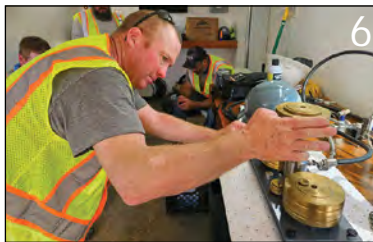


825. NEWS



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

VOL. 15 ISSUE 1

Members celebrate spirit of holidays by giving

The annual Christmas Party brings holiday cheer to local families



A contingent of US Marines were on for the Local 825 Christmas Party in December to take custody of the mountain of toys and gifts piled high by the members who arrived to attend the annual holiday party. Once again this year, the toys made the holiday

season brighter for many families throughout our area, thanks to the generosity of our members. And that was just the beginning ... the annual party was just getting started inside the ballroom ... for more photos of the event, see pages 4 and 5.

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

13 - Semiannual Meeting

Hilton East Brunswick
3 Tower Center Boulevard, East Brunswick

20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February

2 - Groundhog Day

3 - District 1 Meeting

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

5 - District 2 Meeting

Hilton Garden Inn
304 Route 22 West, Springfield

11 - District 3 Meeting

Parsippany PAL
33 Baldwin Road, Parsippany

12 - District 4 Meeting

NY Training Center
96 Bates Gates Road, New Hampton

14 - Valentine's Day

15 - Corn Hole Tournament

Jamesburg Elks Club, 74 W Railroad Avenue,
Jamesburg

17 - President's Day - UNION HOLIDAY

19 - Blood Bank

NJ Training Center
338 Deans Rhode Hall Road, Dayton

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Greg Lavee, Business Manager



Reflecting on 2024 and Looking Ahead to 2025

As we close the books on 2024, we can all agree it was an excellent year for Local 825. We had virtually full employment, a steady flow of successful projects and even more on the horizon. Our first cohort of apprentices graduated with their associates degrees from Hudson Valley Community College. Our work and members were highlighted in the television program "Our Infrastructure Matters" on News12+. Whether it was through new training initiatives, successful projects, or our unwavering commitment to labor rights, Local 825 continued to stand tall.

As we step into 2025, we do so with cautious optimism. Significant projects like the Gateway Tunnel, Route 17 expansion and Sawtooth Bridge replacement promise more opportunities for operating engineers. While we remain hopeful these plans will proceed as scheduled, we also know the importance of staying vigilant. With President Trump taking office and shifts in state leadership, changing policies could impact our work and union.

Mark Your Calendars

Our plans for 2025 kick off early in the year with events to bring us together:

- **Winter classes begin January 6 (schedule on page 6)**

• Semiannual Meeting and Health Fair

On January 13, join us at the East Brunswick Hilton for our semiannual meeting. Arrive early to take advantage of the Health Fair, which will include vital screenings and services. The Local 825 Apparel Store will also have a table, and we're working to confirm additional participants. Stay tuned for final details!

• 4th Annual Cornhole Tournament

February 15 will bring a fun and competitive day as we host our 4th Annual Cornhole Tournament. This event has quickly become a favorite among members, and we're looking forward to seeing you there.

Moving Forward Together

Kudos to Tammy Good and Local 825's Women's Committee for adding instructive programs to their meetings. See page 8 for more information.

As always, we are here to support you, both on and off the job site. Stay connected through our meetings, events, and communications to remain informed about all that's happening within our Local.

Here's to a strong start to the new year! Stay safe, stay engaged, and as always, take pride in being Local 825.

Contact Information

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NY Training Center

Wawayanda location
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Infrastructure projects move forward in NJ, NY

Progress continues on Rt. 17 expansion in New York and the Portal North Bridge in New Jersey.

In New York, the state Department of Transportation has issued bids for significant road and bridge improvements at Exit 122 of Route 17 in Wallkill, Orange County.



The project is a new phase of state road and bridge improvements at Exit 122 (Crystal Run Road).

However, NYSDOT officials have characterized the project as the first job to be undertaken

in connection with the planned \$1billion expansion of Route 17 that is currently in the environmental review process. According to its website, NYSDOT has estimated the Exit 122 project at \$85 million.

In New Jersey, the first of three massive arched spans was set into place on the new Portal North Bridge in December.

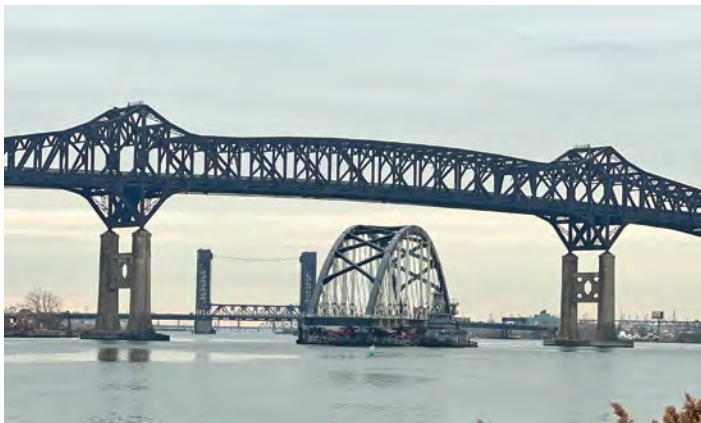
The spans are approximately 400 feet long, 85 feet tall, and about 55 feet wide, according to project manager Dan Payea with Skanska Group.

Two additional 2,500-ton spans were also scheduled to be floated down the Hackensack

River on barges to support the new bridge, a critical segment of the Gateway Tunnel Project designed to upgrade train service along the Northeast Corridor.

The new bridge is fixed and will not need to open. "You'll be able to go over [it] at 90 miles an hour straight through into the new tunnels," said Kevin Corbett, president and CEO of New Jersey Transit.

The first train to cross the completed Portal North bridge is expected to do so in 2026. NJ Gov. Phil Murphy says he has already invited President-elect Donald Trump to cut the ribbon.



The first of three arched span is floated down the Hackensack River to the construction site. Photo Credit: NJTRANSIT



The arch is lowered into position and will be joined with two more arches. Photo Credit: NJTRANSIT

Six Flags to retire outdated coasters

Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson Township has announced the closure of two iconic roller coasters, Kingda Ka and Green Lantern.

Known as the world's tallest and fastest coaster, Kingda Ka has been a staple since 2005, delivering more than 12 million rides. In addition to these closures, other attractions like The Twister, Parachutes and The Sky Way will also be removed for future development.

For Local 825 operators, this will mean a critical role in dismantling these iconic rides. As the park makes way for new attractions, including the Flash: Vertical Velocity in 2025 and a record-breaking launch coaster in 2026, Local 825 members hope to be involved in the safe and efficient removal of the old structures.



Holiday Cheer

Local 825 members and their families came together to celebrate the season at our annual Christmas Party. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow members and reflect on the year's achievements.

In the spirit of giving, members brought a generous collection of toys for the Toys for Tots campaign. These contributions helped spread holiday cheer to children in need, making this season even brighter for many families. The toys were turned over to members of the U.S. Marine Corps, who transported the bounty to the Marine base in Red Bank.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and made the event so memorable.





New Developments at NJ Training Center

Preparing for Pipeline Work

Exciting improvements are under way at the New Jersey Training Center as we gear up to expand training opportunities for pipeline work. Our training center staff is hard at work creating a hydrostatic pipe testing trailer. This trailer will allow members to learn how to test the pressure and integrity of transmittal pipelines, ensuring they are ready for future pipeline projects.

The new equipment will support testing methods for both new and existing pipes, en-



suring joints and connections are secure. Members will be trained on a range of techniques, from traditional dead weights to computerized testing systems. "As we step into this new presidency, there is potential for increased pipeline work on the horizon. We are taking steps to ensure our members are fully prepared" said Willie Vaccaro, training center director.

To make this possible, trainers Glynn Dubil, Bucky Rocco, Terrence O'Brien, Jared McCafrey, and Pete Steele Jr. traveled to Crosby, TX,



to learn everything needed to teach Local 825 members these advanced skills. This investment in training reflects the commitment to keeping Local 825 at the forefront of the industry, ready to meet the demands of evolving technology and opportunities.

Upgrading Facilities

The scale house and double-wide trailer from the Dallenbach Sand purchase will be replaced with a new double-wide that matches the design of the existing training center. This upgrade will not only enhance the look of the facility but also provide additional space to better serve our membership.



Winter Classes Begin January 6

Winter classes at the Local 825 Training Center kick off on January 6, offering members the chance to build skills and stay ahead in the industry. The new year marks a fresh start for advancing training and maintaining readiness for the work ahead.

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 REFRESHER

Sat., Jan 11
Sat., Jan 25
Sat., Feb 1
Sat., Feb 22

CRANE STANDARDS & LOAD CHART REVIEW

Sat., Jan 4
Sat., Jan 11
Sat., Jan 18
Sat., Jan 25 - Test
Sun., Jan 26 - Test
Sat., Feb 1

OSHA 10 (Must attend both days)

Sat., Jan 4 and Sat., Jan 18

SIGNAL PERSON CLASS / RIGGER CLASS

Sat., Feb 1
Sat., Feb 8

CPR

Sat., Feb 8

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.



News 12+ features “Our Infrastructure Matters”

ELEC825 launched *Our Infrastructure Matters*, a monthly television program airing on News 12 New Jersey. The program explores vital infrastructure topics and spotlights the work of Local 825 members and signatory contractors on some of the most critical projects in the region.

The first episode featured a history of the union, an interview with Business Manager Greg Lavee and a deep dive into the Gateway Project. Future episodes covered topics such as the energy grid, road funding and storm resilience. Seg-

ments were also shared on ELEC825 and Local 825 social media channels, where members and friends shared them widely.

Our Infrastructure Matters is aimed to build public understanding and support for infrastructure investment, emphasizing the vital role Local 825 members play in keeping New Jersey moving. Roads, bridges, tunnels, pipelines, and power grids don't just happen—they need skilled hands to build and maintain them.

“The feature not only reinforces the im-

portance of the union's work but also helps to raise public awareness of the critical issues facing the construction industry today” said Mark Longo, ELEC director. “We're excited for the opportunity to share the work members are doing, both in the field and behind the scenes.”



Pension improvement approved for retirees

Local 825 Trustees have approved a pension improvement, marking the fourth year out of six this has been achieved. This is part of an ongoing effort to ensure financial security for members entering retirement.

The improvement provides a 13th check for all members who have retired by July 1, 2024. This special bonus will be issued this month. This recent adjustment also includes a bump in pension credits for time worked back to 2004, further strengthening benefits for retired members.

These continued improvements reflect a commitment to the long-term well-being of those who have dedicated their careers to Local 825.





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BETTER BUILDING BEGINS HERE

NJ gas tax increase takes effect

The NJ gas tax rate was increased 2.6 cents per gallon on Jan. 1.

This change is part of legislation passed last year that requires the replenishment of the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) for five years. This law (which Local 825 did not sup-

port, preferring an alternative proposed by our State Sen. Latham Tiver) calls for an annual tax increase over the next five years to provide nearly \$11 billion to support critical state infrastructure improvements to roads and bridges.



Women's Committee offers valuable topics

The Women's Committee closed out the year with an engaging quarterly meeting featuring guest speaker Marilyn Grabowski, owner of Atlantic Infra and leader of the North Jersey chapter of Women of Asphalt. Marilyn shared her experiences and insights from the field, providing valuable knowledge to everyone in attendance.

Even members with limited asphalt experience found the discussion positive and inspiring. The Committee is looking forward to hosting the New Jersey Women of Asphalt at the Training Center this February, for what promises to be another meaningful event.

As we wrap up the year, the Women's Committee extends warm holiday wishes to all our Brothers, Sisters and their families. Wishing everyone a healthy and happy holiday season!