

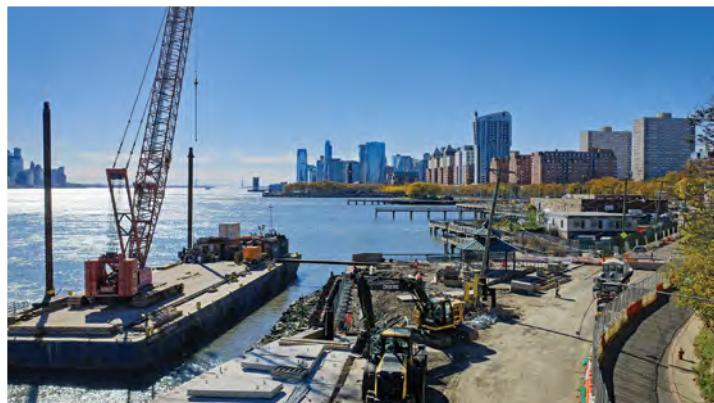
825. NEWS



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SERVING THE LOCAL 825 MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS VOL.16 ISSUE 1 (JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026)

Piles, pumps, and pipelines, oh my! 825 lays the groundwork for another strong year



From transportation to water and energy facilities, Local 825 achieved a strong year of work in 2025. Major projects delivered long-term opportunities for members across the region. As we look ahead, the trend continues. Hudson County is building essential resilience infrastructure. The

Portal North Bridge is entering its final stretch. The Gateway Hudson Tunnel is preparing for Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs). The turnpike expansion, Route 17, NESE pipeline, the list goes on. In this issue, find updates on work and a look at the developments to come in 2026.

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.

January

1 - New Year's Day - UNION HOLIDAY

12 - Semiannual Meeting & Health Fair

Hilton East Brunswick

3 Tower Center Boulevard, East Brunswick

19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February

2 - Groundhog Day

2 - District 1 Meeting

Hammonton Fire Company Station
51 North White Horse Pike, Hammonton

4 - District 2 Meeting

Hilton Garden Inn
304 Route 22, West Springfield

9 - District 3 Meeting

Russian Hall
464 Outwater Lane, Garfield

11 - District 4 Meeting

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

14 - Valentine's Day

16 - President's Day - UNION HOLIDAY

18 - Blood Bank

NJ Training Center
338 Deans Rhode Hall Road, Dayton

18 - Ash Wednesday

21 - Corn Hole Tournament

Cultural Center at Three Saints
464 Outwater Lane, Garfield

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Greg Lalevee, Business Manager



A new year, a new landscape

As 2026 begins, a new administration is preparing to take office in Trenton. The Sherrill team brings a fresh outlook on transportation policy, workforce issues and long-range infrastructure planning. While priorities will remain aligned with core Democratic values, this will not be a continuation of the Murphy administration. There is a new mindset taking shape and it will take time to understand how policy, permitting and capital planning will evolve. For Operating Engineers, this means staying attentive as decisions are made that will shape road, rail, water and gas work for years to come.

In New York, this will be a pivotal year. The gubernatorial election cycle is beginning and the state budget will be finalized in the first quarter. That budget will determine the next wave of projects. Local 825 continues to stay engaged to ensure that our members receive their fair share of the work in the Hudson Valley.

As this new political landscape takes shape, it is important to recognize the members who stepped up and put their names on the ballot. Congratulations to Gina Sullivan of ELEC825, who was appointed to Florence Town Council, Nick Citivan in Frankford and Sean Noonan in Ringwood. Their commitment to public service strengthens our voice and ensures that Operating Engineers remain present where decisions are made.

Preparing for a high demand workforce

2026 will undoubtedly be a milestone year for gas pipeline work and an opportunity for members to expand their work cards. The region continues to operate one of the largest inventories of leak-prone gas mains and service lines in the country. The primary culprit? Aging cast-iron and unprotected steel mains, many installed decades ago. New Jersey has more than 3,100 miles of leak-prone mains and approximately 85,000 leak-prone service lines that are candidates for replacement.

Utilities are accelerating efforts to replace these outdated lines with modern, corrosion-resistant pipe. PSE&G has proposed replacing up to 1,140 miles of gas main over a three-year span, including 810 miles of low-pressure cast-iron main, additional unprotected steel mains and associated service lines. That equates to roughly 380 miles of main replaced per year between 2024 and 2026.

This is why certification matters. The qualifications under Task 70/71 are often prerequisites to perform gas-main replacement, service-line reconnection and meter relocation under these modernization programs. With thousands of miles of pipe scheduled for replacement, demand for certified operators will be high. If Local 825 has enough certified members ready, that work stays in our hall.

Contact Information

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New Hampton, NY 10958
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(973) 671-6800
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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
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845-674-9025 - Fax

ELEC Office

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(908) 608-2013

METALS brings mentoring to newly organized members

The Member Education, Training and Labor Studies (M.E.T.A.L.S) brought new and seasoned Operating Engineers together for a mentorship lunch. Recently initiated members sat down with experienced operators to network and learn more about union benefits and job site realities.

Business Manager Greg Lalevee addressed the group, stating, "Many of us learned about this life at the dinner table, but not everyone has that luxury – especially first-generation members who are navigating union life for the first time. That's why this program is so important. It helps new members find their footing and feel connected. Providing them with the information they need strengthens the brotherhood for decades to come."



About M.E.T.A.L.S

The METALS program was launched in 2020, to create a formal structure for mentorship and education. "METALS combines one-on-one mentorship with broader educational opportunities including union history, benefits, safety standards and member responsibilities" said Kevin Young, Director of Special Projects.

Get involved: become a mentor

METALS runs on member participation. Experienced operators volunteer as mentors and are paired with apprentices or new members to help guide them through union life, whether it's a chat over lunch or an ongoing relationship.

"The goal is to make sure no member feels alone or 'lost' in such a large organization," said David Yannetta. "The response has been great so far. The mentors have spoken positively about being able to give back, and the guidance is invaluable to the new members."

Anyone Interested in becoming a METALS mentor or learning more should contact metals@iuoe825.org



New online tools coming in 2026

Local 825 is introducing several digital upgrades in 2026 to make member services easier and more accessible.

A new AI agent will launch on the Local 825 website, giving members quick answers to common questions about the union and the funds. Members will be able to ask about copays, pharmacy benefits, eligibility and more, 24/7.

Online beneficiary forms are also being added to the member portal. Members can see who is listed on their annuity, pension and other benefits, with a direct link to contact the Funds Office if updates are needed.

New benefit-explainer videos will be added to the portal as well, offering simple, straightforward guides to help members understand

BlueCard® logo update

Horizon is removing the BlueCard® "suitcase" icon from member ID cards. It will be replaced with the appropriate product indicator, such as PPO. There is no impact to benefits, and members can continue using their cards as usual.

their coverage. These tools will bring more clarity and convenience to the member experience throughout 2026.

Rebuilding Hudson County

Hudson Tunnel Project

The Hudson Tunnel Project is the most ambitious infrastructure effort in New Jersey's history. It will build two new rail tunnels under the Hudson River then rehabilitate the existing 113-year-old North River Tunnel. When complete, they will double cross-river capacity, improving reliability for NJ Transit and Amtrak passengers.

On the New Jersey side, members with Conti Civil, Schiavone Construction, Dragados, Lane Construction and Weeks Marine are completing site work.

Conti Civil is constructing the Tonnelle Avenue Bridge to clear the path for the future railroad alignment, and relocating utilities. This site will become the access point for the tunnel boring machines, which are scheduled to launch beginning in 2026.

Further east, Schiavone, Dragados, Lane JV are at the Palisades Tunnel drilling and blasting through solid rock to prepare the



The shaft is a launch site for the TBMs that will excavate the tunnel from New Jersey towards Manhattan.



Utility relocations, rebar cages and early concrete work are under way at the Long Slip.

cavern where two 28-foot TBMs will be assembled. Operators are installing secant piles, excavating the launch chamber and supporting the complex geotechnical work required in the rock formations that line the Hudson County waterfront.

In the Hudson River itself, Weeks Marine is performing ground stabilization from barges. Grout injections and soil-mix columns are creating a reinforced path under the riverbed so the TBMs can bore safely.

The new tunnel is targeted to open in 2035, with rehabilitation of the existing tunnel extending to 2038.

Long Slip Fill and Rail Enhancement Project

The Long Slip Fill and Rail Enhancement Project fills the former 2,000-foot barge canal known as the Long Slip and replaces it with an elevated rail yard designed to withstand future storms.

After Superstorm Sandy funneled floodwaters through the canal and into critical rail infrastructure, NJ Transit launched a major resilience project to eliminate the vulnerability. The canal is being backfilled, compacted, and re-engineered to host six new tracks and an ADA-accessible boarding platform.

Operating engineers have been placing engineered fill, driving piles, building retaining structures and shaping the new elevated grade that will protect the Hoboken rail complex from future flood surges. Survey, digging, material handling, and crane operations continue daily as the new yard takes form.

Hudson River Wall (Rebuild by Design)

Farther south, the Hudson River Wall is rising as part of the multi-segment Rebuild by Design program to protect Hoboken and parts of Jersey City from storm surge and tidal flooding. The project combines flood walls, levees, resilient parks, utility protection and upgraded stormwater management into a continuous defense system.

The scope of work includes foundations, seawall reconstruction and new landscape berms. Local 825 operators with Conti, Schiavone, AECOM Tishman and others have been involved in early site work, sheeting, and heavy civil operations.

The project will protect approximately 50,000 residents and billions of dollars in property.

Hoboken Connect

The Hoboken Connect is a massive redevelopment immediately adjacent to Hoboken Terminal. This public-private partnership spans more than a city block, and includes a new bus terminal, office buildings, retail

shops, a 386-unit-residential tower and two acres of open space. Not to mention the improved ferry and rail connections.

Operating engineers have already been involved in early enabling work for utility relocations and site preparation. Future phases include new streetscapes, a redesigned terminal plaza, additional structural work and integrated access improvements linking bus, rail, PATH, and ferry services.



Heavy equipment and marine barges line the waterfront as Local 825 operating engineers complete bulkhead reconstruction and shoreline protection work along the Waterfront.



Tower crane operations and excavation continue on the mixed-use development rising next to Hoboken Terminal.

New course offerings in 2026

Members are encouraged to pursue Task 70/71 gas work certifications. New Jersey has one of the largest concentrations of leak prone gas pipe in the country. As these older lines are upgraded to modern polypropylene pipe, Local 825 operators must be ready to take the work. The more members who hold these certifications, the less reliance there will be on workers from other jurisdictions. These credentials will be offered as part of the expanded utility class at the NY Training Center.

The courses offered this winter also include:

- Paver, Mill, Transfer Machine, asphalt roller
- GPS- Excavator, Dozer, Rover
- Utility- Excavator, combo, shoring box, Task 70/71
- Pipeline- Excavator, Angle blade dozer, side boom, hydrostatic testing

Sea Survival Classes

The NJ Training Center will introduce sea survival classes in 2026, adding another advanced credential to support members preparing for offshore work. The new offer-

ing is made possible by the Training Center staff, who built the tower themselves and constructed a custom platform that can raise and lower with the water level.

Sea survival certification will become increasingly important as offshore wind projects and other marine-based work continue to grow along the East Coast. These credentials prepare members for the unique challenges of working over water, including emergency procedures, rescue techniques and equipment operation in variable conditions.

Funds Office supports members and the community

The Funds Office continued its commitment to service this season, raising money for the Community Food Bank of New Jersey to help feed families in need throughout the winter.

The office is also preparing to host a Health Fair ahead of the next Semiannual Meeting. Vendors and benefit partners will be on site to provide screenings, answer questions and share resources to help members stay healthy and informed.



TRAINING CENTER CALENDAR

NEW JERSEY TRAINING CENTER

(732) 798-2170 (All classes start at 7 a.m. unless noted otherwise)

8-HOUR HAZMAT REFRESHER

Sat., Jan. 10
Sat., Jan. 24
Sat., Feb. 7
Sat., Feb. 28

SIGNAL PERSON CLASS

Sat., Feb. 7

RIGGER CLASS

Sat., Feb. 21

CCO PREP & TEST

Sat., Jan. 10
Sat., Jan. 17
Sat., Jan. 24
Sat., Jan. 31
Sat., Feb. 1

OSHA 10 f

Sat., Jan. 17
Sat., Jan. 31

CPR

Tues., Feb. 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.

8-HOUR HAZMAT REFRESHER

Sat., Jan. 10
Sat., Jan. 24
Sat., Jan. 31
Tues., Feb. 21

ASBESTOS REFRESHER:

Sat., Feb. 7
Sat., Feb. 28

ASBESTOS HANDLER:

Tues., Feb. 17- Fri., Feb 20

NESE pipeline moves forward as New York focuses on reliability

After years of permit battles, political wrangling and public debate, the Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) pipeline has secured the final approval needed to move forward. The project is set to break ground in 2026 and will add 37 miles to the existing natural gas pipeline system that runs from Texas through Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York to Long Island. NESE is expected to deliver thousands of union jobs and improve energy reliability across the region.

NESE will involve major construction in New Jersey. Plans include a new 32,000-horsepower compressor station in Franklin Township and several miles of new pipeline through Middlesex County to the Raritan Bay shoreline. Offshore, 23 miles of pipeline will be installed beneath Raritan Bay and Lower New York Bay, extending to the Rockaway Peninsula. Work will include site preparation, trenching, excavation, turbine installation and upgrades to safety systems and monitoring equipment.



ELEC825 and Operating Engineers Local 825 have supported NESE from the beginning, recognizing the project as both an economic driver and a necessary upgrade to the region's aging energy infrastructure.

"What we need is an all of the above energy

approach. Natural gas pipelines can be part of a clean energy future as a bridge fuel," said Business Manager Greg Lalevee. "I'm glad Governor Hochul gave this project the green light and that we are taking a step toward a stronger, more resilient grid."

Wawayanda sees major growth in warehouse development

Orange County continues to emerge as a regional hub for logistics and distribution. In recent years, the county has seen a steady rise in large industrial projects and that momentum is carrying into Wawayanda where two major distribution facilities are now taking shape on a single parcel of land.

Local 825 members of Petillo are completing the site work for an 800,000-square-foot distribution center on approximately 100 acres. Petillo is the only union contractor on the project, thanks to ELEC's Market Recovery Program.

Next door, a 3.2-million-square-foot Amazon distribution center has been proposed. The project will bring more than \$100 million in private investment, hundreds of anticipat-

ed local jobs, and a significant increase to the community's tax ratables. Members have actively participated in planning and zoning

board meetings to ensure that the project meets community priorities and moves forward responsibly.



Local 825 members of Petillo complete site work on the 100 acre parcel of land in Wawayanda, NY.



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BETTER BUILDING BEGINS HERE

Work advances on renewable fuel facility in Linden

Amid the refineries and fuel depots of Linden, 825 members are building a different kind of energy project. The Linden Renewable Energy facility will convert 1,475 tons of organic waste into 3,783 million BTUs of renewable natural gas (RNG) each day, comparable to approximately 31,500 gallons of gasoline.

Site work includes grading, tank installation, utility tie ins and mechanical systems needed to support anaerobic digestion. When complete, The RNG will enter the existing Elizabethtown Gas distribution network. The project offers a case study in adaptive reuse, where the grid becomes more sustainable not by starting over, but by transforming what is already there. The facility will strengthen the region's energy network and reinforce the vital role Operating Engineers play in shaping New Jersey's infrastructure future.

