training Center. This is always a fun event and we get to see the variety of bikes our members ride. We look forward to seeing all of our biker friends there.

Finally, if you're at the Jersey Shore this Labor Day Weekend, don't forget to look to the skies for our annual Local 825 banner plane greeting, which covers the entire New Jersey shoreline from Cape May to the Highlands.

Contact Information

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Bordentown, NJ 08505
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Fax 856-470-1485

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New Hampton, NY 10958
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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
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ELEC Office

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(973) 630-1013 FAX

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Debra Botulinski
(908) 608-2013

Semiannual meeting scores big turnout in Pru Center

For the first time, Local 825's semiannual meeting took place in the home of the New Jersey Devils and major events. Prudential Center hosted an estimated 500 members to hear the latest updates on our funds and other key activities.

Steady Growth and Strong Financial Health

Business Manager Greg Lavee delivered promising news, highlighting the continued growth of Local 825 funds and membership. Greg also welcomed the return of health fairs, underscoring the ongoing commitment to member well-being.

A New Era

The Local 825 Training Center has officially been renamed the Local 825 Training Center and Technical College. This reflects a commitment to providing comprehensive and advanced training for all members.

The center is preparing a Labor History class for all apprentices. Understanding the struggles and triumphs of our forefathers is crucial for new members to appreciate the history and values of our union. Additionally, the center will implement formal survey classes for all current and future apprentices. These classes will enhance the technical skills of members, ensuring they are well-prepared for the demands of the industry.

In an effort to stay ahead of the evolving energy sector, the center is planning to become a certified training provider for the Global Wind



Organization's offshore wind worker credentials. The goal is to achieve this certification by June 2025. Offshore wind developers are increasingly seeking workers with specific certifications and detailed work experience. The local is committed to meeting these industry needs and ensuring that members are at the forefront of this growing field.

Recognizing Dedication and Welcoming New Talent

Acknowledging the contributions of former Funds Administrator Chris Medich, Greg

Lavee introduced Sherry Viso as the new Funds Administrator.

He also took a moment to recognize Cesar Gamio on his retirement. Cesar began his journey with the union staff as an organizer in May 2001. Over the years, he has served as a business agent in the shops and most recently as an outside construction agent in Bergen and Passaic counties. This spring, John Alvarado joined Local 825's team of organizers. John hit the ground running and will help his team continue its growth and success.

Gov. Kathy Hochul tours NY Training Center

Business Greg Lavee and Local 825 members hosted NY Gov. Kathy Hochul for a tour of Local 825's training center in New Hampton.

The governor saw first-hand the work that members do to enhance labor skills, support local employment and improve the state's infrastructure. She was given a demonstration of the virtual reality simulator and other train-

ing tools, ultimately landing at the controls of a Local 825 excavator.

"Governor Hochul has an unrivaled record when it comes to supporting operating engineer jobs and major infrastructure projects across New York," said Greg. "From the clean energy Champlain Hudson Power Express project, to the new Buffalo Stadium, the Gateway Tunnel, Route 17 and all of the upgrades in between, she consistently has been a friend to labor."



6th fishing trip a reel success

On a sunny morning in late July, members set sail on the 6th annual fishing trip aboard the Miss Belmar Princess. Business Manager Greg Lavee and President John Wood greeted members at the dock, setting the tone for a fantastic day.

With all 90 spots sold out, the event was a “reel” success, according to event organizer Joe Graham. The weather was beautiful and the fishing was even better. A special highlight for the youngsters on board was receiving their very own fishing poles to take home, courtesy of the event sponsors.

There was plenty of fish to take home for an annual fish dinner.

Thanks to everyone who joined in and made the event a success.



Families take over Black Bear Lake Day Camp

Local 825 members and their families returned to Black Bear Lake in late July for the first picnic in two years. The event had something for everyone, with activities that included fishing, swimming, boating, basketball, volleyball and cornhole. There was even a magician, sketch artist, playgrounds and climbing walls. Business Manager Greg Lavee greeted guests and was happy with the turnout. Event organizer Chris Lavee was also pleased with the turnout and grateful for the mostly sunny skies that kept temperatures hot enough to swim but not too hot for comfort.



First responders run rescue drills

Matt Walker suits up and accepts the challenge

The Local 825 NJ Training Center hosted members of NJ Task Force One and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) units in June. The rescuers took part in mock rescue drills in preparation for actual crises that may someday arise. The groups are part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

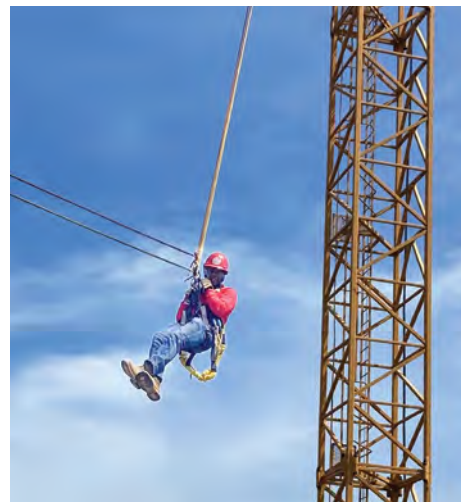
The men are volunteers from towns and cities around the state. The exercises used a dummy weighing about 120 pounds.

"There could come a time when we need to

call on these men to rescue a sick or injured operator," said Willie Vaccaro, training director. "Rescues could also be needed on cell towers and other high buildings."

Local 825's training instructor Matt Walker accepted the challenge to suit up and rappel off the tower crane.

Business Manager Greg Lavee praised the group for its courage and dedication. He recalled a garage collapse several years ago and the devastation wrought by Hurricane Sandy where Task Force One was called into action. "That's the thing about crises," he said. "You can't always predict when an emergency will arise or when these rescuers will be needed, so it is important to prepare in advance."



Training Center achievements and support

The Local 825 Training Center and Technical College logged an impressive 542 students for a total of 62,582 hours of training from January through June. This remarkable achievement highlights the commitment to providing top-quality education and training to members.

During the winter session, the center accommodated 400 students, requiring additional equipment to ensure comprehensive training. Essential equipment was provided by several signatory contractors, which included:

- Crisdel

- Della Pello
- Riverview Paving
- Stavola
- Tam Enterprises
- Vollers
- HO Penn
- JESCO
- Wirtgen Group

The Local 825 Training Center remains committed to excellence in training and education, ensuring our members are well-equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in their careers.



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

Sat., Oct. 19

FIRE WATCH/TEMP HEAT

Sat., Oct. 15

CRANE STANDARDS & LOAD CHART REVIEW

Sat., Oct. 5

Sat., Oct. 12

Sat., Oct. 19

Sat., Oct. 26 - TEST DAY

Sun., Oct. 27 - TEST DAY

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.

ELEC Team Members Earn Recognition

The ELEC Team is gaining recognition for its advocacy:

- **Kate Gibbs** has been named one of the most influential women in New Jersey by ROI-NJ.
- **Daniel Ortega** has been acknowledged by City & State Magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in Albany.
- **Gina Sullivan** has been appointed to the Board of the Southern New Jersey Development Council.
- **Mike Makarski** has been recognized by ROI-NJ as an Energy Policy influencer.

This recognition highlights the exceptional efforts on the parts of the ELEC team and the im-



Kate Gibbs



Daniel Ortega



Gina Sullivan



Mike Makarski

pact they are having on behalf of our members.

"We are proud to see their dedication and hard work being recognized at such high levels.

Congratulations to Daniel, Kate, Mike, and Gina for their outstanding achievements," said ELEC Director Mark Longo.

ELEC stays in pursuit of its goals

Our Labor Management Fund Team continues its work to bring more work opportunities to members. Their mission remains the same and includes:

- Maintaining a presence in the business community. We belong to more than 30 chambers of commerce and business partnerships.
- Administering the credential reimbursement program
- Administering the market recovery program
- Administering the drug testing program
- Advocating for legislation that benefits the union construction industry in both New Jersey and New York; and
- Advocating for construction projects in both states

Credentialing

During the first half of 2024 ELEC has provided credential relief to members totaling nearly \$83,640 on 486 credentials. Since the start of 2023, ELEC has reimbursed 845 credentials for \$150,054. Since the inception of the credential reimbursement program, reimbursements to members total nearly \$1,600,000.

Currently there are 13 credentials reimbursed through ELEC. Two new credential reimbursements were added at the May Trustee meeting. Both have to do with mine safety.



Members have been going into quarries – which are considered mines – and need this credentialing. Why?

- Cranes go into the quarries to assist with maintenance or erect plants
- Contractors have sent crushers to quarries to crush stone, and
- Some of the quarries have started prep work for the next phase of their use. This could be

housing, retail development or a mix of the two, but the site is still considered a mine.

Market Recovery

The Market Recovery Program continues to thrive. ELEC helps union contractors pursue and win projects over non-union competition. More than \$38 million in grants have been paid to date, generating thousands of labor hours.



International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825

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BETTER BUILDING BEGINS HERE

Annual clay shoot was a blast

Despite high temperatures, friends and members of Local 825 enjoyed the annual Clay Shoot at Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays in Coplay, PA. Event organizer, John Rocco, announced that the shootout was sold out, reaffirming its status as one of Local 825's most popular events.

Upon arrival, members and guests regis-

tered, picked up their ammo, mingled with friends, loaded their carts, and prepared for action. With earplugs in place, participants headed to their designated stations for two hours of "ready, aim, fire!" After the shooting concluded, everyone returned to the main area for lunch, door prizes, and awards. Members, families, and friends had a blast.

