

825. NEWS



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SERVING THE LOCAL 825 MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS VOL.16 ISSUE 5 (SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026)

Building the Hudson Valley's future

Three major projects showcase the skill of Local 825 members



Across District 4, members are helping rebuild a beloved recreation area at Lake Sebago, modernize Route 17's Exit 122 interchange and prepare the massive Project Liberty site for development. From environmental restoration and bridge reconstruction

to large-scale excavation and grading, these projects reflect the skill and versatility of Local 825's workforce while creating valuable opportunities for members throughout the Hudson Valley this summer and beyond. Read more on page 6.

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.

September

7 - Labor Day - UNION HOLIDAY

8 - District 1 Meeting

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

9 - District 2 Meeting

Holiday Inn
160 Frontage Road, Newark

11 - Rosh Hashanah

13 - Grandparent's Day

20 - Yom Kippur

20 - 13th Annual IUOE Local 825
Motorcycle Poker Run

21 - District 3 Meeting

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

22 - District 1 Retiree Luncheon

210 Delsea Dr. S., Glassboro, 11:30 am

22 - Autumn Begins

23 - District 4 Retiree Brunch

NY Training Center, 96 Bates Gates Road
New Hampton, NY, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

23 - District 4 Meeting

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

24 - District 2 & 3 Retirees Brunch

Embassy Suites, 121 Centennial Ave.
Piscataway 30 - PAC Meeting - Virtual

October

5 - District 1 Meeting

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

7 - District 2 Meeting

Holiday Inn
2870 Hwy. 35, Hazlet

12 - Columbus Day

12 - District 3 Meeting

Russian Hall
464 Outwater Lane, Garfield

14 - District 4 Meeting

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

16 - National Boss's Day

31 - Halloween

Contact Information

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NJ Training Center

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NY Training Center

Wawayanda location
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New Hampton, NY 10958
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VIEW FROM THE TOP

Greg Lalevee, Business Manager



Public work requires a qualified work force

Public construction projects are paid for by taxpayers and built to serve the public. The people performing that work should have the training and experience necessary to do it safely and correctly.

Legislation establishing minimum qualifications for craftworkers on public works projects has now passed both houses of the New Jersey Legislature. Under the legislation, journeymen would need to have completed a registered apprenticeship program or document at least four years of experience in their trade. The requirements would not prevent apprentices from working on public projects.

This legislation is not about limiting competition. It is about making sure contractors compete on an even playing field. A low bid does not save taxpayers money if a project is delayed, performed unsafely or requires costly repairs because the workforce was not properly prepared. Local 825 has always taken that responsibility seriously.

Power NJ

Gov. Mikie Sherrill recently signed the Power NJ

Act, launching a competitive process to bring at least 1,100 megawatts of new nuclear generation to New Jersey. This would strengthen the state's supply of reliable energy while creating significant construction opportunities. Local 825 members have the training and experience to help make that energy future possible.

Local 825 Business Agent and State Sen. Latham Tiver co-sponsored both the public works qualifications legislation and the Power NJ Act. His support for these measures reflects his continued work in Trenton to protect strong labor standards and expand job opportunities for Local 825 members.

Happy Labor Day

Labor Day marks the unofficial end of summer, but its meaning runs much deeper. It honors the working men and women who built this country and fought for the wages, safety standards and dignity workers have today. The best way to honor that legacy is to protect those standards and prepare the next generation to carry them forward. Happy Labor Day to Local 825 members and families.

Looking ahead, honoring the past

Hundreds of members gathered for the summer Semiannual Meeting. Business Manager Greg Lalevee shared encouraging news about the strength of the Local. The meeting also celebrated Local 825's proud history ahead of America's 250th birthday as the winners of the Historical Photo Contest were announced. Below are several highlights from the meeting.

Market Recovery Program

The Market Recovery Program (MRP) helps Local 825 contractors compete for projects that face nonunion competition. Since the program's inception, more than \$55.5 million in grants have been awarded, helping secure projects that have generated thousands of work hours.

Since July 1, 2025, \$5.69 million has been distributed through the program. Another \$13.8 million has been committed to projects currently under construction or scheduled to begin soon. An additional \$16.2 million in grant requests are tied to projects awaiting bid results.

United we bargain

In the first half of 2026, Shop agents recovered more than \$190,000 in unpaid wages and benefits on behalf of members, ensuring workers received the compensation they had earned. The department also negotiated 24 successor collective bargaining agreements



The winning picture of the historical photo contest shows the construction of the Walt Whitman Bridge in 1960. Photograph taken by Donald Groves Sr., a Local 825 crane operator.

and 31 contract wage reopeners.

Organizers signed 12 new contractors to the Outside Construction Agreement and successfully negotiated and ratified five new shop agreements. They met with 309 workers employed by nonunion contractors, conduct-

ed 433 meetings and negotiations, carried out 17 days of bannerng, filed numerous compliance violations and successfully won two National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) representation elections.

Together, these efforts resulted in 74 new members joining Local 825 during the first half of the year. We proudly welcome our new brothers and sisters to the union.

Recognition that reflects results

The Engineers Labor-Employer Cooperative (ELEC) continues to strengthen opportunities for Local 825 by advocating for policies, projects and programs that support operating engineers. This year, several members of the ELEC team received recognition for their leadership contributions. Kate Gibbs was named one of Business in New Jersey's Top Women in Business. Daniel Ortega earned recognition from City & State New York on both its Who's Who in Government Relations and Albany Power 100 lists. Mike Makarski was recognized by the Somerset County Business Partnership as one of its Top 40 Under 40. These recognitions are well deserved and we thank Kate, Daniel and Mike for their work on behalf of the membership.



Making the most of your union benefits

A union card provides more than wages. It opens the door to benefits that can save members time, money and stress throughout their careers.

Your health toolkit

When illness or injury strikes, members have options. Telemedicine remains available to eligible members and dependents, providing 24/7 access to a licensed physician by phone or video at no cost. For many routine illnesses and minor medical concerns, telemedicine is a faster and more convenient way to receive care.

The Guardian Nurse Program provides confidential guidance from experienced registered nurses. Whether facing a new diagnosis, preparing for surgery or managing a medical condition, Guardian Nurses help members make informed healthcare decisions at no additional cost.

Through Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey's partnership with the YMCA, eligible members can receive a 15 percent discount on YMCA membership by presenting their Horizon card.

Retirees covered through Aetna can also take advantage of the SilverSneakers program, which provides free memberships at participating fitness centers.

National Coalition of Labor benefits

This year also marked the launch of a new package of voluntary benefits through the National Coalition of Labor.

Among the benefits included are:

- \$10,000 in life insurance
- \$5,000 in accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) coverage
- Good Sam roadside assistance
- A member discount program
- Access to legal and financial planning services

Active members have the option to purchase additional coverage, including:

- Supplemental life insurance (optional coverage for active members)
- Critical illness insurance (optional coverage for active members)
- Short-term disability insurance (optional coverage for active members)



- Discounted tax preparation services, college tuition, hearing devices, pet insurance, and lodging
- Access to a credit union
- Social Security disability assistance resources

Members are encouraged to download the National Coalition of Labor mobile app or visit the coalition's website for the most current list of available benefits.



Clearing contamination in Camden County

Operating Engineers of APTIM are helping clean up the Welsbach and General Gas Mantle Superfund site in Camden County. The former manufacturing site contains soil and building materials contaminated with radioactive thorium and radium. Crews are excavating contaminated material at the Gloucester Marine Terminal, loading it for disposal and backfilling cleared areas with clean soil. More than 200,000 cubic yards of contaminated material have been

removed from over 90 properties since the cleanup began, helping protect workers and surrounding communities.



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From parkland to pavement

District 4 projects showcase the range of Local 825

Restoring Lake Sebago

More than a decade after Tropical Storm Irene devastated Lake Sebago Beach in Harriman State Park, members are helping restore the popular recreation area for a new generation of visitors. The storm filled the swimming area with sediment and severely damaged the surrounding roads, trails and parking areas.

The \$95.8 million reconstruction covers approximately 48 acres around the lake. C-Squared Constructors, a joint venture between D.A. Collins Construction and Crisdel Group are rebuilding the beach, constructing new restrooms, visitor facilities and a snack bar. A 1,600-foot lakeside promenade will include two playgrounds, picnic areas and green space. When complete, the recreation area will be able to accommodate more than 4,000 visitors and provide parking for at least 900 vehicles.

Crews will also install a modern wastewater treatment system, a rooftop solar array



and infrastructure to support electric vehicle charging stations.

The project addresses the conditions that made the site vulnerable to Irene. Stillwater Creek, which historically carried water from Lake Kanawauke into Lake Sebago, will be restored along with surrounding wetlands. The restored waterway will replace an underground piping system installed during the original development of the beach in the 1950s, helping control sediment, improve water quality and provide additional capacity during severe storms. A new bridge will carry Masonic Camp Road over the creek, and the reconstructed site is being designed to withstand flooding associated with a 500-year storm. The lake is anticipated to re-open in 2028.

Modernizing Route 17

ECCO III Enterprises is leading a \$67.8 million reconstruction of Route 17 at Exit 122 in the Town of Wallkill. The interchange connects Route 17 with Interstate 84 and provides access to major retail centers, hotels and Medical Centers.

The centerpiece of the project is a new collector-distributor road running alongside



Route 17. The separate roadway will connect the highway with entrance and exit ramps at East Main Street and Crystal Run Road, reducing conflicts between through traffic and vehicles entering or leaving the highway. New acceleration and deceleration lanes will provide drivers with more room to safely merge.

The project also requires reconstruction of the Route 17 bridge over the Wallkill River. Approximately seven lane miles of roadway and ramps will be resurfaced. A 10-foot-wide shared-use path along East Main Street and

Crystal Run Road will create new connections for pedestrians and cyclists and new crosswalks, curb ramps and pedestrian signals will improve safety and accessibility.

“A project like Route 17 gives our younger members the opportunity to gain experience on complex roadway and bridge work,” said Lead Engineer Tony Sergio. “It is rewarding to see them rise to the occasion. They’re getting involved in the union, which is exactly what we want to see from the next generation of operating engineers.”

Preparing Project Liberty

At Project Liberty, Petillo is leading the site work for a massive new warehouse development now advancing through its second phase. Much of the property has already been cleared and leveled, transforming the site and creating the grades needed to support the building and surrounding infrastructure.

The work requires relocating an existing waterway, a complicated operation that must balance the development’s footprint with drainage, environmental and stormwater requirements. Local 825 members are moving enormous quantities of material while performing the excavation, grading, utility and drainage work needed before vertical construction can advance.

As Phase 2 continues, members of Petillo are reshaping the terrain to accommodate the warehouse, access roads, loading areas and supporting infrastructure.



Clay Shoot sells out for 12th year

Members and friends gathered in Coplay, Pennsylvania, for the 12th Annual Local 825 Clay Shoot. Participants enjoyed nearly perfect conditions, with cool temperatures and a mix of sun and clouds throughout the shoot. Event organizer John Rocco welcomed the group and thanked Local 825 President John Wood, along with everyone who helped organize the outing and make it another success. Following the shoot, participants gathered for lunch and an opportunity to catch up with fellow members.



Local 825 Builds a Foundation for Innovation

Operating Engineers are helping transform a former downtown parking complex into the HELIX, a new research, education and technology district that will bring thousands

of students, scientists, doctors and technology professionals to New Brunswick. Members of Whiting-Turner are contributing to the construction of H-1 and H-2, the first two buildings

within the three-phase development. When the full campus is complete, approximately \$2 billion in development is projected to support approximately 4,480 jobs annually.



Reel good times

Local 825 members spent a beautiful day fishing aboard the Miss Belmar Princess. Clear blue skies, a light breeze and a steady catch of fluke and sea bass created ideal conditions for the annual outing. The trip gave old friends an opportunity to catch up while new friendships were made along the way. Congratulations to Mark Davis for landing the biggest fish of the day, and thank you to Joe Graham for organizing the trip.



A national spotlight on world-class training

Local 825 welcomed U.S. Secretary of Labor Keith Sonderling to the New Jersey Training Center. Business Manager Greg Laveeve was joined by Associated Construction Contractors of New Jersey CEO Jack Kocsis and Utility & Transportation Contractors Association CEO Dave Rible to discuss the critical role apprenticeship and workforce development play in building America's infrastructure. Following the discussion, Secretary Sonderling toured the Training Center to see the state-of-the-art facilities that prepare our members for successful careers.

Investing in the future

In the spring, the program welcomed 42 new apprentices. Each apprentice has completed a comprehensive foundation of training, including HAZMAT and OSHA certifications, along with instruction on forklifts, end dumps, rollers, skid steers, basic dozers and combination backhoes. With these requirements

behind them, they are ready to begin learning alongside seasoned operating engineers.

The New Jersey Economic Development Authority awarded the Training Center a \$1.2 million grant to support the construction of two new 3,600-square-foot buildings for additional classroom space. The Training Center also secured a \$360,000 grant through New Jersey's Growing Apprenticeship in Nontraditional Sectors (NJGAINS) program, which supports continued expansion of apprenticeship opportunities.

Vocational training opens doors

This summer, the Training Center welcomed 10 new apprentices through direct-entry partnerships with the Ocean County Vocational Technical School and the Hunterdon County Vocational School District. These partnerships continue to introduce top graduates to careers as operating engineers.



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., Sept. 26
Sat., Oct. 17

ASBESTOS AWARENESS

Sat., Sept. 26

TEMPORARY HEAT

Sat., Oct. 3

, PREP & TEST

Sat., Oct. 3 - Test
Sat., Oct. 10
Sat., Oct. 17
Sat., Oct. 24 - Test
Sun., Oct. 25 - possible if needed

CPR

Sat., Sept. 19
Sat., Oct. 10

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 if you are interested in one of the following classes: CPR / 1st AID, Task 70 & 71, Rigging and Signaling, OSHA10. Once we have enough names for a class, members will be notified.



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BETTER BUILDING BEGINS HERE

From brownfield to Bass Pro Shops

Operating Engineers of Petillo have helped prepare the site for the new Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World at the Riverton redevelopment in Sayreville.

Petillo's work has included the major earthmoving and site preparation needed to support the nearly 200,000-square-foot store and its surrounding infrastructure. The project rises on a former industrial property along the Raritan River that has required extensive remediation, grading, drainage improvements and utility construction before new development could move forward.

A project labor agreement has covered the Riverton site since redevelopment work began. Union labor has played an important role in the environmental remediation and site work needed to transform the property into a new mixed-use community.

Expected to open this fall, the Bass Pro Shops will be the company's largest single-level

location in the United States. Plans include a 65,000-gallon shipwreck-themed aquarium, a 12,000-gallon ray touch pool, an indoor archery

range and displays featuring boats and other outdoor equipment. The store is expected to employ more than 300 people once open.

