

# 825. NEWS



View From The Top.....	p. 2
Events Calendar.....	p. 2
Planning and Projects .....	p. 4 & 5
Training Calendar.....	p. 6
Cornhole .....	p. 8

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

VOL. 15 ISSUE 3

## Building for tomorrow with Local 825 leading the way Critical infrastructure upgrades are under way in NJ & NY



Local 825 Operating Engineers are driving progress across New Jersey and New York, working on the region's most critical infrastructure projects. From widening the New Jersey Turnpike to replacing aging rail bridges and building the long-awaited Gateway Tunnel, our members are keeping highways and rail

lines running smoothly. These upgrades will reduce congestion, improve reliability, and create thousands of union jobs. With major projects in planning, construction, and nearing completion, Local 825 is laying the foundation for a stronger, more connected future. Read more 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.

Note, all district meetings begin at 7 p.m. unless noted otherwise.

### May

#### 5 - District 1 Meeting

The Forum  
109 N Black Horse Pike, Blackwood

#### 7 - District 2 Meeting

Hilton Garden Inn  
50 Raritan Center Parkway, Edison

#### 10 - 13th Annual IUOE Local 825 Golf Outing

Gambler Ridge  
121 Burlington Path Road, Cream Ridge

#### 11 - Mother's Day

#### 13 - District 3 Meeting

Parsippany PAL  
33 Baldwin Road, Parsippany

#### 14 - District 4 Meeting

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

#### 15 - Health Fair

65 Springfield Avenue, 3rd Floor, Springfield  
3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

#### 17 - Armed Forces Day

#### 26 - Memorial Day - UNION HOLIDAY

### June

#### 14 - Flag Day

#### 15 - Father's Day

#### 16 - Semiannual Meeting

Hilton East Brunswick  
3 Tower Center Blvd., East Brunswick

#### 19 - Health Fair

NJ Training Center  
338 Deans Rhode Hall Rd., Dayton  
3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

#### 19 - Juneteenth

#### 20 - Summer Begins

#### 22 - IUOE 825 Annual Clay Shoot

Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays  
2750 Limestone Street, Coplay, PA

## VIEW FROM THE TOP

Greg Lavee, Business Manager



## Digging Into Summer

Local 825 continues to build on a strong foundation. Major projects are under way, work hours remain steady, and member engagement is high. From the Gateway Tunnel to regional highway upgrades, Operating Engineers remain at the center of New Jersey and New York's growth.

This spring, we also marked an important milestone for two longtime members of the Local 825 family. **Marie Baliatico** and **Jim Chiurazzi** retired at the end of April after years of dedicated service to the union. Their commitments have made a lasting impact on our membership and our office. We thank them both and wish them all the best in this next chapter.

### A strong work outlook for Local 825

The work picture remains bright but in an uncertain world, nothing is guaranteed. Thanks to continued investments in infrastructure, Local 825 members have a strong year ahead. In New Jersey, nearly \$1.64 billion has been allocated to support critical projects. Across the river, New York will receive \$2.15 billion to modernize aging roadways and strengthen transportation. Projects like the Gateway Tunnel, and the Portal North Bridge provide steady work for Operating Engineers. These aren't just infrastructure improvements—they represent real jobs for our members. Read more about current and upcoming projects on page 4.

### Policies keep operating engineers working

Infrastructure funding is only part of the equation. Keeping jobs strong means supporting policies that prioritize investment in roads, bridges, tunnels, and energy projects—projects that put Operating Engineers to work.

Elected leaders make decisions that impact the future of our industry. Without the right policies in place, funding could shift, opportunities could shrink and jobs could be at risk. That's why it's critical to support candidates who protect labor.

### On the Horizon

There's no shortage of opportunities for Local 825 members to stay involved in the months ahead. Mark your calendars for these events:

- May 10: The 13th annual Golf Outing will bring members together for a great day on the course.
- May 15: The Springfield Health Fair will provide health screenings, benefits information, and wellness resources.
- June 16: The Semi-Annual Meeting at the East Brunswick Hilton will offer updates on upcoming projects and union priorities.
- June 19: Another Health Fair will be held at the NJ Training Center.
- June 22: The Annual Clay Shoot will close out the month with a member-favorite event.

Stay engaged, show up, and make the most of what's ahead.

## 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

#### Union Plus®

(Offered through Wells Fargo Home Mortgage)  
Debra Botulinski  
(908) 608-2013



# Greg Lalevee named to ROI Power 100

**B**usiness Manager Greg Lalevee has once again been recognized as one of New Jersey's most influential leaders, earning a spot on the ROI Power 100 list. This recognition reflects his leadership in growing Local 825, securing major infrastructure projects and strengthening education opportunities for Operating Engineers.

Under Greg's leadership, Local 825 has expanded to more than 8,000 members, increased its influence in public policy and established strong labor-management partnerships. He launched Engineers Labor-Employer Cooperative (ELEC), ensuring that infrastructure investments translate to steady work. His advocacy has helped move forward critical projects like the Gateway Tunnel, Portal North Bridge and major highway expansions.

Greg has also invested in training and workforce development, leading Local 825 to become a certified technical college and

establishing the first of its kind apprentice-degree program with Hudson County Community College. His forward-thinking approach keeps

Local 825 at the forefront of the industry.

This recognition is well-earned. Congratulations, Greg!



## BENEFITS CORNER

# Take advantage of new health benefits

**M**embers have received a variety of helpful new benefits in 2025. Colon cancer screening is an essential tool for early detection, leading to better outcomes and easier treatments. The Local 825 Welfare Fund has eliminated copays for important services related to screening colonoscopies, including bowel preparation medications, anesthesia services, pre-procedure specialist consultations, and pathology exams on polyp biopsies. Members are encouraged to take advantage of this life-saving benefit.

In addition, the Guardian Nurses Mobile Care Coordinator is now available to help members navigate healthcare decisions. Whether it's scheduling doctor visits, assisting with second opinions or accompanying members to appointments, Guardian Nurses are a resource for personalized, no-cost support.

For everyday medical needs, Revive Telemedicine offers 24/7 access to board-certified doctors via phone or video. This service covers routine care, prescriptions, and



urgent medical concerns—all at no cost to members.

These benefits are designed to keep mem-

bers healthy, informed, and supported—on and off the job. Stay proactive about your health and take advantage of what's available.

# Transforming travel in NJ and NY, 825 keeps the region moving

**F**rom modernizing century-old railways to easing highway congestion, our members are ensuring safe, efficient and resilient transportation for generations to come. Here's a look at five major projects where Local 825 is making an impact.

## Portal North Bridge

The Portal Bridge, one of the busiest crossings on the Northeast Corridor, is being replaced with a new fixed-span, double-track bridge over the Hackensack River. The existing 112-year-old swing bridge is infamous for opening and failing to close properly. The new structure will be higher and will not open for marine traffic, allowing trains to cross at up to 90 mph without delays.

Local 825 members have been on the front lines of this \$1.9 billion project since it broke ground in 2022. As of late 2024, construction is about 75% complete, with the first of three massive arch spans floated into place. Two additional 2,500-ton spans are scheduled for installation, bringing the project closer to completion.

Once finished, the Portal North Bridge will play a critical role in the larger Gateway Pro-



*The eastern side of the Tonnelle Avenue site.*

gram, improving reliability for Amtrak and NJ Transit passengers. The bridge is expected to carry its first trains by 2026, officially retiring the old swing span bridge and eliminating a long-standing bottleneck on the Northeast Corridor.



*Portal North Bridge*

## Gateway Tunnel

One of the most ambitious rail projects in the country, the Gateway Tunnel will create two new tunnels under the Hudson River, doubling train capacity between New Jersey and New York.

This project officially broke ground in 2023. Construction in 2024–25 is focused on enabling works to prepare for tunnel excavation. In New Jersey, a bridge and utility relocation at Tonnelle Avenue is being built, with completion expected in 2025 to clear the way for tunnel boring. On the New York side, a concrete casing is being built near Hudson Yards to preserve the right-of-way for the new tunnels. Local 825 members are already on the ground, completing these early construction tasks, and marking a critical step in delivering modern, high-capacity rail infrastructure for the Northeast Corridor.

## NJ Turnpike Expansion

The New Jersey Turnpike's Hudson County Extension is set for a much-needed overhaul, as the \$10.7 billion project officially moves forward. The New Jersey Turnpike Authority approved the project on March 26, 2025. Permitting, environmental review, and engi-





***NJ Turnpike Expansion***

neering work are now in progress, with construction expected to begin in 2026.

The plan will replace aging viaducts and expand an 8.1-mile stretch of the turnpike (I-78) leading to the Holland Tunnel. It will double capacity over the Newark Bay Bridge and improve traffic flow through one of the most heavily traveled corridors in the state.

The first phase of construction will focus on the stretch between Interchange 14 in Newark and Interchange 14A in Bayonne and Jersey City. This phase includes 16 bridges and nine ramps, and will feature the complete replacement of the Newark Bay Bridge with new twin cable-stayed bridges. Construction is expected to last eight to ten years.

### **Sawtooth Bridges**

The Northeast Corridor's Sawtooth Bridges, located between Newark and Secaucus, are set for replacement in a multi-year effort to double track capacity and boost speeds up to 90 mph. The aging, low-speed rail bridges, originally built in 1907, have long been a choke point for Amtrak and NJ Transit.

The project is in its final design and pre-construction phase, with engineering work under way. An Environmental Assessment was completed in 2020, confirming that the project could move forward with minimal impact. Early enabling work including utility relocations, are in progress. With final design wrapping up, major construction is set to begin in 2026.

### **Raritan River Bridge**

NJ Transit's Raritan River Bridge is undergoing a full replacement to improve storm resilience and reliability as part of NJ Transit's post-Sandy resiliency program.

This project is well under way. New reinforced-concrete piers have been built, and work on the steel lift span and approach tracks is ongoing. Throughout the year, assembly of

the lift towers and machinery will continue, preparing for the next stages of construction.

The existing 116-year-old swing bridge remains in service during construction, carrying trains between Perth Amboy and South Amboy just north of the work site. Once the new bridge is complete, it will provide a safer, more resilient crossing for thousands of daily riders on NJ Transit.



***Raritan River Bridge***



***Digital rendering of the Sawtooth bridge once completed***

# Learning, training, and giving back



## **Apprentices Take Labor History Class**

### **New apprentices gain insights on labor's legacy**

The new cohort of apprentices started their training this spring. As they take their first steps toward careers as Operating Engineers, they are also gaining a deeper understanding of the labor movement that built the foundation for today's workforce.

For the first time, apprentices participated in Labor History classes, a three-session course taught by Rutgers professor Will Brucher and Todd Vachon. "Labor history isn't just a story," says Greg LaVevee. "It's a reminder that every benefit, every contract and every job condition was fought for by those who came before us." This new addition to the apprenticeship program ensures that the next generation of Operating Engineers understands the importance of protecting and advancing the trade.

### **Members give the gift of life**

Local 825 members stepped up to give the gift of life at the latest Blood Drives, hosted at the NJ & NY Training Centers. More than 50 members donated whole blood and power reds.

After donating, members refueled with snacks and refreshments. The Local 825 Apparel Store was also onsite in New Jersey, giving



members the chance to pick up some gear.

A big thank you to all who participated. You help Local 825 to be strong in the field and in the community.

### **Women of Asphalt joins 825 at training center**

Local 825 hosted the Women of Asphalt NJ branch at the Dayton Training Center for a morning of education, hands-on demonstrations and networking. Led by WOA Chairwoman Marilyn Grabowski, the event featured a safety message, 811 awareness, asphalt equipment demos, simulator use and a facility tour.

Female apprentices and operators shared their experiences, highlighting the training

they've received and the work they do in the field. Attendees included both those with boots on the ground and those working behind the desk in the asphalt industry. The morning wrapped up with a Lead & Inspire message from the Women of Asphalt, followed by a networking luncheon.



## **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)

### **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.

### **8-HOUR HAZMAT REFRESHER**

Sat., May 17

Sat., June 28

### **SIGNAL PERSON CLASS**

Sat., May 3

### **CPR**

Sat., May 10

### **RIGGER CLASS**

Sat., May 10

### **OSHA 10 (Must attend BOTH days)**

Sat., June 14

Sat., June 21

### **ASBESTOS AWARENESS**

Sat., June 7th





# AENJ Fights for Affordable, Reliable Energy

**A**ffordable Energy for New Jersey (AENJ) continues to fight for affordable, reliable and resilient energy for residents, businesses and the state's economy. Without affordable and reliable energy, residents feel the financial sting of high utility bills, at-risk seniors and others face stifling heat and crippling cold during extreme weather and businesses choose other states to build and work.

In February, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities approved additional electricity rate increases that will go into effect in June. Many, ourselves included, are pointing to the shuttering of New Jersey power plants, the lack of new natural gas pipelines and the Energy Master Plan's all-in-on-renewable-energy strategy.

We saw this coming when the 2019 Energy Master Plan was released – cutting off reliable sources of energy while energy demands are increasing is not a good formula – and have been beating the drum ever since. Just last year, our social media posts reached over 1.6 million New Jersey voters with over 13 million



ads about the high cost of energy in the Garden State. They are on track to have a similar impact this year. Our relentless effort has helped to make state energy policy a key discussion point in this year's gubernatorial race.

In addition to social media, our weekly email newsletter is read by some of the most important energy policy people in the state. With email newsletters, you're lucky if you get

5% of recipients to open. We are getting 30% and more people to read. And we are regularly cited and quoted in news articles about the Energy Master Plan and energy policy.

The next administration will have a big say in energy policy going forward so we encourage members to stay informed and vote with these issues in mind. Thanks to everyone that follows, likes, and comments on our content.

## Great new adventures begin for operating engineers

**B**ig changes are happening at Six Flags Great Adventure. Kingda Ka, Green Lantern, Twister Top, and the Parachute Ride are all being dismantled as part of the park's latest transformation.

"It's bittersweet," says Latham Tiver, Business Agent for Local 825. "I helped build Kingda Ka 20 years ago. I worked on the grading and the water main. Now, I'm overseeing the demolition. It's a little sad but I'm proud to have been part of it from start to finish."

As one ride comes down, another goes up. The demolition allows space for new attractions, including an all-new, multi-record-breaking signature launch coaster, set to debut in 2026.





## International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825

65 Springfield Avenue, 3rd Floor  
Springfield, NJ 07081  
(973) 671-6900  
(973) 921-2918 FAX

**[www.IUOE825.org](http://www.IUOE825.org)**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
???, NJ  
Permit No. ???



## BETTER BUILDING BEGINS HERE

### Members Face Off at Annual Cornhole Tournament

Members and their families made their way to the Jamesburg Elks Lodge for the annual cornhole tournament, catching up with old friends and meeting new ones while battling it out at the boards. The event was a huge success. Members are already looking forward to it again next year.



### Women of Local 825 Attend WILD Conference



***Left to right: Capri Risipoli, Mariane Pontano, Ivette Ellis, Savanna Skelly Janet Gerhard, Laurel Brennan, Monique Young, Diane Pappa, Allison Strossenruether, Kelly Raueber***

The Local 825 Women's Committee raised \$3,983 for the annual New Jersey More Than Pink walk benefitting the Susan Komen Foundation to aid in the fight against breast cancer.

The walk took place today at Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson, NJ. The annual event raises funds to support breast cancer patients, research and patient

navigation services.

Susan G. Komen® is the world's leading nonprofit breast cancer organization, working to save lives and end breast cancer forever.

Tammy Good of the Women's Committee thanks everyone for their support during the event and for their generous donations.