

825. NEWS



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SERVING THE LOCAL 825 MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS VOL.15 ISSUE 6 (NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025)

Induction of officers ushers in another term of progress Unanimous vote highlights member confidence in E-board



Members gathered in East Brunswick for the induction of officers, where the entire executive board was sworn in for a new three-year term by General President John Downey. Members heard updates on the health of the union, ongoing projects, and a continued commitment to the membership. The event concluded with a special dinner where members and officers celebrated the promise of another successful term. Read more on page 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.

November

2 – Daylight Savings Ends – Turn Clocks Back 1 Hr.

3 – District 1 Meeting

Elks Lodge 1875
600 Washington Street, Toms River

4 – Election Day

5 – District 2 Meeting

Hilton Garden Inn Springfield
304 Route 22 West, Springfield

10 – District 3 Meeting

Russian Hall
464 Outwater Lane, Garfield

11 – Veteran's Day – UNION HOLIDAY

12 – District 4 Meeting

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

27 – Thanksgiving – UNION HOLIDAY

December

1 – District 1 Meeting

Double Tree Suites by Hilton
515 Fellowship Road, Mt. Laurel

3 – District 2 Meeting

Hilton Garden Inn
50 Raritan Center Parkway, Edison

8 – District 3 Meeting

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

10 – District 4 Meeting

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

14 – Hanukkah

16 – Christmas Party

Hilton East Brunswick
3 Tower Center Boulevard, East Brunswick

21 – Winter Begins

24 – Christmas Eve

25 – Christmas – UNION HOLIDAY

26 – Kwanzaa

31 – New Year's Eve

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Greg Lalevee, Business Manager



Don't Blame Utilities, Fix the Power Shortage

As New Jersey ratepayers reel from rising electricity bills, some voices in the political sphere are casting blame on PSE&G and JCP&L. It is a tempting narrative. Pick a villain, assign blame, and promise reform. But this oversimplifies a real, systemic problem: there is not enough power being generated to meet demand. Utilities may be easy targets, but they are not the root cause.

The Role of Electric Companies

Here is the simple truth: blaming utilities for rate hikes is like blaming your faucet when the reservoir runs dry. Utility companies do not, in most cases, generate the electricity that powers homes and businesses. Their job is transmission and distribution. They "pass through" power and ensure delivery, reliability, and safety.

Most generation comes from independent power producers and merchant generators, or from the regional grid. So when politicians or ratepayers demand accountability, pointing a finger at the "local wires company" ignores the real issue. There is not enough generation capacity in the system.

Infrastructure Is the Answer

Over the past decade, New Jersey has retired coal and older fossil fuel power plants. Those retirements are outpacing new buildouts, and it's created a supply gap just as demand surges from data centers and electrification.

Utilities must be allowed to do what they do best, which is maintaining and upgrading the delivery system. New Jersey must commit to expanding and modernizing the energy infrastructure needed to compete in today's economy.

Public frustration over high bills is justified. But misdirecting blame onto utilities is neither fair nor productive. It's time we shift from blame to action. Build more. Permit faster. Invest in dispatchable, clean generation. The path forward is serious infrastructure, not political theater.

Holiday Wishes

As we close out our year, remember to celebrate our veterans on November 11. We wish all our members peace, health and happiness through the holiday season.

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

Local 825 hosts NESC in Cape May

General President John Downey and Business Manager Greg Lavee, President of the Northeastern States Conference (NESC), welcomed labor leaders for the 40th regional convention. The NESC strengthens brotherhood among IUOE locals by offering a forum to share updates and define common goals. Here are some highlights from the conference.

Training and equipment

The National Training Fund shared progress on new opportunities, including mobile and tower crane workshops, rigging and signaling programs, gas fusion training and expanded curriculum for dozer, loader, forklift, excavator and motor grader. The IUOE also entered a new three-year leasing program with John Deere, adding excavators and dozers to support hands-on instruction.

Pipeline and power generation projects

Pipeline Director Paul McCormick reported on major projects in the region. The Iroquois Gas expansion, with compressor stations in New York and Connecticut, is set to nearly double capacity by mid-2026. National Fuel is preparing new infrastructure to power large facilities, including the Micron chip plant in New York and gas-to-hydrogen conversions in central Pennsylvania. These investments underscore the essential role of reliable power generation in the future economy. "There is a significant amount of replaceable pipe here in the Northeast," McCormick noted. "The opportunities are substantial, and the work will create good jobs for our members."

Multi-local organizing campaigns

Local 825's campaign at J.F. Kiely Construction was recognized as a model of effective multi-local organizing. After years as a non-

union contractor, Kiely signed an agreement that brought in more than 100 members. This fall, a 9a shop agreement added 20 more, securing lasting gains for Local 825 and increasing momentum for surrounding locals.

Building on that success, locals across the Northeast have organized nearly 200 additional operators and maintenance personnel at ReWorld Energy facilities. Following a first contract at ReWorld Plymouth in 2023, Locals 158, 877, 4, and 542 joined forces to expand representation and position members for strong first agreements.



13th Annual Poker Run delivers winning hand

Local 825 members, families, and friends gathered for the 13th Annual Poker Run, enjoying a day that combined open roads, perfect weather, and great company. With strong turnout, this year's run once again showed how Local 825 members come together both on and off the job.

The ride concluded at the Old Bridge Moose Lodge, where participants capped the day with a delicious BBQ and great stories. Special thanks to Chris Laveeve for organizing the event and to everyone who attended and helped make the Poker Run another success.



GP John Downey installs team for three-year term

Members gathered at the East Brunswick Hilton to witness IUOE General President John Downey swear in Business Manager Greg Lavee and the entire executive team for a new term.

Greg thanked the membership for its confidence and pledged to build on Local 825's strengths. "The work you do every day on the job is the foundation of this union. The executive board is proud to strengthen that foundation through effective organizing, high-quality training, and standing tall in the political arena. These efforts ensure that, no matter the challenges ahead, we will build a secure and lasting future for the next generation of operating engineers."

The evening concluded with a banquet dinner as members celebrated another term of progress.



Retirees honored at annual brunch

Retirees and their families gathered across the districts for the annual Retiree's brunch. The events, held in New Jersey and New York, offered members the chance to reconnect with old friends, share stories, and be recognized for decades of service.

"Our retired members stood on picket lines, built landmark projects, and devoted their careers to strengthening the union that exists today," said Business Manager Greg LaLeeve. "These gatherings are more than a chance to hand out plaques; they're about celebrating the friendships and commitment that have sustained Local 825 for generations."

Flu shots help members prepare for winter

Local 825 hosted fall health fairs at the NY Training Center and in Hammonton, offering

members flu shots, screenings, and wellness information to stay healthy through the winter.

"The flu can sideline members for days," said Sherry Viso, Funds Administrator. "Getting the shot now helps protect ourselves, our families, and our coworkers."

Funds office among the Best Places to Work in NJ

For the fourth year in a row, the 825 Funds Office was recognized as one of NJBIZ' Best Places to Work. This honor reflects the dedication of the staff who provide members and their families with essential services including health, pension and training benefits.

"We're committed to supporting the professional and personal needs of this staff so they can best serve our members," said Sherry Viso.

"The award is based on anonymous surveys completed by employees and judged on their responses," explained Business Manager Greg LaLeeve. "To be recognized for four years running is a real achievement, and it shows that our employees are proud of where they work."

Learn more about the services provided by funds at www.825funds.org



TRAINING CENTER CALENDAR

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., Nov. 15

Sat., Dec. 6

OSHA 10 (Must attend BOTH days)

Sat., Dec. 13

Sat., Dec. 20

OSHA 30

Sat., Nov. 1

Sat., Nov. 8

Sat., Nov. 15

Sat., Nov. 22

SIGNAL PERSON CLASS

Sat., Nov. 8

RIGGER CLASS

Sat., Nov. 22

TEMPORARY HEAT

Sat., Nov. 1

Sat., Dec. 6

New members from J.F. Kiely join Local 825

In a significant step forward, nearly 100 employees of J.F. Kiely Construction Co. joined Local 825 in 2023. That momentum continued last month as 20 mechanics and shop employees unanimously ratified their first collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with the union. The new CBA includes key benefit improvements such as a pension, annuity, and savings funds. This marks a major milestone in securing long-term financial stability for these workers.

On-site to support the ratification and answer questions were:

- Kevin Young, Director of Special Projects
- Alex Kolbasowski, Director of Shops
- Drew DiPalma, Organizer
- John Paul Fischbach, Lead Engineer at Kiely Civil



Local 825 proudly welcomes our new members and looks forward to building a strong future together.

"It's my honor to have the opportunity to welcome you into our Local," said Kevin Young. "Your skills and experience make our

union stronger, and we will continue to represent and support you on the job and at the bargaining table."

Local 825 veterans strengthen community through service

Building hope for 22 veterans

With Thanksgiving on the horizon, Operating Engineers Legion Post 532 continues its mission of service and support for veterans in need.

In partnership with the Foundation for Sustainable Veteran Housing and American Legion Post 3, Post 532 organized Rock the Foundation, a benefit concert in Atlantic City. Proceeds will help fund a new legion hall in Westfield, NJ, with expanded meeting space and 22 fully furnished apartments for homeless veterans on the upper floors.

"The project was inspired by Operation 22" explains Joey Bove, "which seeks to confront the high rate of veteran suicide, estimated at 22 per day nationwide. There are currently 442 homeless veterans in New Jersey. If every county built 22 units, we could help end this crisis."

In the months ahead, Operating Engineer veterans will donate their time and expertise to demolish the current Westfield post and prepare footings for the new building.



Digital Rendering of the new American Legion Post, courtesy of the American Legion Foundation for Sustainable Veteran Housing.

Supporting Veterans Haven North

Post 532 also devoted time this year to improving Veterans Haven North, a facility that provides transitional housing, healthcare and support for homeless veterans.

"Veterans often don't have the support they deserve and we aim to fill that gap in

any way we can," said Nick Blevins, Commander of Post 532.

Members renovated the entranceway with mulching, stonework, and other upgrades after a fire damaged the building.

Local 825 extends best wishes for a Happy Veterans Day to all who served and continue to serve.



International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825

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BETTER BUILDING BEGINS HERE

Members turn out for labor walks in support of Jack Ciattarelli

Local 825 members across the state turned out for labor walks in support of Jack Ciattarelli in the weeks leading up to the election. Early each Saturday morning, members gathered to pick up flyers and carry them door to door, making their presence felt in communities across New Jersey.

“When everyone pitches in, it makes a difference. These events show the strength of our union and the dedication of our members,” said Business Manager Greg LaVevee.

Thank you to all who volunteered and helped demonstrate the power of Local 825.



2025 Local 825 endorsements

New Jersey Governor

Jack Ciattarelli - (R)

New Jersey State Assembly

District 1

Antwan McClellan (R)

Erik Simonsen (R)

District 2

Don Guardian (R)

Claire Swift (R)

District 3

Chris Konawel (R)

Lawrence Moore (R)

District 4

Amanda Esposito (R)

Jerry McManus (R)

District 5

No Endorsement

District 6

No Endorsement

District 7

Dione Johnson (R)

Doug Dillon (R)

District 8

Michael Torrissi (R)

Brandon Umba (R)

District 9

No Endorsement

District 10

No Endorsement

District 11

No Endorsement

District 12

Rob Clifton (R)

Alex Sauickie (R)

District 13

Vicky Flynn (R)

District 14

Wayne DeAngelo (D) **IBEW 269**

District 15

Anthony Verrelli (D) **UBC 254**

District 16

No Endorsement

District 17

Kevin Egan (D) **IBEW 456**

District 18

Robert Karabinchak (D)

District 19

No Endorsement

District 20

No Endorsement

District 21

Michelle Matsikoudis (R)

Nancy Munoz (R)

District 22

No Endorsement

District 23

John DeMaio (R)

Erik Peterson (R)

District 24

Dawn Fantasia (R)

Michael Inganamort (R)

District 25

Christian Barranco (R) **IBEW 102**

Aura Dunn (R)

District 26

Brian Bergen (R)

District 27

No Endorsement

District 28

No Endorsement

District 29

No Endorsement

District 30

Sean Kean (R)

Alexander 'Avi' Schnall (D)

District 31

No Endorsement

District 32

No Endorsement

District 33

No Endorsement

District 34

No Endorsement

District 35 (Senate)

Benjie Wimberly (D)

District 36

No Endorsement

District 37

No Endorsement

District 38

No Endorsement

District 39

John Azzariti (R)

District 40

Christopher DePhillips (R)

Al Barlas (R)

New York Local Offices

ORANGE COUNTY

Orange County Executive

Steve Neuhaus (R)

Orange County District Attorney

David Hoovler (R)

Goshen Township Supervisor

Joseph Betro (R)

Wawayanda Township Supervisor

Denise Quinn (R)

ROCKLAND COUNTY

Rockland County Executive

Ed Day (R)

Clarkstown Town Supervisor

George Hoehmann (R)

Local 825 Members

NEW YORK

City of Kingston, 7th Ward

Michael Ham (D)

Town of Clarkstown, Council

Greg Sheehan (D)

NEW JERSEY

Borough of Ringwood, Council

Sean Noonan

Frankford Township, Committee

Nicholas Civitan

Florence Township, 1st Ward

Gina Sullivan (**ELEC825**)

County & Municipal Elections

ATLANTIC COUNTY

County Commissioner

Art Schenker (R) **UA322**

County Commissioner D1

George Tibbitt (R) **Roofers 30**

2025 Local 825 endorsements

County Commissioner D4

Rich Dase (R)

County Surrogate

James Curcio (R)

Absecon Council At-Large

Steve Light (R) **IBEW 351**

Absecon Council W1

Mike Sykes (R)

Absecon Council W2

Rich DeRosa (R)

Hammonton Mayor

Steve Furgione (R)

Hammonton Council

J.D. Calderone (R)

BURLINGTON COUNTY

County Commissioner

Randy Brolo (D) **LIUNA 172**

Medford Committee

Tom Juliano (R)

Medford Committee

Michelle Voorhees (R)

Medford Committee

Angela Zografos (R)

Chesterfield Committee

Jeremy Leidtka (R)

Chesterfield Committee

Lido Panifili (R)

Mansfield Committee

Tim Boyd (R)

Hainesport Committee

Leila Gilmore (R)

Hainesport Committee

Rick Murphy (R)

Lumberton Committee

Kate Abegg (R)

Southampton Committee

Elizabeth Rossell (R)

Southampton Committee

Arnold Harrison (R)

CAPE MAY COUNTY

County Commissioner

Andrew Bulakowski (R) **UBC 255**

County Commissioner

Robert (Bobby) Bar (R)

County Clerk

Rita Rothberg (R)

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Millville City Commission

Joe Derella (D)

Millville City Commission

Carmen DelVicario (R)

Millville City Commission

Roy Sheppard (I)

ESSEX COUNTY

County Clerk

Chris Durkin (D)

Fairfield Council

Michael McGlynn (R) **IUOE 68**

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Franklin Township Committee

Phil Venticinque (D)

Monroe Twp. Board of Ed Slate

Magee, Mohr, Lanteigne, Lewis, Brando

HUDSON COUNTY

County Sheriff

Jimmy Davis (D)

Jersey City Mayor

Jim McGreevey

Jersey City Council Ward C

Tom Zuppa

HUNTERDON COUNTY

County Commissioner

John Lanza (R)

County Commissioner

Zachry Rich (R)

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Sayreville Council

Donna Robert (R)

Sayreville Council

Anthony Esposito (R)

MONMOUTH COUNTY

County Commissioner

Thomas Arnone (R)

County Commissioner

Dominick 'Nick' DiRocco (R)

County Clerk

Christine Hanlon (R)

County Sheriff

Shaun Golden (R)

MORRIS COUNTY

County Commission

Christine Myers (R)

County Commission

Douglas Cabana (R)

County Commission

Tom Mastrangelo (R)

Sheriff

James Gannon (R)

Parsippany Mayor

Jamie Barberio (R)

Parsippany Council

Frank Neglia (R)

Parsippany Council

Jigar Shah (R)

PASSAIC COUNTY

County Commission

Nicolino Gallo (R)

County Commission

Michael Ramaglia (D)

SOMERSET COUNTY

County Commission

Nick Cuozzo (R)

County Commission

Michelle Mayorga (R) un-expired term

SUSSEX COUNTY

County Commission

Jill Space (R)

County Commission

David Silverthorne (R)

UNION COUNTY

Hillside Mayor

Dahlia Verteese (D) IUOE 68