

825. NEWS



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

VOL. 14 ISSUE 6

Riders hit the road for 12th Annual Poker Run

Clouds gave way to a beautiful day for a joy ride



Local 825 completed an active events season at the start of fall with the 12th Annual Poker Run. The event brought together a variety of rides and riders: Harleys, slingshots, classic

cars, and more. Members, friends and families enjoyed blue skies as they rolled into the Old Moose Hall in Old Bridge for a fun afternoon BBQ. More info and 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.

November

3 – Daylight Savings Ends – Turn clocks back one hour

4 – District 1 Meeting

Elks Lodge 1875
600 Washington Street, Toms River

5 – Election Day

6 – District 2 Meeting

Hilton Garden Inn
304 Route 22 West, Springfield

11 – Veterans Day – UNION HOLIDAY

12 – District 3 Meeting

Russian Hall
464 Outwater Lane, Garfield

13 – District 4 Meeting

NY Training Center
96 Bates Gates Road, New Hampton

28 – Thanksgiving – UNION HOLIDAY

December

2 – District 1 Meeting

DoubleTree Suites by Hilton
515 Fellowship Road, Mt. Laurel

4 – District 2 Meeting

Hilton Garden Inn
50 Raritan Center Parkway, Edison

9 – District 3 Meeting

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

10 – Christmas Party

Hilton East Brunswick
3 Tower Center Boulevard, E. Brunswick

11 – District 4 Meeting

NY Training Center
96 Bates Gates Road, New Hampton

21 – Winter Begins

24 – Christmas Eve

25 – Christmas – UNION HOLIDAY

26 – Kwanzaa

26 – Hanukkah begins

31 – New Year's Eve

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Greg Lavee, Business Manager



Your vote matters more than ever

Each election we hear that, “this is the most important election ever.”

It's tempting to use strong language when stakes are high. And this year, the stakes are very high. So we will say, Vote because your future will be impacted by the election's outcome.

Our international has endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris. From enforcing labor laws and securing back wages as Attorney General of California, to championing labor rights and the PRO Act as Vice President, Harris has always stood with labor. Her decisive votes on the Inflation Reduction Act and the National Labor Relations Board protected fair wages, apprenticeships and workers' rights.

Vice President Harris and her running mate, Governor Tim Walz, are committed to building America's future. Their future promises to be one that benefits Operating Engineers and guarantees fair pay, job security and opportunities for all. We had more to say about this during our online PAC meeting in late September. You can read more about that on page 7.

While you're at it, check out our political endorsements and note the ones that cover your state, county and local races.

Poker Run concludes events

Our events season this year has been a big

success and we've been lucky to have no rain outs! The Poker Run was our last major event of the season and riders enjoyed blue skies. See all the photos on pages 4 and 5.

Semiannual Meeting will be a fun affair

This January's semiannual meeting on Jan. 13 comes with special features you won't want to miss. Before the meeting there will be a health fair, featuring screenings and services to support your well-being. After the meeting, enjoy the usual fare in addition to tables from the apparel store, Carhartt store and our Women's Committee.

Holiday Greetings

As we head into the holiday season, we invite you all to attend our annual holiday party on Dec. 10. As in past years, it will be held at the East Brunswick Hilton. With that, I want to wish all of you, and your family members, a very happy Thanksgiving and holiday season. May the spirit of Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and the New Year bring you peace, joy, and cherished moments with your loved ones. Stay safe, enjoy the holidays and make your voice heard at the polls!

Contact Information

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(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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(908) 608-2013

ROI names Lalevee top union leader

The influential state business magazine ROI-NJ selected Business Manager Greg Lalevee as this year's top union leader. The publication cited Greg for his leadership and strategic advocacy. Over the years, Greg has positioned Local 825 as a critical player in advancing key infrastructure projects, building strong relationships across the industry and preparing members for a changing world.

His efforts have helped ensure that Local 825 remains a leading force in the construction sector. Reflecting on the recognition, Greg said, "What we do for our members is what drives us. Every day, we work to secure their future and the future of the communities they help build."

This latest recognition highlights Greg's dedication to ensuring that Local 825 members are well-represented and empowered.



Tradeswomen build nations

Several members of the Local 825 Women's Committee represented the local at this year's 2024 *Tradeswomen Build Nations* Conference held September 27-29 in New Orleans.

The members were able to choose and attend workshops on various topics, such as Building a Sisterhood, Project and Labor Agreements, The Power of Pensions, ULLICO (for The Union Labor Life Insurance Company), Women & Leadership, Worksite Safety Resources and more.

President Joe Biden was called in to speak. Biden told the group, "Under my administration, the number of women in apprenticeships has increased by nearly 50 percent ... and the reason why people are hiring us, want us, is because you're the best-trained workers in the world."

NJ Conference

Some of the Local 825 women members also attended the NJ Conference for Women (NJCFW) in October, which brought together 700 women to network with peers and benefit from professional development information.

"These conferences offer an important opportunity for us to bridge our interests and relationships with members of other New Jersey trade organizations," said Women's Committee head, Tammy Goode.

More Than Pink

As in past years, many members represented Local 825 at October's Susan G. Komen *More Than Pink* Walk at Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson.



IN THE TRADES banner parade, (front row, left to right): Marianne Pontano, Bernadette Baldwin, Desiree LaLuz

Major infrastructure projects solidify employment

Several ongoing major infrastructure projects are providing a bedrock of employment for our members. Some of them are:

The North Portal Bridge, begun in 2022, is now half done, with completion expected in 2027.

The first track on the new bridge will be operational in March 2026. The second track will be operational in February 2027, with the project completed in 2027. The original Portal Bridge is scheduled to be demolished in July 2028.

Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) project is employing roughly 250 operating engineers (which includes members of other IUOE locals). CHPE is a high-voltage transmission line that will bring hydropower from Quebec to New York City. Members are doing directional drilling and manning boating activities on the river. The \$6 billion project expected to last through the spring of 2026.

Gateway Tunnel. The first tunnel segment has been bid and work is scheduled to start as early as the end of this year.

Sandy Hook Bay. Members are currently working in the middle of Sandy Hook Bay placing protective boulders over pipelines.

Members ride into fall at 12th Poker Run

Local 825 kicked off the fall season with the 12th Annual Poker Run. The event brought together a variety of rides and riders: Harleys, slingshots, classic cars, a vintage 1958 Harley Davidson Duo Glide and a 1969 Cadillac convertible. Members and friends of all ages joined in, with friends, couples, and families riding together.

Bikers met at the Training Center. They registered and left Dayton for the open road early in the morning. They made four stops along the route, picking a poker card at every location. They rolled into the Old Moose Lodge in Old Bridge, where they picked their final card and awaited the outcome while having drinks, cheeseburgers, chicken, and salads.

Thanks to everyone who joined us and made the ride another big success. We look forward to seeing everyone back on the road next year!





Training center sparks interest in electric equipment

Members and apprentices are getting charged up about some of the most cutting-edge technology in the industry: fully electric heavy equipment.

Members have been putting Volvo's electric excavators and loaders to the test, learning firsthand what this new machinery has to offer. The goal is simple: evaluate these machines for their capabilities, understand their advantages and weigh the challenges they present on the job.

The pros are clear, EVs are a game-changer when it comes to working in enclosed spaces where emissions from traditional diesel-powered equipment would pose a hazard. Picture this: if a sewer line needs repair and it runs beneath a commercial building, these electric machines can dig it out cleanly from the inside, without fumes and complications from combustion engines.

But like any new technology, it's not with-

out its trade-offs. The lack of air conditioning is something our members have quickly noticed, especially after the summer's heat. And while electric loaders have shown great potential, driving them for any meaningful distance can drain their batteries quickly. Additionally, they can't run for an eight-hour workday. "It's all part of the learning curve as we discover the true limits and advantages of these machines," says Willie Vaccaro, training director.



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., Nov. 16

Sat., Dec. 7

SIGNAL PERSON

Sat., Nov. 9

TEMP HEAT

Sat., Nov. 2

Sat., Dec. 7

OSHA 10

Sat., Dec. 14

Sat., Dec. 21

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.

Aiming to foster better health

After four years, local 825 members are taking advantage of the return of district health fairs.

The pandemic had put these important events on hold but thanks to the hard work of the Local and Funds Office, the health fairs returned with a host of new features. These include blood pressure screenings and biometric testing to help keep our members healthy. In addition, comprehensive lab services are offered, including blood tests like the CBC to monitor diseases, CMP for kidney and liver health, cholesterol checks, PSA tests for men, and Hemoglobin A1C tests for tracking blood sugar over time.

The most recent health fair was held at the New York Training Center in September, see photos. We're pleased to resume these valuable services to our members and their families.



Apparel Store opens for two-week periods

Local 825 is proud to announce the reopening of the online apparel store, giving members another chance to purchase union-branded gear. The store will be open periodically for two weeks only, so when it does, don't miss the opportunity to grab some high-quality clothing and accessories that showcase your Local 825 pride.

Members will be notified of these openings through blast text messages and emails. You can opt out of these notifications – but why would you? – We encourage everyone to stay in the loop for all Local updates.

Members tune into PAC meeting, approve endorsements

Business Manager Greg Lavee convened the annual meeting of the Political Action Committee via Zoom online.

Greg reminded members to vote their interests over their emotions on Nov. 5. He described the thought processes and evaluations that led up to recommendations for endorsements.

"The most important thing we can do is get out and vote on Election Day," Greg said. "Elec-

tions are consequential to our members and who we send to make policies in federal, state, county and local government affects our work, wages and working conditions."

Endorsements were not made in every race, they are decided on the basis of each candidate's position on our issues, rather than on political affiliation.

We urge all of our members and their families to vote on Election Day.



2024 Local 825 endorsements

President: Kamala Harris/Tim Walz

US Senate (NJ): Andy Kim

US Senate (NY): Kristin Gillibrand

US Congress (NJ):

District 1: No Endorsement

District 2: Jeff Van Drew (R)*

District 3: Herb Conaway (D)

District 4: Chris Smith (R)

District 5: Josh Gottheimer (D)*

District 6: Frank Pallone (D)*

District 7: Tom Kean, Jr (R)*

District 8: Rob Menendez (D)*

District 9: Nellie Pou (D)

District 10: Lamonica MacIver (D)

District 11: No Endorsement

District 12: Bonnie Watson Coleman (D)

US Congress (NY):

District 17: Mike Lawler (R)*

District 18: Pat Ryan (D)*

District 19: Marc Molinaro (R)*

* - Incumbent

County/Municipal Elections (NJ):

District 1 - South Jersey:

Atlantic:

Commissioner Michael Ruffu- R

Commissioner (D-2) Maureen Kern-R

Commissioner (D-5) Jim Bertino - R

Cape May:

Commissioner Leonard C. Desiderio- R

Gloucester:

Commissioner Don Heverly (D)

Ocean:

Commissioner : Robert Arace- R

Commissioner Jennifer Bacchione- R

Municipal Races:

Mansfield Council

Marcial Mojena - R

Brian Sisz - R

Hainesport Council

Andy Dick - R

Absecon Council Ward 1

Nick LaRotonda - R

Franklin Twp Committee

Mario Christina (D)

Monroe Twp Council

Carolann Fox (D)

Linda "Wagner" Desantis (D)

Brian Cope (D)

Al Rossi (D)

District 2 - Central Jersey:

County Races

Essex:

Register Juan M. Rivera Jr. - D

Sheriff Amir Jones - D

Middlesex:

Commissioner Ronald Rios - D

Commissioner Shanti Narra - D

Monmouth:

Commissioner Sue Kiley - R

Somerset:

Shanel Robinson - D

Municipal Races

Carteret Council

Dennis DiMascio - D

Ajmar Johal - D

East Brunswick Mayor

Brad Cohen - D

Elizabeth Mayor

Chris Bollwage - D

Perth Amboy Mayor

Helmin Caba - D

Piscataway Mayor

Brian C. Wahler - D

Sayreville Council

Stanley Synarski - R

Christina Sitaca - R

District 3 - North Jersey

County Races

Bergen Commissioner

Tracy Zur - D

Steve Tonnelli - D

Bergen Sheriff

Anthony Cureton - D

Hudson Surrogate

Tilo Rivas - D

Hunterdon Commissioner

Jeff Kuhl - R

Susan J. Soloway - R

Morris Commissioner

Deborah Smith - R

John Krickus - R

Stephen Shaw - R

Passaic Commissioner

Nick Gallo - R

Sussex Commissioner

Chris Carney - R

Alan Henderson - R

Warren Commissioner

James Kern III - R

District 4 - New York

State Legislative Races

Assembly 96 - Rockland

Patrick Carroll D

Assembly 97 - Rockland

John McGowan - R

Assembly 98 - Orange

Karl Brabenec - R

Assembly 99 - Orange

Chris Eachus - D

Assembly 101 - Orange

Brian Maher - R

Assembly 102 - Ulster

Chris Tague - R

Assembly 103 - Ulster

Sarahana Shrestha - D

Assembly 104 - Orange

Jonathan Jacobson - D

Assembly 121- Delaware

Joe Angelino - R

Senate 38 - Rockland

Bill Webber - R

Senate 39 - Orange/Dutchess

Rob Rollison - R

Senate 41 Ulster

Michelle Hinchey - D

Senate 42 Orange

James Skoufis - D

Senate 51 Sullivan/Delaware

Peter Oberacker - R

Municipal Elections:

Kingston Ward 7 Alderman

Bryant (Drew) Andrews - D



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BETTER BUILDING BEGINS HERE

Dedication over decades

This fall Local 825 honored its retirees with brunches hosted across all four districts.

Friends and families gathered to honor the members who have built Local 825 into the strong union it is today. Among the honorees were retirees who received plaques recognizing 50 years of service and beyond.

Congratulations to all our retirees. Their legacy lives on in the next generation of Operating Engineers. Thanks for your service. We wish you all the best in your well-earned retirement.

