

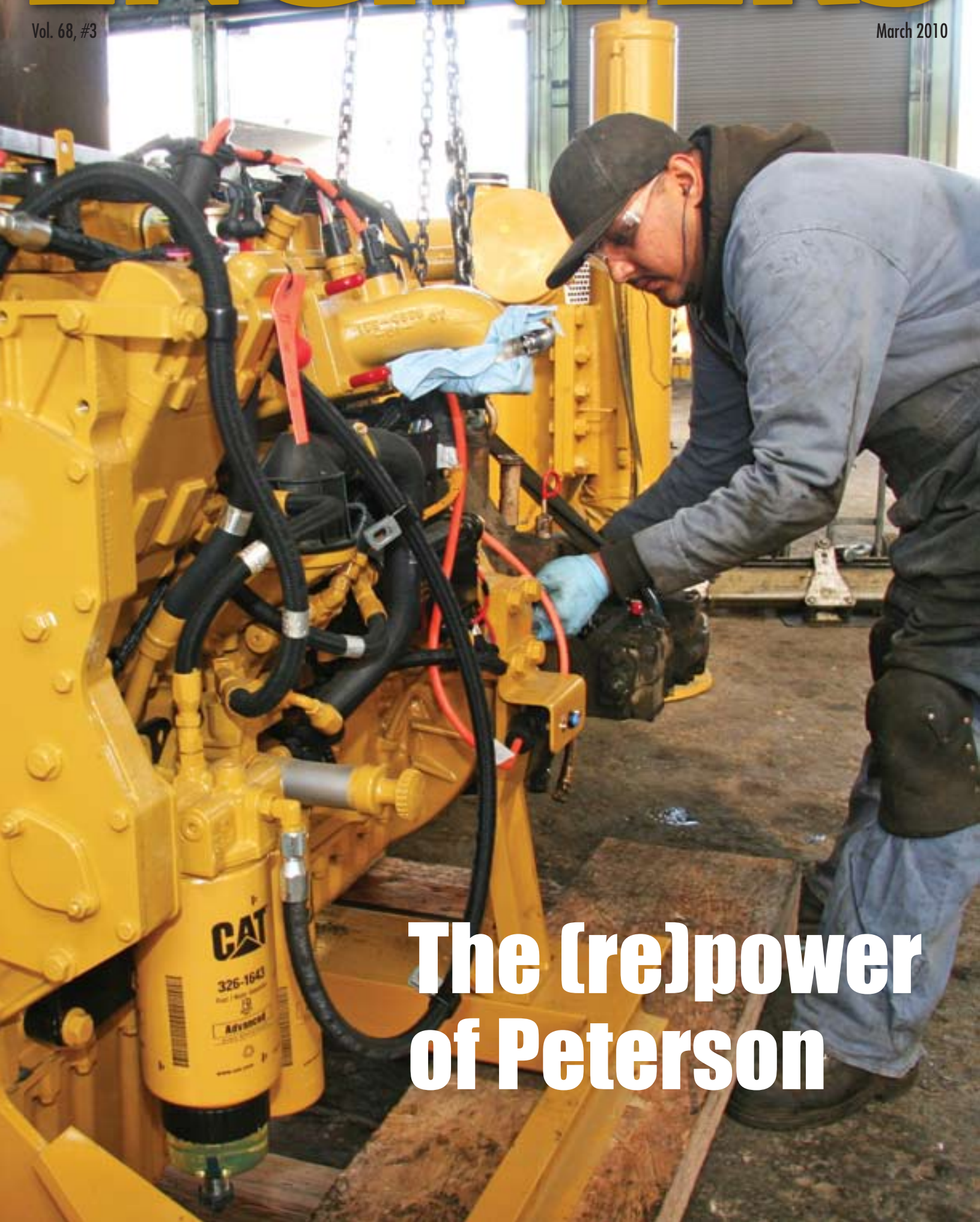
OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL UNION NO. 3

# ENGINEERS

NEWS

Vol. 68, #3

March 2010



**The (re)power  
of Peterson**





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## For The Good & Welfare

By Russ Burns, business manager

# California receives largest federal grant for high-speed rail

At the last round of meetings, I listened to a lot of folks talk about how tough it is out there. So many of our members are struggling to get by. I wish I could say that things are getting better, but even in good times this is traditionally a slow time of year for us. Unemployment rates in California are at an all-time high, particularly in the construction industry, no doubt fueled by the lack of private construction. National unemployment rates in the double digits remain front-page news as you all know. Some districts are starting to see work pick up, but we continue to pressure our legislators to make the tough decisions that are needed to get this economy back on track.

This organization spends a lot of time lobbying politicians on our behalf and working on political drives to elect those who will listen to us, but I wish politicians would do a better job of just that – *listening*. They could learn from us about saving money for the things that really matter, like the creation of jobs. If the 15.7 million unemployed Americans were put to work with steady paychecks, they could single-handedly salvage the nation's plummeting economy. We, the middle class, compose the largest sector of consumers. Without decent paying jobs, this essential sector *cannot afford to help the economy*. It's that simple. This union has had to tighten its budget just as all of you have, and if you read the Financial Report in this edition, you will see that our efforts have not been in vain. Our fourth-quarter receipts increased 6.6 percent, whereas our expenditures – what we spent – decreased 5.3 percent versus the previous quarter.

If you listened to President Obama's State of the Union Address, it sounds like he understands the importance of job creation too, since he called for \$100 billion in job-creating measures, including tax credits for hiring and new investments in infrastructure projects. His budget also proposes spending \$166 billion for other job-related initiatives, including nearly \$50 billion to extend federal unemployment benefits this year.

Perhaps the most positive news to report is *the \$2.25 billion awarded to California for high-speed rail, the largest amount given to any state*. The grant includes work on four corridors, with sections from Bakersfield to Fresno, Fresno to Merced and San Francisco to San Jose impacting our membership the most. California is also receiving \$99 million for smaller corridors for conventional trains. We received this funding because of the political work we did to get the high-speed-rail bond passed in 2008, meaning these federal funds will be matched with our own and provide jobs: Tens of thousands of jobs, according to

the California High-Speed Rail Authority Board, which I serve on.

This month, we will be holding our first Master Agreement negotiations team meeting. I can't stress enough how important membership participation will be during these negotiations. For a good way to get involved, see page 28 in this edition for information about a new training program we will be offering: Fair Industry Strike Training (F.I.S.T.) is preemptive and will ensure that you are prepared to show solidarity if it becomes necessary during these upcoming negotiations. In these tough times, showing solidarity will be critical. Please plan to attend one of these training sessions in your area.

I want to briefly touch upon an issue that has been brought to my attention by several members. In November 2009, an article was published in the *Sacramento Bee* and other Central Valley newspapers regarding the sale of some Rancho Murieta property. That article was misleading and incomplete, because it stated, in part, that Local 3 owned the property in 2004 and that the sale wound up costing the union more than \$14 million. First, the land was never owned by Local 3. It was owned by the Pension Trust Fund as a real estate investment of Plan assets, managed by Trust Fund Plan professionals. The land was sold to a developer as a further investment, with the land as security for the loan. When the developer defaulted, the Pension Plan sued and recovered a judgment against the developer. As part of the effort to recover the Plan investment, the land was ordered sold at a judicial sale. The Plan professionals sent to bid at the sale were delayed due to a traffic jam, and another developer bought the land. Second, what the article did not detail is that despite the fact that none of the defendants admitted liability, the Pension Trust Fund *substantially recovered all of its losses* in a later confidential settlement of malpractice claims against plan providers. The article doesn't clarify this point, because our Pension Trust Fund Plan providers and legal teams were bound by a confidentiality clause in the settlement agreement and could not talk about it. Let me reiterate again: Our Pension Trust Fund substantially recovered its investment losses in 2007. It was our plan providers who lost out in 2010 in the final chapter to this sad story.

Please join me on March 21 at the Solano County Fairgrounds. I'll be happy to answer any questions you have.

Rest assured: The scales are slowly tipping in our favor, and the weight of high-speed rail's funding is helping that shift. Stay tuned for more in-depth coverage of that project coming soon.

## Figueiredo, OE3 ralliers filmed by KTVU, CBS

*Supporters help further million-dollar BART Airport Connector project*

More than 50 Operating Engineers joined more than 300 ralliers in Oakland at the Metropolitan Transportation Committee (MTC) meeting held in late January. Ralliers supported the \$70 million in Federal Stimulus Funds earmarked to help Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) build an elevated rail connector between its Coliseum station and the Oakland International Airport. The project means jobs for OE3 members but was held up after originally being scheduled for funding, due to a lack of evidence proving the project wouldn't adversely affect minority groups in the area.

However, thanks to the efforts of Local 3 members and community supporters, the MTC approved the funding contingent on an action plan correcting any inequities.

Oakland District Rep. Pete Figueiredo was interviewed by KTVU Channel 2 News and discussed the financial benefits the project would bring to local workers and the community.

CBS Channel 5 News also filmed the rally.



A CBS Channel 5 News van films hundreds of ralliers, including Local 3's own, who gathered before the MTC meeting in support of the million-dollar BART Airport Connector.

## Local 3 history book gets center spread in labor quarterly

San Francisco State University's Labor Archives and Research Center featured Local 3's newly released history book, *Breaking Ground*, in its quarterly newsletter in December.

The research center preserves labor history through vintage materials, such as our own *Engineers News*, and has a labor board drawn from the labor, academic and community leaders of the Bay Area.

Excerpts and photos from the book compose the center spread of the newsletter, which states:

"[This book] includes hundreds of historic and current photos and materials submitted by union members."

Visit the center at 480 Winston Drive in San Francisco, or call (415) 564-4010 for more information. For more on the history book, see page 15.

## Talking Points

By Fred Herschbach, president



## Every little bit helps

At the time of this writing, the health-care reform bill still has not passed, as no one can agree on anything. This major gridlock has made the health-care debate front and center in Washington, D.C. Consequently, everything else is at a standstill.

I've had issues with health care myself lately. My gallbladder had been acting up quite a bit, and I eventually ended up in an emergency room because of the pain. About three weeks later, I got the bill. The Trust Fund paid most of the bill, except for my co-pay. I reviewed the bill, and for the most part, I had trouble understanding it. I went to the hospital for an explanation, but the front desk staff couldn't explain it to me either. I basically got the "run-around," but I didn't give up. I had to fill out a nurse-auditor form, mail it and then wait. I didn't think I had some of the treatments the bill reflected. After about two weeks, I received a summary of what I did receive, and the bottom line is the Trust Fund was refunded \$735. The bill had been wrong.

I finally got my gallbladder removed on Dec. 31, and now I'm waiting to see *that* bill. Maybe I can whittle it down some more too. The moral of the story is: As officers and Trustees, we are doing whatever we need to hold our vendors accountable. Just like I reviewed my medical bill with a close eye, we are monitoring the performance of all of our vendors and our plan. We will choose and have chosen the most responsible one for these difficult economic times. We have the same health care as all of you. Doctors and hospitals do care about our health, but at what cost? In my case, my emergency visit was \$3,740.04, and by checking my bill, I saved the Fund nearly \$1,000. We, as patients, must be more diligent in questioning our doctors and the medical care we receive. Otherwise, they are not being held accountable.

Speaking of accountability, if you watch TV, you'll notice that just around dinnertime, a bunch of commercials start advertising

medications. Somebody's paying for those commercials, and that somebody is you, the consumer. This is just one example of how health-care costs continue to rise at the expense of the consumer. How many hospital bills are inaccurate? How much money could we all save if we paid a little more attention? Please talk to your doctor. Get the medical services you *need* and order generic prescriptions when possible. Most importantly, if you must be hospitalized, *check the bill*. Every little bit we do, saves our plan in the long run.

As far as the work picture is concerned, look for an increase in hours this year. Get trained on different pieces of iron, so when the opportunity does come, you'll be ready. For example, there will be a lot of paving this year, so if you're a little rusty or you need roller experience, call the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTTC) at (916) 354-2029. The staff is more than happy to accommodate you and your needs.

In closing, I ask that you all hang in there. These bad times have been here before, and they will be here again. You may wonder how I know this. Well, there were three or four winters during my career that I didn't eat much more than Cream of Wheat or oatmeal. It wasn't until I had enough years in the union and plenty of work experience that I became valuable to the contractors. When they needed someone part-time, they called me first. Eventually, I got enough hours between that work and unemployment to be able to support myself and my family. However, my health would certainly appreciate it if I ate more oatmeal today!

A final word on health: Please come to the March 21 Semi-Annual Event in Vallejo, Calif. There will be a free health fair with many tests, such as cholesterol and blood pressure. These are important health indicators, so don't miss it. There will also be a free lunch, good conversation and plenty to see and do. Come see me and say hi.



Fourth Quarter 2009 Financial Results

As expected, 2009 proved to be a lousy year for many working (and not working) Americans. Last year started with a near collapse of the financial system, a rapidly deteriorating labor market and millions of homeowners upside down in their mortgages or facing foreclosure. Massive government intervention was provided to stem this decline. By the end of 2009, however, much had improved. The fear surrounding the financial market’s collapse had subsided, housing began to show signs of stability and the Commerce Department reported that the economy grew at an annual rate of 5.7 percent in the fourth quarter. This is the fastest quarterly growth since 2003.

As we enter the new year, job creation remains our nation’s biggest challenge. While job losses have moderated from the massive layoffs in early 2009, new job creation has yet to occur, and unemployment remains stubbornly high. Nationwide, the December 2009 unemployment rate was 10.0 percent, unchanged from November 2009, but still 2.6 percent higher than a year earlier. California and Nevada unemployment rates remained in double digits at 12.4 percent and 13.0 percent, respectively, whereas, Utah increased slightly to 6.7 percent. Hawaii remained a bright spot, since its unemployment fell for the second consecutive quarter to 6.9 percent as of December 2009.

During the fourth quarter 2009, Local 3’s membership decreased an additional 672 members, bringing the total year-to-date membership loss for 2009 to 1,939 members or 4.97 percent.

On a more positive note, financial results for Local 3’s seasonally strong fourth quarter 2009 continued an upward trend from the prior quarter, with net income for the final quarter coming in at \$1,392,773. The positive October through

December results were driven by stronger receipts and lower expenditures versus the first three quarters of 2009. Fourth quarter receipts increased 6.6 percent versus the third quarter, whereas, fourth quarter expenditures decreased 5.3 percent versus the third quarter.

Unfortunately, for the full year 2009, Local 3 still experienced a net loss of \$1,261,113, with receipts and expenditures down 11.5 percent and 7.2 percent, respectively, versus 2008. Nevertheless, Local 3’s year-to-date net loss was almost \$2 million better than budgeted projections. This better-than-forecast result was made possible by extensive cost reductions implemented by the Local 3 officers early in 2009.

As this new year unfolds, Local 3 is optimistic that 2010 will be a better year than 2009. President Obama has made job creation his top priority, and unspent stimulus monies continue to flow into much-needed transportation projects across the nation. Within Local 3’s jurisdiction, there are billions of dollars in major prevailing-wage projects, which have just begun or are scheduled to break ground in 2010, including the Hetch Hetchy Water Improvement project, the Transbay Transit System and the Hawaii Mass Transit project, to name a few.

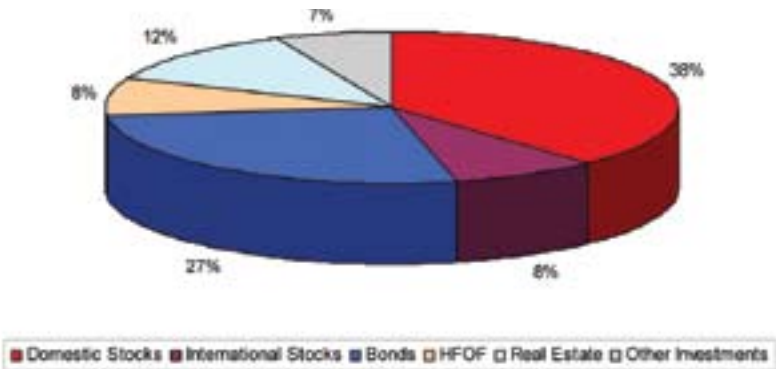
Fund Balances (\$ in millions)		
	Dec. 31, 2009	Dec. 31, 2008
General	\$41.4	\$42.7
Hardship	\$3.8	\$3.4
Emergency	\$11.4	\$10.4
Defense	\$4.9	\$4.2
Capital Maintenance	\$1.8	\$4.5

Fourth Quarter 2009 Financial Report			
(Unaudited - in thousands)			
Profit & Loss Statement		Balance Sheet	
(Dec. 31, 2009, year-to-date)		(as of Dec. 31, 2009)	
Membership Revenue	\$33,781	Cash, Investments & Deposits	\$33,807
Other Revenue	\$6,015	Employee Funded 457 Plan	\$1,394
Total Receipts	\$39,796	Automobiles	\$2,812
Salaries, Benefits & Taxes	\$25,724	Office Furniture & Equipment	\$1,819
Per Capita Taxes	\$5,158	Computers & Software	\$9,118
Office and Operations	\$3,463	Communications Equipment	\$942
Depreciation	\$1,460	Print Shop Equipment	\$1,102
Professional Services	\$1,243	Less Accum. Depreciation	(\$8,206)
PAC’s & Fund Allocations	\$1,021	Total Assets	\$42,787
Admin & Public Relations	\$2,987	Liabilities	(\$3)
Total Expenses	\$41,057	Employee Funded 457 Plan	\$1,394
Net Income	(\$1,261)	General Fund Balance	\$41,397
		Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	\$42,787

Pension Trust Fund for  
Operating Engineers  
12/31/2009

Plan Assets

(1) Total Investments	\$ 2,847,305,524
Domestic Stocks	1,087,433,964
International Stocks	231,498,004
Bonds	769,558,721
Hedge Fund of Funds	226,287,892
Real Estate	342,249,653
Other Investments	190,277,290

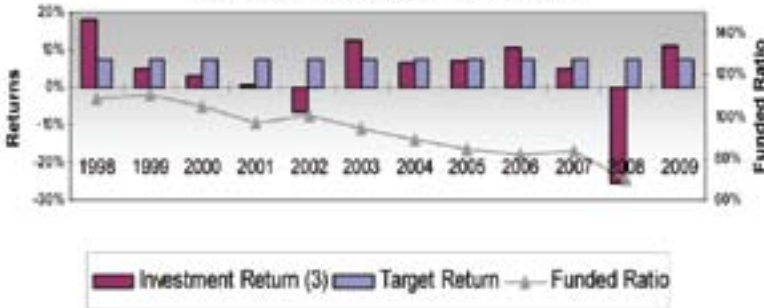


- Notes:
- 1) Asset figures and returns are preliminary and unaudited.
  - 2) Other Investments include an insurance contract with New York Life and operational cash.
  - 3) Returns through 12/31/2007 were not calculated by IPS.
  - 4) The Funded Ratio is the value of assets used for the annual pension plan valuation divided by the present value of accumulated plan benefits as provided by the actuary.

Plan Returns / Funded Status

	Investment Return (3)	Target Return	Funded Ratio
1998	17.8%	7.5%	108.9%
1999	4.8%	7.5%	110.4%
2000	3.2%	7.5%	105.4%
2001	0.4%	7.5%	96.9%
2002	-6.6%	7.5%	100.6%
2003	12.5%	7.5%	94.5%
2004	6.7%	7.5%	88.7%
2005	6.9%	7.5%	84.0%
2006	10.5%	7.5%	81.3%
2007	5.2%	7.5%	83.5%
2008	-25.6%	7.5%	69.9%
(1)(4) 2009	11.1%	7.5%	N/A

Plan Returns vs. Funded Status



Commentary (4th Quarter 2009):

The fourth quarter of 2009 ended with all major equity indices posting gains as the rally that began in March carried through December. The S&P 500 Index returned 6.0% for the fourth quarter and 26.5% for the trailing one year. In December, both the number of unemployed persons, at 15.3 million, and the unemployment rate, at 10.0 percent, were unchanged. At the start of the recession in December 2007, the number of unemployed persons was 7.5 million, and the jobless rate was 4.9 percent. The Barclays Aggregate Index, which measures the broad fixed income market, returned 0.2% during the fourth quarter and 5.9% for the past year. Corporate spreads, measured against equivalent treasuries, have continued to narrow year-to-date in 2009 from all time highs achieved in 2008 as investors have become more comfortable with corporate balance sheets and debt obligations. As a result, high yield bonds were one of the best performing asset classes during calendar year 2009.



Report & Review  
By Carl Goff, vice president

Critical decisions  
not easy to make

This last round of district meetings was tough. I know a lot of you are upset with the recent changes made to the actives' California Health and Welfare Plan, and it's never easy to stand up in front of you all and share bad news, but as officers and Trustees of Local 3, it's part of our job. You elected us to make the tough decisions necessary for this union's future, and we promised we'd be upfront with you about what needs to be done.

It may seem like we're constantly the bearers of bad news, but please understand that it's not because we're making poor decisions; some things are out of our hands. We are at the mercy of the economy, and unfortunately, it is struggling. We're making the best decisions we can, but there's no sugarcoating the fact that it's not a good time right now. More money was going out of the fund than coming in, and the plans would eventually become insolvent. If we stood aside and did nothing, we'd lose our benefits entirely, and that's not what anyone wants, so we are making changes to prevent that from happening.

When it came to our Health and Welfare Plan, our approach was two-fold: We listened to what our plan professionals told us, and we acted on what was good for the union as a whole. Unfortunately, we have no control over some aspects of this, like work hours and the market. We try to get people elected who will help create jobs, but what happened recently is when they got there, there was no money to work with. Things will turn around, and we're in a good place for when that happens, but until then, we need to stay united and weather this storm together. We have every intention of changing things back, but we have to wait until that's feasible.

Please understand that we didn't reduce anyone's benefits. We just raised the deductible. It's still a 90/10 plan – the plan still pays 90 percent, and you still pay 10 percent, provided you use contract doctors and hospitals. We were able to keep that in place. And that's not just for you; that's for us – officers and staff included. Unlike your politicians, we are not removed from the situations we impact. Any changes we make, we must experience too.

I want to make it clear that we don't make decisions that negatively affect you because we want to. In fact, it's the hardest part of the job. Trust me, we would like to tell you that everything is fine, but it's just not the time. It's hard to accept this, because not too long ago we were sitting pretty – work was strong and funds were available – but we're not living in those times right now. We have to do what we have to do because it's the right way to run the union. We represent four different states and hundreds of different contracts. We need to act on behalf of everyone who belongs to this union. Everyone gets to share the gain, and, unfortunately, we must share the pain too.

We officers will continue to make the best decisions for the union, and we promise to lay it all on the table – the good, the bad and the ugly. We promised we'd let you know the facts, and the facts are, we cannot singlehandedly fix the economy, but we can weather this storm so we can all make it to brighter days.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. If you have any other questions about your specific plan, please call the Trust Fund Office at (800) 251-5014.





District 30 Caltrans member Carl Sutton removes snow along Hwy. 108 near Long Barn.



District 50 Caltrans members Jay Lago and Mark Tooley blow snow off the roads at Shaver Lake.



District 80 Caltrans member Vincent Larrabure prepares to sand Hwy. 50 to combat winter road conditions.

# Stormy situations

By Jamie Johnston, associate editor

The forecast: Cloudy with a chance of work. Not everyone's happy about the recent storms that pounded Northern California these last couple of months, but Local 3 has welcomed the rain: It's not only creating work – it's helping ease the impending drought, which, in turn, makes spring's work picture a little brighter. While it's good news now, it wasn't all fun and games as operators tested their skills in emergency situations. From clearing snow-covered highways to saving an apartment complex from slipping into the ocean, operators stayed busy trying to weather the weather. One of the biggest projects literally broke ground in the Pacifica cliffs. Storm-powered waves took their toll on the bluff that the Esplanade Apartments complex sits on, whittling it away until the building nearly teetered over the edge. Crane operators with Maxim, Sheedy and Bigge were called to the scene to move baskets of rock over the building to reinforce the cliff and lower and hold a man-basket so workers could get close to the edge

safely. Local 3 surveyors from Kier & Wright Civil Engineers & Surveyors, Inc. also came to the rescue, utilizing GPS systems and total stations.



District 30 Caltrans Operator Paul Royce cleans up a pass on Hwy. 108.

These members' professionalism and hard work were featured in newspapers and on TV stations nationwide. Members were also highlighted in District 80, District 30 and District 50, as they remained on-call to remove snow from busy roadways. Even the Bay Area saw snowfall – an uncommon occurrence that put Unit 12 Caltrans crews to work in Oakland (District 20) helping the California Highway Patrol (CHP) with traffic control. In District 10, members were photographed in *The Press Democrat* making emergency repairs to parts of the Russian River where it threatened to wash out Hwy. 128 near the Geyserville Bridge. According to the newspaper, operators with Maggiora and Ghilotti added 2,500 cubic yards of rock to reinforce the bank after a late-January storm.

While California got quite a soaking, meteorologists say the state's fears of a prolonged drought aren't completely doused just yet. More rain and snowfall are needed this month.



Surveyor Phil Escovedo.



Surveyor Clint Derby.

From left: Surveyors Clint Derby and Phil Escovedo work from the cliff side of the Esplanade Apartments complex, as signatory crane operators with Sheedy work from the street in front.

Photos courtesy of Tony McCant and Rod Stewart, Kier & Wright Civil Engineers & Surveyors, Inc.







*Eleven-year member and Bigge Crane Operator Charles Stewart lowers and holds a man basket, seen at right, so workers can get close to the eroded cliff side as waves threatened to wash the Esplanade Apartments complex into the ocean.*





## Public Employee News

By Don Dietrich, director

# The truth about government funding

Every time you turn around, the media is reporting how government cannot sustain the high cost of employee wages and benefits and how government employees are receiving retirement benefits in excess of their salary – more than \$100,000 a year in retirement.

After nearly 20 years of service in the public sector and another 10 years working for the Operating Engineers, I can say that I don't personally know anyone who has a retirement check that exceeds their former salary. I do know a couple of retired public officials (chiefs of police) who are receiving a retirement of more than \$100,000. California Public Employment Retirement System (CalPERS) reports that less than 1 percent of retirees in the system receive a retirement of more than \$100,000.

The truth is, about 60 percent of the local and state general fund goes toward employee compensation. The general fund is where government agencies put money for discretionary spending. Nearly every government agency has these protected funds, such as redevelopment funds, enterprise funds and capital improvement funds. The list goes on and on.

City managers and county executive officers would like to have 100 percent of the general fund available for their discretionary use. Much to their chagrin, this is where employee wages and benefits are paid. This limits the amount they can manipulate without taxpayer approval and very little disclosure. No wonder these officials want total control.

I believe the California League of Cities and counterparts among county government are the ones behind the hysteria regarding employee wages and benefits. I believe the agenda is to reduce employee benefits and wages like they were a decade ago. The whole purpose is to reduce the impact to the general fund to allow more discretionary funding for their personal agendas.

Let's get real about government funding. Do you want to negatively impact the lives of those who provide services to allow for more discretionary spending by those who have run us into the ground? I don't think so. It's not like these government officials are offering to lower our tax liability if salaries and benefits are reduced. They don't talk about how they are going to use the money, because if the truth be told, they will still spend it. It's really just a matter of how much discretion they have with our money.

## Have we really won?

By Alan Elnick, business representative

We may be at the end of the first quarter of 2010, but we still remember last year like a bad hangover. There is old wisdom in labor relations that suggests when you think you have lost, you have really won. Having survived the worst assaults, such as Proposition 13, and having a sustained drive to improve working conditions for 30 years since the proposition's passage, we grudgingly accept the reality of the past year.

Few of us alive today can recall a time as devastating. Unemployment soared to rates never experienced. The failure of financial institutions dried up access to credit for consumers, businesses and state and local government. These relied upon an assumption of business growth, property-value enhancement and an accelerating rate of property transfer for projecting future revenues. But for the first time in at least a generation, these all decreased.

In this environment, the Alameda County Management Employees' Association (ACMEA) negotiated agreements with its employers. ACMEA was modest in its terms, even though acceptance of those terms was difficult for some. However, the contracts were won.

ACMEA achieved agreements on behalf of the county's general government and confidential bargaining units, covering roughly 600 county employees. The controversial change was about the cost of health-care premiums. The county formerly paid the full premium of the least expensive plan. Now it will pay 90 percent of the cost for all health plans. For employees enrolled in plans other than the county's least expensive one, this was good news. For those who participated in the least expensive plan, it meant a substantial increase in cost, particularly for those who purchased family coverage. To mitigate some of the negative effects of the conversion, the county increased its contribution to its "cafeteria" plan by \$300 for this year and another \$300 in 2011.

Local 3 successfully negotiated new health-care plans for its Public Employees and Miscellaneous Employees' Health and Welfare Trust Fund. ACMEA successfully negotiated with the county to offer these new plans to ACMEA and Local 3-represented employees. At this writing, more than 200

ACMEA/Local 3 members in county employment took advantage of the opportunity. The county and employees saved money as a result. Those most negatively affected by the county's change in premium share, turned that into a win, particularly as the Local 3 plans offer better or equivalent benefits.

ACMEA confronted different challenges. Negotiations for a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concluded in December 2008 on a positive note with 3 percent wage increases accepted over its two-year term. The trouble began in April when the court announced layoffs concurrent to the state's expanding budget problems. By July, 29 ACMEA members were permanently laid-off. During the course of impact discussions, ACMEA was informed that its represented employees were no longer eligible to demote into classifications represented by Service Employees' International Union (SEIU), since the court agreed to a clause in the SEIU contract to remove seniority from those who promoted out of their bargaining unit for more than six months. Having received no notice from the court that these changes were going into effect, ACMEA filed suit on behalf of 13 employees who should have qualified for demotions under the court's existing rules and layoff policy. In December, the judge issued a draft-tentative decision restoring one of the laid-off employees, but denying the others reinstatement or demotion. At this writing, a final determination is pending.

Legislation was passed enabling the court to furlough its employees one Wednesday per month for 10 months to help offset the budget deficits. The court may enact more closure. ACMEA finished the year continuing negotiations with the Alameda County Medical Center, the Probation Managers' Unit and the Sheriffs' Management Unit. The major challenge confronting the safety units is proposed reduction of the 3 percent at 50 pension programs enacted about five years ago. The county is proposing 2 percent at 50, with an option to purchase a 3 percent at 55 benefit for safety employees entering the system after the proposed agreement is adopted. There is no proposed impact for existing safety employees.



# Efforts are rewarded



From left: Negotiating team members include James Scott, Linda Stanley, Mary Davidson, Cindy Silva-Brackett, Larry Fabish and Matt Perry.

## By Mike Minton, business representative

It has been quite a long and painful ride in Lake County, but I finally have nothing but good news to report. After a nearly two-year battle, which included filing a lawsuit against the county on behalf of its Lake County Employees' Association (LCEA) trying to get a successor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place, we finally reached agreement on a new contract. This successor MOU will contain retroactive incentive pay for several members from June 2008 to its expiration date of June 2011. This new deal contains a 2.5 percent incentive pay for a particular classification, up to a \$700 cash stipend for all employees, two personal-leave days each year and a catastrophic leave plan.

I would like to thank negotiating team members Mary Davidson, James Scott, Linda Stanley, Cindy Silva-Brackett, Mike Owens and Rob Braiser for their patience, diligence, hard work and self-control in not allowing personal opinions and feelings to interfere with the direction we needed to go. I would also like to thank the county's negotiators Deputy County Council Ryan Lambert and Chief Deputy Administrative Officer Matt Perry for their hard work and understanding and for not taking anything personally. Quite often, it is easy to forget your mission and make things personal when you are going through difficult negotiations. This group of professionals never did that. My congratulations to both sides.

I would also like to thank Lake County for allowing its negotiators to do what needed to be done and for finally agreeing to put this thing to rest and give employees a contract they can be proud of.

I also have good news regarding our Lake County Superior Court clerks. We filed a grievance and a lawsuit against the courts in how they handled what we considered a layoff, but the courts interpreted as an elimination. The courts were calling an apple an orange, so to speak. Before the lawsuit was heard in court, we won the grievance at its final stage and the laid-off employee, Marlene Elder, was returned to work with restored back pay and benefits. I would like to thank her for her patience and confidence in OE3. She knew we would do what was right by her. I would also like to thank the court's Human Resources Director Krista Levier for her truly professional demeanor in handling this sensitive issue.

The issue in Clearlake regarding its Public Works employees not being able to get a MOU in place, which caused another lawsuit to be filed against the city of Clearlake, has been resolved. We were finally able to get a successor MOU, and that lawsuit has been withdrawn. We were also able to get a MOU for the Clearlake Police Officers' Association. I would like to thank detectives Mike Ray and Martin Snyder for their hard work in getting this deal.

It has been a while since I have had any good news, but time, patience and hard work finally paid off.



From left: Lake County Superior Court clerks KC Bramlett, Marlene Elder, Colleen Warner and Melanie Hanson.

# Hunting season has opened

By Fred Klingel, business representative

Hunting season has opened, and the "game" that public employers are aiming at is retirement, current employee health plans and retiree medical plans.

The next several months will be extremely tense and tactical. Public employers will be on the hunt to change all defined benefits by cutting them up. After the debauchery is over, they will bring them back as defined contribution benefits. So what does that translate to for the "working stiff?" Depending on your classification, you will contribute 7 percent to 9 percent to your retirement. This will satisfy the requirements of the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 45, which states that the public employer has to show how it funds unfunded liabilities.

Secondly, there will be a push for you to assist in funding a portion of the employer's contribution. These are huge savings for the employer and a huge reduction for you. To make it even more advantageous for the employer, the plan will become two-tiered and possibly three-tiered at a later time, resulting in a defined contribution by the employee for retirement. The employer's idea of a defined contribution is that you will pay for your retirement out of your paycheck, meaning you have just reduced your present income by \$500 to \$1,000 a month.

Current employee health plans are also on the menu. Insurance costs have been going up, and certain plans are no longer available. Therefore, for contracts presently in place, you will get less for more money. Again, public employers are under the gun to curb these defined benefits. A full frontal assault will be launched to change the defined benefit to a defined contribution. You will contribute more, and the employer will contribute less. So with each dollar that you add to your contribution, you will receive less benefits in return. We've already seen these scenarios throughout the state, so hold on to them and your shorts, lest you want to lose them also.

The retiree medical plan is also about to reach the extinction stage, another unfunded liability. So, if you want health insurance when you retire, save up from the day you get hired. With more and more boomers retiring and living longer, there is an extreme burden on public employers.

Members will have to remain strong and vigilant. Do not give up what has already been earned. We may have to make some trades here and there, but don't give away anything that we fought and paid for. By the time everything is changed to a defined contribution, you will have reduced your take-home pay by 25 percent to 50 percent. The debauchery will have been on you, and the public employers will continue to spend like drunken sailors as they have before, only now the savings will be distributed for more pet programs on the backs of our union brothers and sisters. Stand up and stay together; don't let this happen.

# Another year, same old stuff

By Rick Davis, business representative

Negotiations with the Rancho Murieta Community Service District are not going well. It isn't so much that Rancho Murieta is drowning in red – it is just that the district board is very sensitive to the politics in this small community. You have to get reelected to the board. People in the community read and hear all about the state-budget deficit and cuts and then cry to the district board that there should be cuts and takeaways from our employees, when in fact, the financial shape of the district is not that bad. It's not great, but it's not that bad. The board has already given the non-represented employees a salary adjustment, but none for the represented employees. It was obvious from the second session of negotiations that the district was not going to give any enhancements to employees, but it was OK for non-represented employees. How bizarre. At the time of this writing, we are still at the table and have been since October 2009. We will continue to plug along, and hopefully the board negotiator will start moving on non-monetary issues and give the represented employees the same adjustments already given to the non-represented employees.

I don't have to tell anybody that 2010 will be worse financially for public employees than 2009. The state and its \$22 million deficit will affect most, if not all, the cities and counties in the state. Therefore, the negotiations of all the units I represent will be impacted. This has carried on for three years, and I wish I could see a light at the end of the tunnel. During the next six months, all of my units will be going back to the table, and I am concerned about what will be the primary discussions

during those negotiations. The League of California Cities and California State Association of Counties seem to have a blueprint on what they are after: Two-tiered retirements, higher pension-contribution percentages from employees for their retirement, more money paid by the employee toward health care and salary reductions. With so many people out of work in the private sector, our fight will be a hard one. There will be no community support for public employees, so we must be careful how we proceed and what we fight to keep.

Retirement benefits and health care will be my main focus. We must strive to keep all employees on the same pension plan, or we will suffer in the years to come. Our work in 2010 will be tedious, stressful and not very rewarding, but we must strategically draw a line in the sand and fight to keep what we have, not only for the present employee but for the future one.

As you know, this is an election year. All the statewide offices are up for election along with all 80 state Assembly seats, 25 of which will be open as incumbents leave office. In the Senate, 20 of the 40 seats are up for election, nine of which are incumbents. What does this mean to us? Change! It is time to change what is and has been happening in this state. This is the year: Be informed; be diligent as to who, what and how the working middle class of California can make a difference in the state. If you, as public employees, do not get out and educate yourselves and work at changing this state, then we will not prevail in keeping what we have and bettering our lives in the future.

Until next time, be safe, be happy and hang in there.

## On the Job: Alameda County Water District

The Alameda County Water District (signatory for 2-½ years) covers Fremont, Newark and Union City. These members are responsible for all the delivery lines that supply water to district residents. They also perform maintenance on the present system and new construction of water systems for local projects. Once winter storms subsided, workers were able to get out to non-emergency work.

Engineers News caught up with the crew as they installed a new service line in Fremont and repaired a leaky waterline in Union City.



Arturo Ortiz directs traffic on Lakeview Road in Fremont.



Utility Worker Sam Cho delivers rock to fill a hole.



Jim Jeffers directs traffic away from the work area on Lakeview Road.



From left: Jedd Zizileuskas and Jaime Salinas repair leaks on a waterline in Union City.



Rich Green uses hand signals to help Backhoe Operator John Horry dig to an existing waterline they will tie into.





**Credit Union**  
By Jim Sullivan,  
Credit Union secretary/financial officer  
& recording - corresponding secretary

# Consider our union Credit Union

For most families, choosing the right primary financial institution is based on convenience, available services and fee levels. Retirement planning, college-education funding, home financing, other borrowings, return levels and investment opportunities are the issues that mean the most.

There is a growing trend for consolidation in the financial services industry. Banks are buying other banks. Banks are buying brokerage and mutual fund companies. Banks and investment banks are merging. Unfortunately, these changes have meant higher fees, new personnel and less personal service. For consumers, the issue will ultimately boil down to how well they are served by these new and larger organizations.

When evaluating your financial options, consider our union Credit Union. We have a full menu of products and services, such as checking accounts, share certificates, mortgage and auto loans and credit cards; especially in this somewhat precarious credit environment, credit unions, for the most part, have managed to sidestep the current financial crisis.



Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union (OEFCU) is weathering the financial crisis better than some larger financial institutions. A recent examination of our financial condition indicated that the management staff has and continues to make prudent decisions, which have helped us maintain our strong position.

Union members and their families have shown their support for the union movement by banking with OEFCU, a member-owned, 100 percent union financial institution. By providing members an option for financial services beyond those offered by non-union, for-profit institutions, our members have the opportunity to affordably meet both their day-to-day and major financial needs.

OEFCU is proud that we have been the financial solution for our members since 1964. Members' needs may be different from what they were when we first opened our doors, but, whether it be as simple as lending you a hand in buying a vehicle or as complicated as restructuring your mortgage loan to help keep you in your home, that is what we're here for.

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FIELD PERSPECTIVE:  
What the members are saying

What do you do during the slow winter months?



"I'm supposed to study! I don't have any hobbies."  
— Emiliano Gaytan, apprentice



"Hunting and fishing – we slow down, but I work a day here and there."  
— Dennis Houston, nine-year member



"I do my survey studies – now I'm way ahead. I also take care of my family [three kids, ages 10, 7 and a newborn] and take care of everything around the house."  
— Andrew Tasabia, apprentice



"It depends ... handyman work, spend time with the wife and kids and two weeks of school."  
— Robert Coleman, apprentice



"Weld on this machine [grinder] in the shop."  
— Erin Thompson, 11-year member

Unit 12  
By Gary Rocha, business representative

Who maintains your hunting grounds?

The Department of Fish and Game manages more than 1 million acres in California. In the Local 3 districts, Unit 12 employees work in four of the six regions across the state, maintaining roads, repairing drainage canals and protecting wildlife.

Business Rep. Rick Phillips knows all about it. He keeps a trailer at the Los Banos Wildlife Area during hunting season. The wildlife area recently celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary and has grown from 3,000 areas to nearly 18,000 areas of complex

and diversified wildlife habitat, wetlands and land management. The Local 3 state Unit 12 employees keep busy maintaining roads and waterways for the safety of the many people who use the facilities every day. These members also work within non-game programs that focus on threatened and endangered species, like certain snakes and wildflowers.

Remember: Whether you're hunting, fishing or just stopping to smell the wildflowers, be safe.

Have a great day, and happy hunting.



Mendota Wildlife Area Equipment Operator Dave Ford.



From left: Los Banos Wildlife Area equipment operators Jason Strohmenger, Pat Cotta, Shad Overton, Daniel Freeman and John Castillo.

On the job: Ghilotti  
Underground, soil stabilization, dirt crews  
work on first phase of Skyy Vodka building

While the winter season is typically slow for most operators, some jobs must be done *because* of weather (for more on this, see page 6). One such job is soil stabilization.

Ghilotti Soil Stabilization Supervisor Rick Carner is an expert in this field, which involves soil lime treatment (a science that has been around for thousands of years) and cement treatment that stabilizes roadways to be used for operating heavy equipment. Ground surfaces are often compromised due to weather, which can create unsafe conditions.



Ghilotti Soil Stabilization Supervisor Rick Carner.

For instance, you can't drive a crane on soft ground.

"Ghilotti is the only full-service lime-treating company that does the whole job without hiring out subs," said Carner, a 25-year Local 3 member.

Carner is one of several operators working for Ghilotti in District 04. While

his expertise is in soil stabilization, others are involved in the dirt-moving and underground phase of a new Skyy Vodka administration building. This first phase should continue through August and involves several 600-yard concrete pours and some crane work.

According to Backhoe Operator Justin Garcia, a 5-1/2-year member, the weather has presented challenges. *Engineers News* caught up with him while he was working on putting in a waterline with a tie-in from an existing waterline. Mud covered his tires.

"I am part of the underground team," he said.

The building phase has not been put to bid yet. When finished, the Skyy Vodka building will be responsible for bringing in the alcohol and turning it into various liqueurs, etc.



Operator Kenny Caselli.

Backhoe Operator Justin Garcia works on a waterline tie-in for Ghilotti.







## Political Perspective

By Mark Kyle, director of government affairs and public relations

# New technology helps members win in politics

## Local 3 Web site: "One-stop shopping"

The Internet is a powerful tool for communication. Local 3 will be using it a lot more for politics in this election year. First off, we're making the Local 3 Web site ([www.oe3.org](http://www.oe3.org)) more user-friendly by crafting a one-stop shop for Local 3 politics. How exactly does that work? Let me explain.

- Not sure if you're registered to vote, or where to register to vote? Go to our Web site for information.
- Are you already registered but want to vote by mail? Go to our Web site to find out how.
- Are you interested in becoming a Permanent Absentee Voter (PAV)? Go to our Web site and sign up.

By now you're probably detecting a pattern. The Local 3 Web site makes it easier for members to participate in the political process.

### Up-to-date information

Besides the nuts-and-bolts like voter registration, members will also be able to get updated information on political and legislative issues. Whether it's federal legislation that's moving through Congress, or an important city council meeting, our Web site will have the information in a timely fashion. You'll also be able to get information on state issues: Budgets, pending bills that might affect your work, etc.

How much action will there be at the federal level this year? A few big-ticket items include: Pension reform, the Surface Transportation Re-authorization Act, a climate and energy bill, the Employee Free Choice Act and others. Given what's coming down the pike, the Web is an invaluable tool for the membership.

### E-mail alerts

One way Local 3 can better serve its members is by getting important information to you in a quicker, more efficient, more cost-effective way. E-mail is one such way. E-mails can be sent to thousands of members instantly at a fraction of the cost of letters or other direct mail. This is not to say that Local 3 will stop using "snail mail," but we are also going to use e-mails for getting you instant information.

Besides alerts on pending legislation and information on election issues, e-mails can inform members about picket lines and rallies, give notice about district meetings and Semi-Annals, remind members about dues payments and warn them about possible delinquencies.

### Pushing the envelope

If we go a step further in our use of modern communication technology, it takes us to tools like Facebook, MySpace and Twitter. We've all heard about these tools, but a lot of us don't use them (unless you're a lot younger than me!). These tools are being used more and more for political communication, because they are easy, inexpensive and able to reach a broad audience. Local 3 is actively looking into using these tools in the not-too-distant future.

Stay tuned for upcoming political news:

- Voter registration deadlines in each state
- California June ballot initiatives
- Federal legislation highlights

*If you haven't done so already, sign-up now for access to our Members Only Web page. Just go to [www.oe3.org](http://www.oe3.org) and click on one of the "Members Only" links to sign up. Do it now!*

# Helping Haiti

Around the globe, people are following the search-and-rescue task forces that were sent to help with the aftermath of a devastating, 7.0 earthquake that collapsed buildings and killed many in Haiti on Jan. 12.

We were behind them long before.

Almost every spring since 2001, urban search-and-rescue professionals from across the country have visited the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTTC) for hands-on disaster training. Firefighters and emergency personnel learn skills like using hand signals to communicate with crane operators in rescue/recovery situations.

Many of the firefighters recently sent to Haiti completed these classes. In fact, a crew from Los Angeles that was trained at the RMTTC last year was en route to Haiti in January but was held up at the Travis Air Force Base because of logistical issues regarding planes landing there.

"Local 3 played an integral part in getting them trained," said Retired Sacramento Fire Capt. Jay Coon. "I'm very thankful for what Local 3 has done."

Another training class is in the works for this year.

Local 3 members have also been on the frontlines by way of radio. When a disaster like the Haiti earthquake occurs, the power is often lost, making it difficult to communicate with the outside world. Retired member Wayne Voigt said communities can even lose their connection to 9-1-1 and local hospitals. This is when amateur radio operators – or ham radio operators, as they're often called – are extremely important. They practice wireless communication and are able to support their communities with emergency disaster communications, if necessary. Voigt is one of them. While he hasn't personally had to relay any information about Haiti, he has heard operators talking about the earthquake on air.

"It's a hobby, but in an emergency situation, you can fall back on ham communicators to get things going," said Voigt, who mostly worked in quarries and asphalt before retiring in 2003.

Amateur radio groups throughout Local 3's jurisdiction are on air and ready to help, if needed.

In times of need, union members also step up financially. The AFL-CIO has set up a number of ways to help those affected by the Haiti earthquake (visit [www.aflcio.org](http://www.aflcio.org) for more information), and Local 3 members continue to give to a number of charities, despite these hard economic times. If you have been affected by someone's generosity or been able to help someone in need, please let us know. Call us at (916) 993-2047, ext. 2505, e-mail us at [mmcmillen@oe3.org](mailto:mmcmillen@oe3.org) or send us a letter to 3920 Lennane Drive, Sacramento, CA 95834. Also, let us know if you're involved in amateur radio. *Engineers News* likes to highlight our members who go above and beyond their calls of duty, so keep reading, as we feature them here.



## Rancho Murieta Training Center for apprentice to journey-level operators

By Kris Morgan, executive director

### Were you a statistic for 2009?

In previous articles, I mentioned the opportunities that await Local 3 members here at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC): Night classes, state-of-the-art equipment, highly skilled instructors, more options for classes, the list goes on. Did you take advantage of this training? Last year will go down in history, as RMTC will complete more than 115,000 hours of training. These numbers are up some 54 percent from previous records.

However, the downturn in work will impact this year's training – if no one is working, we receive little or no revenue flow. With the downturn in work for 2009, our funds have diminished. The revenue flow is down some 45 percent.

I have taken steps to counter the tight budget that was approved by the Board of Trustees for 2010.

We had a partial closure of the training center; some 21 fulltime employees received reduction in force slips. The center continued with skeleton crews in January and February, which allowed us to keep the mountain of paperwork moving and repair the equipment. These months are typically the wettest months of the year. It was also forecast to be wetter than normal, and training in the mud isn't good. We have already received citations for tracking mud on public roadways. We expect to boot back up March 1.

By the time you read this, the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Pipeline Training will be in full swing. The IUOE does its own specialized training for the National Pipeline Agreement. Local 3 agreed to host this training at the RMTC in 2010. By doing so, Local 3 is allowed to fill 50 percent of the classes with our members and fill all no-show lists and vacancies created by the IUOE minimum proficiency testing. RMTC must fuel, lube and maintain the equipment, but other than that, the IUOE is self-sufficient, furnishing its own equipment, instructors and curriculum.

Special thanks goes out to all of my staff. On Sept. 2, 2008, I took over as the executive director of the Northern California Journeyperson and Apprenticeship Training Fund, also known as the RMTC. At that time, I told the staff I was nothing more than the head coach of a football team. I had plans for increased training, and I would be using the other directors, David DeWilde and Tammy Castillo, as my offensive and defensive coaches. Let the numbers speak for themselves: 2009 at RMTC will set the standard for all training centers operated by the Operating Engineers.

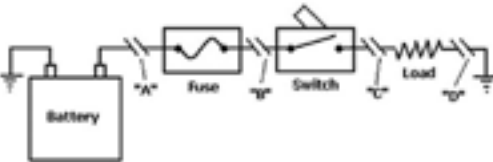
### Mechanics Corner

By Dave Bibby, Heavy Duty Repair (HDR) instructor

### Whose fault is it?

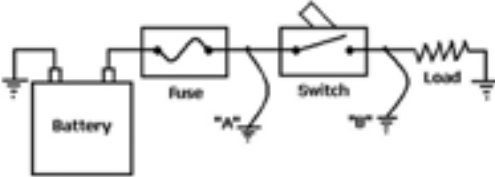
Technological advancements are typically associated with the increased use of electronics. Does that mean technological advancements will also increase the number of electrical faults? No. From the most basic circuit to the most advanced, there are still only four common circuit faults: Open, shorted, grounded and resistance.

An open fault is a circuit that lacks a complete path from the positive (+) to the negative (-) terminals of the battery or power source. This condition results in extremely high resistance, with no current able to flow in the circuit. Open circuits can be caused by a broken wire, blown fuse or disconnected ground wire. Referring to the illustration below, an open at any one of the of the following locations – A, B, C or D – will result in circuit failure.

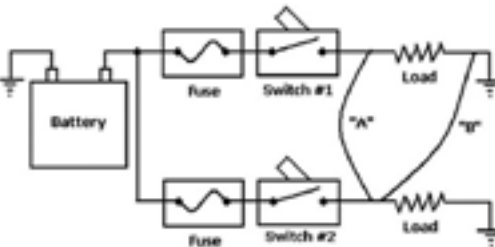


A shorted circuit is a fault that allows current to travel along a different path from the one originally intended. A shorted circuit is the exact opposite of an open one, with very low resistance to current flow. Shorts are typically the result of the wire insulation being rubbed through and contacting either frame ground or another wire. The most common short is described as a "short to ground" or "dead short," with a wire touching bare metal. The circuit will be affected depending on where exactly the

fault has occurred and the condition of the circuit. Referring to the illustration below, if the fault occurred at location A (after the fuse but before the switch and load), the fuse will blow immediately. If the fault occurs at location B (after the fuse and switch but before the load), the fuse will blow only when the switch is closed.

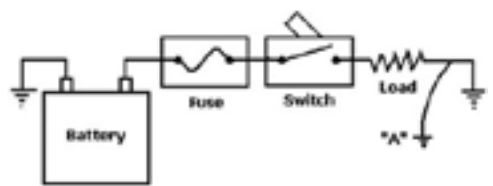


A short with a wire touching another wire will have varying effects on a circuit. In the following example, fault A is after switch 1 and 2 and before both loads. Turning on either of the switches individually will turn on both lights. Fault B is after switch 2 and after load 1. Turning on switch 1 will result in only that light illuminating, but turning on switch 2 creates a "short to ground," and the fuse will blow.

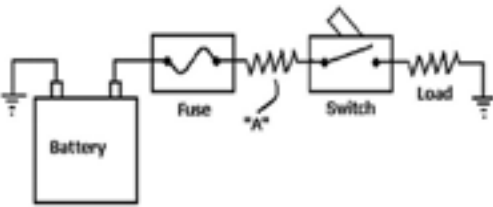


Similar to the "short to ground," with an unwanted path to ground, a grounded fault occurs only after the load. This type of

fault may or may not affect the operation of the circuit. Location A (below) identifies a grounded fault after the load.



A resistance fault is the introduction of unwanted or higher-than-normal resistance, which can prevent the circuit from operating correctly. High resistance can be the result of loose, dirty or corroded connections. Broken strands within a wire or an improperly sized wire for the application can also cause high resistance. Assuming the load is a light bulb, a higher than normal resistance at location A could be a possible cause for a dim light.



So, even with all the advancements in technology and increased use of electronics, there are still only four basic types of faults. Some may argue that one more type of fault exists – the intermittent fault, which causes erratic operation of a circuit, but the intermittent fault is actually one of the four common faults that comes and goes.





# Join our online users

We invite you to join us on the Web. By registering on our Members Only Web site, you'll have access to important, confidential information. Visit [www.oe3.org](http://www.oe3.org) to get started.

Please also join our E-mail Campaign. E-mail us at [subscribe@oe3.org](mailto:subscribe@oe3.org) and we'll send you up-to-the-minute information regarding upcoming elections and political events, district meetings, job actions and important legislation. We will continue to use "snail mail," but through e-mail, we can communicate faster and cheaper about the things that matter! Be the first to know what's going on in *your* union. Don't get left behind.

# Retirees serve as panelists for history book celebration

The UC Berkeley Institute for Research on Labor and Employment recently joined forces with Local 3, the California Labor Federation, the Alameda Labor Council, AFL-CIO and the Alameda County Building Trades Council to celebrate the publication of Local 3's 70-year history book, *Breaking Ground: The History of Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3*. The free event was open to the public.



Igor Blake submitted many photos and details to the book.

A panel of Local 3 members, including Harold Puckeylow, a member since 1945, Lou Nisich Jr., a member since 1969, and Linda Olivier, a member since 1978, participated in a discussion regarding their contributions

to the book and to Local 3 as a whole.

Those in attendance included area-wide union members, historians and Local 3 staff. Retired Gradesetter Mark Cheley heard about the event on the radio, Green 960 AM, and decided to check it out. He promptly ordered a book and sat with Ironworker Mike Daly, who explained that, as an Ironworker, he "couldn't do it [his job] without the Operating Engineers." UC Labor Center Professor George Strauss lauded the book as an honest portrayal of unions.

The panelists discussed topics ranging from construction during the Depression to the challenges women Operating Engineers faced in the early 1980s.

To order a copy of the book, fill out the order form below or visit Local 3's Web site at [www.oe3.org](http://www.oe3.org).



From left: Retirees and book contributors Harold Puckeylow, Lou Nisich Jr. and Linda Olivier participate as panelists at the history book celebration.

# On the lighter side . . .

## CONTRACTOR OF THE MONTH

In honor of St. Patrick's Day this month, *Engineers News* is highlighting one of Local 3's Irish contractors: O'Grady Paving Inc. has been signatory since its incorporation in 1956.

The company, located at 2513 Wyandotte St. in Mountain View, Calif., is a full-service asphalt paving company with more than 50 years of experience paving, grading and providing general engineering and pavement maintenance in the greater Bay Area.

The name O'Grady comes from the original founder, Tom O'Grady. His son, Tom O'Grady Jr., took over in 1980 with his partner Julian Andona. All were members of Local 3 at one time; Andona retired from the union in 1998.

The O'Grady family is proud to be Irish and still has relatives living in Ireland, a place where Tom Jr. spends as much time as he can, visiting with family and golfing.

We thank the O'Grady family for their commitment to Local 3, and we bid all our Irish brothers and sisters a Happy St. Patrick's Day on March 17. Remember to wear green!



A few of O'Grady Paving Inc.'s key employees include, from left: Members Rene Dimas, Al Vogel, Frank Hernandez and Rudy Valdez.

## HOW THE TOUGH GO GREEN

Five ways that even operators can get in touch with their environmentalist side:

1. Ride a motorcycle to work. Save on gas.
2. Start landscaping with a machete – there's no need for excess lawnmower gas fumes.
3. Shower less frequently. Save water.
4. Barbecue. Don't waste the electricity or gas that an oven and stove require.
5. This St. Patrick's Day, save water; drink beer. Or at least go natural and drink your Irish whisky straight!

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# The (re)power of Peterson

Story and photos by Jamie Johnston, associate editor

If anyone knows the benefits of working for Peterson and belonging to Local 3, it's seven-year member Josh Silva. Not only is he a third-generation Local 3 member, but he's a third-generation mechanic and a third-generation Peterson employee. Four of his family members have worked for the signatory company.

"I used to come to Peterson when I was just a little kid," said Josh, while inspecting a backhoe at the Peterson Tractor Headquarters in San Leandro. Josh has pictures of himself at a young age sitting on equipment that his father, Gary Silva, was working on in the same shop. His grandfather, Jim Murphy, also worked there, as did two of his uncles. There was never a question whether Josh would follow their lead.

Local 3 also has a long history with Peterson, as the company has been signatory since the 1940s and currently has 11 locations across Northern California for equipment sales, rental, parts and service needs. Peterson Tractor Headquarters in San Leandro is the company's largest facility and employs members in many capacities, from maintenance and fabrication to running the sales counter.

"It's a good union company. It's a good employer," said District 20 Business Rep. Mike Croll.

Peterson is also a good "green" company, as shop mechanics specialize in many environmentally friendly services that help reduce the toxic emissions produced by heavy equipment. Working with the state of California, Peterson builds and restores engines to meet current emissions standards and assists customers with exhausts and new, clean-diesel technology.

Something the company is working more and more on are re-powers – removing the existing diesel engine from a piece of equipment and replacing it with a new, lower-emissions Cat engine. Installing Diesel Particulate Filters (DPFs) is also catching on, as this reduces particulate carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon emissions.

"These are great things that we're doing," said Larry "Duke" Graves, Peterson's DPF specialist.

Another way Peterson is unique is its ThinkBIG program, a two-year technician internship program that combines real-life, on-the-job experience with academics and offers an associates of science degree. District 20 mechanics Justin Pettit and Brad Giordanella are graduates of the program and, according to their supervisors, some of the best mechanics.

"This is the best place I've ever worked," said Machinist Rich Butler, a Local 3 member and Peterson employee for 21 years. "They treat you right. They get what you need to get your job done right. They listen to your needs. If I need something brought in to do my job, they'll do it. I'll retire here."

Member Abe Olay plans to too.

"They evenly distribute jobs," said the 16-year Peterson employee. "They make schedules [ahead of time] so you know when you're on or off, so you can make plans."

For more information on Peterson, visit the company's Web site at [www.petersoncat.com](http://www.petersoncat.com) or read the District 90 branch spotlight at right.

For more photos of the Peterson crew, visit [www.oe3.org](http://www.oe3.org).



Mechanic Abe Olay.



Welder Edwin Espinoza.



Mechanic Justin Pettit is a graduate of Peterson's ThinkBIG technician internship program and has been with Local 3 for about four years.



Machinist Rich Butler has worked for Peterson for 21 years.



James Conneally works in the Compact Construction Equipment (CCE) shop in San Leandro.

Peterson's San Leandro Parts Department includes, from left: Members Dean Giodanella, Ron Burton, Hector DeAnda, Brad Torees, Ryan Kershaw, Chris Babbitt, Daniel Kirby, Art Uribe, Elton Teixeira, Madeleine Briones, Bobby Delgado, Mike Montez, Ray Pacheco and Christian Morrish.

On the cover: Peterson Mechanic Sharmit Singh works on a repower for Rado Construction.







Howard Renshaw refinishes parts.



Heavy Duty Repair (HDR) Mechanic Bob Brown.



Larry "Duke" Graves is Peterson's Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF) specialist.



Josh Silva is a third-generation Local 3 Peterson mechanic.



Welder Jim Smith grinds plates on the burning table in the fab shop.



Welder David Dickinson.



Mechanic Brad Giordanella is a graduate of Peterson's ThinkBIG technician internship program and, according to a supervisor, "one of our best mechanics."



Welder Mike Paxson repairs cracks in the thumb of a 345 excavator.

## Peterson Tractor Branch Spotlight: San Martin, Calif.

Story and photos by Mandy McMillen, managing editor

The Peterson Tractor shop in San Martin, Calif. is highlighted this month for being one of the shops that has representatives on a committee formed to improve union-employer-employee relationships. As money is tight and negotiations start soon, a committee of this nature is unusual but some might say necessary.

For District 90 member and Shop Steward David Allen, this Business Exploration Committee (BEC) "definitely improved relations" and made those in charge, such as Peterson CEO Duane Doyle, seem more approachable. Allen has been a member for 4-½ years and compliments the crew he works with.

The San Martin branch is known for its hard-working crew and its unusually clean shop.

According to Store Manager Dirk Enzweiler, the shop was built in February 2002, but when you visit it, you'd think it was erected yesterday. The floors are clean enough to eat off (Enzweiler credits this to the mechanics' mobile toolboxes and a tool room organized like a library), and the general camaraderie and work ethic among crew members is obvious.

Member Jason Thomas grew up washing his father's partner's truck. His father, Tim Clements, is also a Peterson mechanic. Thomas eventually inherited the truck he once washed and now "can work on anything Cat makes."

These mechanics will talk about what they do with a smile. Known as "tool junkies," they particularly enjoy the new, specialty tools, and there is real pride in their eyes when they discuss what they do or

how many different things they can do in a day. They service the field equipment, provide maintenance in the shop (including painting the equipment) and can rebuild any piece on the property. They are most thankful, perhaps, for steady employment. Stephen Hoph makes the drive from Fresno, almost 150 miles one way, because it is a good job.

The shop is also responsible for selling and renting equipment and parts, as it has an impressive fleet of new and used equipment in back. Shop Counterperson Joe Gysendorf and Parts Driver Jason Silveira aid in this matter.

In short, there's not much the Peterson San Martin branch can't do when it comes to equipment.

"We do have a young crew here," said Shop Crew Manager Rex Collard, and every one of them has a bright future.



Warehouse Manager Brian Blankenship.



Shop Steward David Allen.



Member John Silva fills orders for customers at the San Martin branch of Peterson Tractor.



Peterson Tractor Mechanic Jason Gomes checks fluids at the shop.



Peterson Tractor Mechanic Dan Vlach cleans the fuel tank at the San Martin shop.



## We're here to help

Fringe Benefits Service Center: (800) 532-2105

Trust Fund Office: (800) 251-5014

### Fringe Benefits

By Charlie Warren, director

## Pension Q and A

### How will my Pension be paid?

The main form of the Pension benefit is the Husband and Wife 50 Percent Pension, though participants also have the option to leave their spouse 75 percent or 100 percent of their benefit. Because these options guarantee retirement income over two life spans, adjustments are made to the Pension. Members who are entitled to receive a Pension will receive benefits for their lifetime. After a member passes away, the spouse will receive 50 percent, 75 percent or 100 percent of the Pension for his or her lifetime.

Other available options are the 60-Month Guarantee and the 120-Month Guarantee.

### What is the 60-Month Guarantee?

With the 60-Month Guarantee, if you are single when you retire or are married and your spouse consents in writing his or her rejection of the Husband and Wife 50 Percent Pension, you will receive monthly Pension payments guaranteed for a minimum of 60 months after your retirement date. Benefits are paid to you for your lifetime, but if you live less than 60 months after retirement, monthly payments will continue to your beneficiary for the remainder of the 60-month period.

### What is the 120-Month Guarantee?

The 120-Month Guarantee is similar to the 60-Month Guarantee, except that a lower amount is payable to you in exchange for the guarantee that if you die before 120 monthly payments have been made, the balance of the 120 payments will be made to your beneficiary.

Election of this option must be made before your Pension begins and will not take effect until 24 months after you make the election. Until the option takes effect, your Pension will be payable in the normal form (60-Month Guarantee), as if the 120-Month Guarantee option had not been elected.

If you have any questions regarding your Pension, please contact the Trust Fund Office at (800) 251-5014 or the Fringe Benefits Service Center at (800) 532-2105.

## Kaiser Permanente: We thank you

We look forward to seeing you at the March 21 Semi-Annual Meeting at the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo, Calif. As usual, there will be a Health Fair before the meeting, and Kaiser Permanente will be offering free blood pressure, body composition, glucose and cholesterol screenings. We would like to personally thank Kaiser Permanente for offering these free screenings at our Semi-Annuals for 10 years now. These screenings allow many of our members and families to get a quick assessment of their health and remind them to check with their doctors for medical needs.

Stay tuned for photos of this event.

Kaiser members should watch for a direct mailer from Health Works, a Kaiser Permanente program, which will provide access to health and wellness tools online.

## Retiree Association Meetings

The next round of Retiree Association Meetings will begin in May. Look in the April *Engineers News* for the schedule.

### Schedule a meeting with us: It's easy

We had quite a good turnout at our recent round of Pre-Retirement Meetings. We thank you for attending. The good questions asked and answered for the group aid in everyone's understanding of the "nuts and bolts" of the Pension, the Annuity and the Pension Health and Welfare funds.

We formally schedule the Pre-Retirement Meetings once a year in California, Nevada and Utah (usually for January and February). We schedule informal district-office visits throughout the year, so if you need to meet with us, just let us know. Hawaii participants should check with the Trust Fund Office in Kapolei for the schedule at (800) 660-9126. As always, you can contact our office at (800) 532-2105 or the Trust Fund Office at (800) 251-5014.

Correction: In the last issue, Fringe Benefits indicated that Lodi Memorial Hospital is no longer a contract provider, but effective Jan. 1, 2009, Lodi Memorial Hospital is a contracting hospital.

## Retiree Post

### What is your favorite vacation spot?



"Bahamas. I have been there once and liked the people and the atmosphere. When I save up enough money, I'd like to go back."  
— Retiree Earnest Dorsey

"Colorado. I am from there and plan to go back soon."  
— Retiree Vern Bloesser



"Alaska, in a motor home from June to July. We did bear-viewing, traveled to the Arctic Circle and took a boat trip to the glaciers."  
— Gabrielle Cox, wife of Retiree J.D. Cox





Operators Mark Alire and Scott Ross work together to steady and lower a 38,000-pound valve east of Salida in Riverbank. This replacement is one of three for the Hetch Hetchy Water System Improvement upgrades.

# A precise operation

Members with Mountain Cascade move 38,000-pound valves

Story and photo by Mandy McMillen, managing editor

For some 2.4 million people in Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo and San Francisco counties, the Hetch Hetchy Water System means life. Since 1934, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) regional water system has provided water to these areas with 85 percent of it coming from the upper Tuolumne River watershed in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. There it is stored in the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and then transported via the San Joaquin Pipeline (SJPL) system 47.5 miles across California’s Central Valley to the Bay Area. Delivering about 260 million gallons of water per day, the regional system consists of more than 280 miles of pipelines, more than 60 miles of tunnels, 11 reservoirs, five pump stations and two water-treatment plants (along with a new one, Tesla, which broke ground last summer).

The system has been a work in progress, especially following heightened safety awareness after the Loma Prieta Earthquake in 1989 and the Hetch Hetchy Water System Improvement upgrades passed by voters in 2004, which will create more than \$4.3 billion worth of work system-wide. In a sense, the complex system needs a facelift, and thousands of Operating Engineers will be its surgeons.

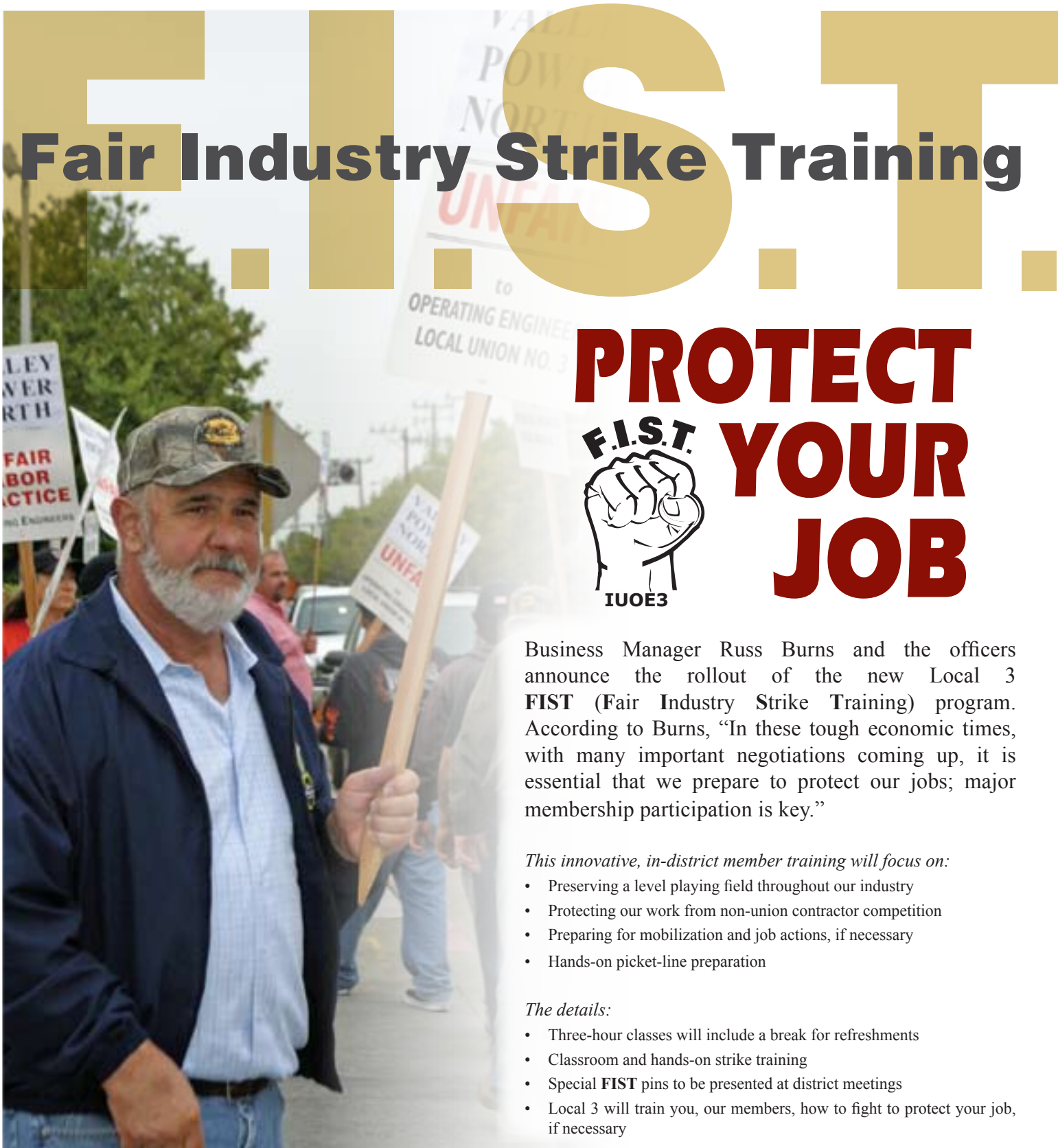
Recently, “surgeons” with Mountain Cascade worked with painstaking precision in the city of Riverbank east of Salida in the Stockton District on three SJPL Roselle Crossover valves. Water was diverted so members could move the 11-year-old valves and replace/upgrade them while also constructing an above-ground vault for maintenance purposes. The 38,000-pound valves are part of three large pipelines that range in age from 40 to 76 years old. These pipelines can hold a capacity of 70 million to 160 million gallons of water per day.

Excavator Operator Mark Alire followed hand signals from member Scott Ross and Operator Foreman Eric Nelson to remove the old valves and lift and swing the new ones underground. Once the valve or “spool piece” was put in place, Ross switched roles and helped keep the piece steady with another excavator, as crews tightened the bolts below. The outcome: A success. The valve was secured – one of three replacements. The Roselle Crossover is now sitting pretty – one of many upgrades (or facelifts!) occurring on the old pipeline. Stay tuned for others.

*This is one in an occasional series about the ongoing projects from the Hetch Hetchy Water System Improvement upgrades.*

**Hetch Hetchy Water System**  
**Fast Facts – What’s it made of?**

- ⇒ more than 280 miles of pipelines
- ⇒ more than 60 miles of tunnels
- ⇒ 11 reservoirs
- ⇒ five pump stations
- ⇒ two water-treatment plants (along with a new one, Tesla, currently being built)



# FIST Fair Industry Strike Training

**PROTECT  
YOUR  
JOB**



Business Manager Russ Burns and the officers announce the rollout of the new Local 3 **FIST** (Fair Industry Strike Training) program. According to Burns, “In these tough economic times, with many important negotiations coming up, it is essential that we prepare to protect our jobs; major membership participation is key.”

*This innovative, in-district member training will focus on:*

- Preserving a level playing field throughout our industry
- Protecting our work from non-union contractor competition
- Preparing for mobilization and job actions, if necessary
- Hands-on picket-line preparation

*The details:*

- Three-hour classes will include a break for refreshments
- Classroom and hands-on strike training
- Special **FIST** pins to be presented at district meetings
- Local 3 will train you, our members, how to fight to protect your job, if necessary

**Burlingame: District 01**  
Wednesday, March 24, 5:30-8:30 p.m.  
828 Mahler Road, Suite B

**Fairfield: District 04**  
Wednesday, March 10, 5-8 p.m.  
2540 N. Watney Way

**Rohnert Park: District 10**  
Saturday, April 24, 9 a.m.-noon  
6225 State Farm Drive

**Oakland: District 20**  
Saturday, May 1, 9 a.m.-noon  
1620 South Loop Road, Alameda

**Stockton: District 30**  
Wednesday, March 17, 5-8 p.m.  
1916 North Broadway

**Eureka: District 40**  
Saturday, March 13, 9 a.m.-noon  
Bayshore Inn, 3500 Broadway, Eureka

**Fresno: District 50**  
Thursday, March 18, 8-11 a.m.  
4856 North Cedar

**Yuba City: District 60**  
Saturday, March 27, 9 a.m.-noon  
Hallwood Women's Club  
2629 Hwy. 20, Marysville

**Redding: District 70**  
Thursday, March 11, 5:30-8:30 p.m.  
20308 Engineers Lane

**Sacramento: District 80**  
Thursday, April 22, 5:30-8:30 p.m.  
3920 Lennane Drive

**Morgan Hill: District 90**  
Wednesday, March 31, 5:30-8:30 p.m.  
325 Digital Drive





## Training pays off for hard-working apprentice

As we enter a new month, we still need your help, as Local 3's strike against anti-union Road Machinery continues. If you see any Road Machinery service trucks or any unmarked service trucks working on Komatsu equipment on your jobsite, please call the Hall immediately at the number listed above. You are our army.

You can also help by joining us on the strike lines outside Road Machinery's Northern California facilities. We thank

member **John Stahl** for walking the line outside the Fresno building at 4618 E. Lincoln Ave.

### Apprenticeship Spotlight

This month, we're highlighting fourth-step Heavy Duty Repair (HDR) Apprentice **Justin Stephens**, who is currently working for **Shank/Balfour Beatty** at the Crystal Springs project in San Mateo. We feature Stephens because during slow times, he took advantage of the

welding/fabrication class held at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTTC). He talked to staff about where the work was and was added to all the districts' out-of-work lists. He eventually accepted a dispatch from the Burlingame Hall and has excelled with his talent for fabrication/welding. With the work picture the way it is, apprentices, just like journey-level operators, are having to pick up their suitcases to keep a job.



From left: Fourth-step Apprentice Justin Stephens and Foreman Jeff Tatum work for Shank/Balfour Beatty in San Mateo.

## YUBA CITY | 468 Century Park Drive, Yuba City, CA 95991 ▪ (530) 743-7321

### Lots of highway work will start soon

With winter winding down and spring just around the corner, we need to prepare for a new work season.

Projects will start as weather permits. There is, and will continue to be, more levee work on the Feather and Sacramento rivers. The Nicolaus Bypass should be completed this year. Other projects in the district include the nearly \$700 million **Gemma Power Plant** in Maxwell, which should continue through late 2010 or early 2011. Numerous highway projects will start this spring, including **Granite's** \$6.8 million project north of Biggs on Hwy. 99. **DeSilva Gates** will start work on Hwy. 70 in Oroville. **North Bay Construction** is preparing for the I-5 overpass repairs in Williams. **RGW** is going strong in Live Oak with a \$17 million wastewater plant retrofit, and **Syblon Reid** has a \$10 million project in Williams. There are still many jobs going out to bid, including many on Caltrans' wish list.

However, we all know this state is financially strapped. Everything mentioned above and all proposed projects publicly funded in California may or may not happen. We're in an election year and will elect a new governor along with many state senators and assembly members. It matters to each and

every one of us who runs this state. For some of us, this election will determine the future of our careers. We must act as one and help get the right people in office.

Our Unit 12 members know this all too well. They, along with other state employees, have been Gov. Schwarzenegger's punching bag when it comes to cutting costs. Despite taking forced days off, they continue to shine in their performance, making California shine as well. Participating in state and local politics is not always fun, but it is necessary. It matters to our union. For ways to get involved, call the Hall at the number listed above.

Join us March 27 for our Fair Industry Strike Training (FIST) and breakfast with homemade biscuits, sausage gravy, eggs, potatoes, linguicia, coffee and juice.

We're hoping you can help us too, as our fight against Road Machinery continues. If you see any Road Machinery service trucks or unmarked service trucks working on Komatsu equipment on your jobsite, please call us immediately. You are our eyes and ears.

### Holt of California keeps members busy



Thirty-one-year member Dave Saunders works on an engine in the Yuba City shop.



Shop Foreman Josh Howard.



Fourteen-year member Nick Marasky.



Matt Doering, on loan from the Woodland shop, pulls parts to fill an order.



Three-year member Randy Manley fills out a service report.



Rick Biggs replaces rollers on the lift bracket of a forklift.

Lots of work in Utah – let’s keep it that way

As we move into a new construction year in Utah, we’re fortunate to have some large construction projects ahead of us (I-15 South CORE expansion, Mountain View Corridor, Murdock Canal and the Ruby Dome Pipeline) as well as other smaller jobs. We also have several ongoing projects from last year, including the 114<sup>th</sup> South I-15 expansion; Front Runner South Commuter Rail; Mid-Jordan; West Valley and I-80 Airport Light Rail lines; I-15 widening and interchange at Beck Street; new interchange on I-15 at American Fork; and new Pioneer Crossing Road.

With all this work ahead of us, we must also note that it is another huge political year for Utah. Half of the state senate seats, all of the seats in the House and the governor’s seat are up for election. Politics

play a huge role in funding transportation projects, and we must stay involved. Involve your families, friends and neighbors. Local 3 established the Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program, so that as an organization, we can elect politicians who will pass legislation to protect us and provide funding for transportation and infrastructure projects that will keep us working. We have involved our

apprentices in the VOTE program as part of their related training, but we need the rest of our membership if we are going to make a difference. Call the Hall at the number listed above to find out what you can do to advance our cause.

As we enter a new work season, remember to work safely, be productive and get involved with *your union*.

Several members recently attended our Winter Training and 40-hour Hazwoper class including, front row, from left: Trainer Randy Thacker, Francine Yazie, Beth Athey, Yolonda Gonzales, Ray Steffenson, Trainer Rick Bringhurst and Mick Redfern. Back row, from left: Greg East, Daylen Davis, Jorge Arellano, Priscilla Brinkerhoff, Kris Konecny, Will Cummings, Adam Gardner, Allen Peterson, Dwayne Breese and Neil Tunbridge.



MORGAN HILL | 325 Digital Drive, Morgan Hill, CA 95037 ▪ (408) 465-8260

Hot plants stay busy

District committee elections were held recently, and the newly elected members for the Market Area Committee were Abraham Magana, Nick Vello and Joe Hatchie. Elected to the Grievance Committee were Doug Zackery, Eddie Estrada and Larry Watson.

Hot plants such as Reed and Graham and Granite Construction Company have been busy doing maintenance work in preparation for upcoming asphalt production. Granite Construction was awarded the Hwy. 101 overlay through San Jose, which should be going strong, getting materials from the Santa Clara and Pleasanton plants. These plants should be producing almost 5,000 tons of asphalt a night in about a five-hour timeframe.

Top Grade Construction in Seaside was awarded a \$6 million project for the extension of General Jim Moore Boulevard, which leads into the city of Del Rey Oaks and the Hwy. 218 interchange. This project is instrumental to the former Fort Ord military base, one of the many future projects of the \$11 billion Fort Ord Reuse Authority Plan.

Robert A. Bothman is working on a Fremont High School project in Sunnyvale that consists of a few phases. The company

will be working on the installation of two new baseball fields and a new softball field.

Work by Rodan Builders and Sanco Pipelines includes a sanitary sewer residential main line replacement in Santa Clara and San Jose neighborhoods.

Also, the city of San Jose is utilizing funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for work by MCK Services (grinding and repaving), Jones Bros. (bridge improvements in Los Gatos) and J.J. Albanese (at Blossom Hill and University).

Remember: District 90’s picnic will be on Saturday, July 10, at Christmas Hill Park. Don’t forget to mark your calendar – there’s always a good time to be had.

Keep current on the out-of-work list. Call the Hall at the number listed above to renew properly, so you don’t fall off the list.

Also, please call the Hall if you see any Road Machinery service trucks on your jobsite. Local 3 has been on strike against this anti-union company since Sept. 15, and we need your help in catching rat mechanics on our jobsites.



District 90’s newly elected Grievance Committee members include, from left: Larry Watson and Eddie Estrada.



Member Doug Zackery was also elected to the Grievance Committee.



Tony Trinidad works at Fremont High School in Sunnyvale.



District 90’s newly elected Market Area Committee members include, from left: Abraham Magana, Nick Vello and Joe Hatchie.



## Earthquake roars through Eureka

As reported last month, on Jan. 9, an earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter scale rocked Eureka, and more than 28 aftershocks followed, ranging from 3.0 to 4.5. City and county officials are still assessing the damages. They're currently estimated at more than \$20 million. This may mean some work for our members; some in demolition and some in road and culvert repair. According to reports, the pavement and culverts cracked, fractured and separated.

All in all, we weathered the quake quite well.

Granite is going strong on the Alton Interchange with **Jarrett Foundation Drillers** getting the piles in place to bridge the east and west ramps. **Granite** has done an excellent job.

**Granite** is moving the shop from the Arcata location to Blue Lake off

Taylor Road. The move-in is tentatively scheduled for the end of this month.

**Golden State Bridges** is planning to attack projects on the Mad River bridges this year. Anticipated startup is May; work may go to two shifts.

**K.G. Walters** is moving forward on the Rio Dell Treatment Plant improvements. The company has four operators busy until the end of June or close thereof.

**Mercer Fraser** stayed busy throughout District 40, finishing the Fields Landing boat ramp and paving for **Condon-Johnson** on Hwy. 101 above Wilson Creek. The company will start the Arcata-Eureka Airport job this spring.

**Wahlund Construction** picked up the Sewer System Rehabilitation and Clean Water Revolving Fund project in Crescent City with a winning bid of just over \$1.19 million. The project involves more than

2,300 linear feet of 8- and 6-inch pipe in many locations throughout the city. **Wahlund** also laid the 18-inch lift of rock on Depot Road in Fields Landing to help support the big engines that will be running the generators for the new PG&E Power Plant in King Salmon. By the time you read this, the engines and generators for the plant should be in place. Stay tuned for more details and possible photos covering the move.

Be safe out there, and please keep your eyes open for Road Machinery service trucks or other unmarked service trucks working on Komatsu equipment on the jobsite. We have been on strike against Road Machinery since Sept. 15 and can use your help in catching these rats. If you do see anything, please call the Hall immediately.

## **FAIRFIELD** | 2540 N. Watney Way, Fairfield, CA 94533 ▪ (707) 429-5008

### Pacific Power goes green

Throughout Local 3's jurisdiction, the **Pacific Power** crew works diligently behind the scenes to keep massive natural-gas engines up and running. One of these locations is right here in Fairfield, called the Solano County Cogeneration Plant. Inside this facility, three engines run on natural gas. The smallest engine is six cylinders at 2,895 cubic inches, or 603 horsepower. The middle-sized engine is 12 cylinders at 7,042 cubic inches, or 1,340 horsepower. The big daddy is 16 cylinders at 9,390 cubic inches, or 1,876 horsepower. The unique thing about these engines is the green energy they use. They are powered by natural gas as opposed to diesel, and their exhaust is used to heat water and their radiator systems. They also supply the power as well as the heating and cooling to the county in downtown Fairfield. Some of the local buildings that reap the power benefits are the courthouses, jail and the County Administration Center.



Erich Wellmann works for Pacific Power.

Members **Will Henderson**, **Mike Nemson** and **Erich Wellmann** keep things running smoothly for **Pacific Power**. Their job duties include routine 1,000-hour oil changes, 2,000-hour valve adjustments and major overhauls at 40,000 hours. They regularly do visual inspections and, according to Nemson, they "fix anything that comes up in between." These members are getting the job done with more than 42 years of experience between them.

Also in District 04 is the Semi-Annual Meeting on March 21 at the Solano County Fairgrounds. We look forward to seeing you all there.

### Apprenticeship Spotlight

District 04 congratulates fourth-step Crane Apprentice **Nathan Redford** and his wife **Rachael**, as they welcome the newest addition to their family: **Amara Jordan Redford** was born Oct. 7, 2009 at 7 pounds and 19 inches long. Nathan works for **Manson Construction**.

Congratulations also go to Construction Equipment Operator (CEO) Apprentice **Stephen George** for joining the ranks of journey-level operator in December. He spent his entire apprenticeship with **E.E. Gilbert**.

*Correction:* Business Rep. Angelo Cellini is a 30-year member of Operating Engineers.

*Attention members: We need your help. Local 3 is on strike against Road Machinery, the Northern California Komatsu dealer. If you have Komatsu equipment on your jobsite, or if you see any service work being done by Road Machinery or any other non-union company, please call the Hall immediately at the number listed above. You are our army.*



From left: Members Will Henderson and Mike Nemson stand in front of a 16-cylinder, 1,876-horsepower engine.



**Measure M, Stimulus Funds finance many upcoming projects**

We are gearing up for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Hot Rides & Hot Cakes pancake breakfast and car and motorcycle show. Last year's event was so much fun, we're doing it again, so mark your calendars for Sunday, April 18. Great food and a good time is in store for all who attend. Call the Hall at the number listed above for details.

The seasonal rains have finally arrived in District 10. Lake Mendocino has been looking more like a creek than a lake, and

the rains could bring a little relief from the impending drought. (For more on how the weather is affecting the work picture, see page 6.)

**Granite Construction** continues work on a \$3.5 million project to replace a log crib-wall and align the roadway near the town of Elk on the Mendocino Coast. The company is also working on a bridge overhaul road in Ukiah and wall projects on Sulfur Bank Road in Clearlake and on Hwy. 20, six miles from Willits.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds will replace the Russian River Bridge on Talmage Road. **C.C. Myers** was awarded the job with **Argonaut Constructors** listed as the grading and paving subcontractor. Onsite construction is expected to start in the spring. The new bridge will have two, 12-foot traffic lanes with wider shoulders.

The first phase of the Willits Bypass is still on track to go out to bid late this year or early next year, and construction could begin next year. So far, funding is still intact for this project.

The bulk of the work coming to District 10 this spring is funded by Measure M money. Please remember how important politics are to get jobs for our members.

**North Bay Construction** was awarded the next phase of Hwy. 101 from Rohnert Park Expressway to Pepper Road.

**Argonaut** was awarded the 116 Stage Gulch Road project.

We would like to remind everyone currently not working and those who get laid-off in the future to register on the out-of-work list. Your registration is valid for only 84 days (12 weeks) from the date of registration. After the 84<sup>th</sup> day, you will fall off the list unless you re-register before then. Each re-registration is good for an additional 84-day period from the last date of re-registration.

If you are unemployed for an extended period of time, it's always a good idea to keep track of your hour-bank for health-and-welfare eligibility. You can check on eligibility by calling the Trust Fund Office at (800) 251-5014.

*Attention members: We need your help. Local 3 is on strike against Road Machinery, the Northern California Komatsu dealer. If you have Komatsu equipment on your jobsite, or if you see any service work being done by Road Machinery or any other non-union company, please call the Hall immediately. You are our army.*



Hudson Levit works for Granite in the town of Elk.

**HAWAII** | 1075 Opakapaka St., Kapolei, HI 96707 ▪ For all branches, call (808) 845-7871

**Road-improvement project puts members to work**

The job situation is still slow, but hopefully, by the time you read this, it has picked up. We are waiting for permits for the rail and other jobs to start.

**Parsons Constructors** is the general contractor for the Makua Valley Military Reservation road-improvement job, with signatory **Jennings Pacific** as the subcontractor.

Fifteen-year member **Ron Kaua**, 38-year member **William Capinpin**, four-year member **Rul "Paliku" Richardson**, nine-year member **Paul Mendoza** and fifth-step Apprentice **Bryson Apo** are working at the Halawai housing project for **Ron's Construction**.



Members Ron Kaua, William Capinpin, Rul "Paliku" Richardson, Paul Mendoza and Bryson Apo at the Halawai housing project.



Fifth-step Apprentice Clint Gueso of Parsons Constructors and Pineridge Farm's 17-year member Alan Mata choke up the stock pile.



Above: Daniel Wailehua makes his rounds. Below: Wayne Perrin Jr. leads the way for Wayne Perrin III and Chris Murphy of Jennings Pacific.



**Millions of dollars worth of road work on Hwy. 44**

An SOS to all who are willing to help and have a little extra time at hand: We still need volunteers to help with the ongoing strike against Road Machinery. We will accept any time you can donate during the week. Please call the Hall at the number listed above to find out how you can help. Also, if you have Komatsu equipment on your jobsite, or if you see any service work being done by Road Machinery or any other non-union company, please call the Hall immediately. You are our army.

January's dispatches looked good, with 26 reported at the time of this writing. The I-5 job in Lakehead added a couple of employers to the project – we have several members working for **Anderson Drilling** and **Force Drilling**. **Tyrrell Resources**, after signing a Project Labor Agreement (PLA), worked on the project as well, doing the clearing and grubbing. **J.F. Shea** picked up \$4 million of road work on Hwy. 44 east near Viola, and **Syblon-Reid** will be working in the Red Bluff area on a \$10.8 million waterways restoration project.

It was nice to see a well-attended pre-retirement meeting in January. Please mark your calendars with upcoming events and meetings. Don't forget the Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 21 at 1 p.m. at the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo. Hope to see you there!



Apprentice Robert Lake.



Larry Donegan Jr. works as a Heavy Duty Repairperson (HDR).



Crane Operator Carl Hemphill.

**NEVADA** | 1290 Corporate Blvd., Reno, NV 89502 ▪ For all branches, call (775) 857-4440

**Gold still creating steady work in Elko**

Winter is coming to an end, and with spring approaching, hopefully the work will resume soon. **Q&D Construction** will start the season on Vista and McCarran boulevards and recently picked up the water-treatment plant in Silver Springs. **Road and Highway Builders** is starting a project at the Trinity Junction on I-80. **Granite Construction** picked up two of the three city of Reno street-rehab projects and was the low bidder on the I-580 widening from Moana Lane to I-80 at more than \$31 million. **Sierra Nevada Construction** resumed work on I-80 from McCarran Boulevard to Vista Boulevard and recently picked up a job to replace the water tank above Seventh Street. **El Camino Construction** was the low bidder on the north-south transmission water lines in Carson City and should be able to restart the erosion-control project on Kingsbury Grade in May.

Other projects advertised for bid in late February and early March are the next phase of U.S. 395 through Carson City and the Meadowood Mall Interchange on I-580. The Ruby Pipeline project is expected to begin in July. **Rockford Corporation**, **US Pipeline** and **Precision Pipeline** have spreads in Nevada. **PeBen USA** is racking pipe at Osino and Golconda. Most of the pipeline classes have taken place; however, our Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) is offering pipeline safety certification and will hold classes if there is a large enough enrollment. Call the JAC at (775) 575-2729 for more information.

**Ames Construction** has another project at the Cortez Mine. **Degerstrom** is working at the Independence Mine and the Hycroft Mine. Gold has been staying at more than \$1,000 an ounce, which could mean a better work picture in the mines.

The JAC is offering almost a complete alphabet of certifications, including Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), National Commission for the Certification of Crane

Operators (NCCO), HAZMAT and Global Positioning Systems (GPS), to name a few. If you need a current certification or need to renew a current certification, please call the JAC at the number listed above to check availability.

We would like to thank Heavy Duty Repair (HDR) Instructor **Dave Bibby** from the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTTC) for conducting the journey-level upgrade training for HDRs. He held two classes in five days on Cat electronics for diesel engines that were well received. Well-trained members are one of Local 3's major strengths, so we thank our members who participated in the training, including **Marc Enniss; Jeff Fields; Don Checketts; Jim Stappart; Dave Checketts; Matt Williams; Aaron Braze; Craig Varney; Brian Kibbe; Andrew Sloan; Dean Jacobus; Jeff Hinkle; Phil Herring; Cliff Van Ronk; Marty Breitmeyer; Tony Wallace; Greg Gere; Joe Bradley; Ken Lee; Joe Costa; Eric Bang; Dean Gerritsen; Davis Chavis; George Kelly; George Scott; Kenny Benjamin; and Christopher Rollison.**

We would like to remind members registered on the A or B lists that out-of-work registrations are good for only 84 days from the original registration date or last renewal. When calling to check on your registration, please ask for an expiration date. This will help keep your spot on the list. This is very important for members who have experienced a longer layoff than they are used to. Also, please remember to contact the Hall at the number listed above to update your phone numbers and change your address.

Our next district meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10 at 7 p.m. at the Reno Hall.

*From Elko*

The spring looks encouraging with the Ruby Gas Pipeline project getting ready to start. Gold mining remains active with gold still over \$1,000 per ounce. New mining projects will start for signatory contractors to bid on, hopefully with good success.

Negotiations with **Newmont Mining** have progressed very smoothly. By the time you read this, we should have a new contract with excellent increases in wages and benefits. Union members need to educate their co-workers about joining the union and making a strong unit. Resolving any issues with the best results is done through a united and strong membership.

**Newmont** membership meetings are on the first Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m., and the Elko construction meetings are on the second Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Elko Hall.



The HDR journey-level upgrade class on Cat electronics held Jan. 12-15 included, from left: Joe Bradley, Ken Lee, Joe Costa, Eric Bang, HDR Instructor David Bibby, Dean Gerritsen, Davis Chavis, George Kelly, George Scott, Kenny Benjamin and Christopher Rollison.

**Teichert picks up another \$90 million in I-80 work**

As the work season begins, let's hope it's better than last. Many ongoing projects in the area still have a year or more left: **DeSilva Gates'** Hwy. 65 Lincoln Bypass, **Teichert's** I-80 improvements and **Diablo Construction's** Tahoe City road improvements, to name a few.

As for new work, **Teichert** picked up another \$90 million on I-80, and **Flat Iron** has the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes through Roseville, a \$25 million project. We are seeing plans and bids for millions of dollars worth of work each month in District 80 with union contractors picking up the lion's share.

Let's hope this trend continues and creates new opportunities for our members.

As for the Sacramento Kings' basketball arena, the ongoing saga leads them back to the railyards with the Maloofs providing private monies. The project is estimated at \$1.9 billion. Please stay tuned.

This is a big election year. Please read the *Engineers News* to see the candidates we support. A lot of research and interviews



Keep an eye out for this Road Machinery "ghost" service truck.

are done to decide who will stand with us and protect our livelihoods and the benefits so many have worked so hard and sacrificed so much for. Please feel free to call the Hall at the number listed above and volunteer. Just a few hours from each member can make all the difference.

Don't forget to call or come by and renew your registration as the work season gets going. This is no time to fall off the list.

We should all thank the Road Machinery strikers for fighting the good fight – this is everyone's fight, and it shows the no-quit attitude of these members by

sending a strong message to those who would test the resolve of Operating Engineers Local 3.

We especially thank the members who have reported "ghost" Road Machinery mechanics on their jobs. This communication has helped us tremendously. Please follow their lead, and if you see any Road Machinery service trucks or unmarked service trucks on your jobsite, call the Hall immediately.

Stay safe and get involved! This is your union.

**STOCKTON** | 1916 North Broadway, Stockton, CA 95205 ▪ (209) 943-2332

**Non-union company thrown off job, project goes to signatory**

Spring is almost upon us in District 30, and we hope this change in weather brings new work opportunities to the area. At the time of this writing, we have a few ongoing projects that are putting members to work, including the Whitmore Avenue overcrossing performed by **Nehemiah Construction** and the downstream water-system improvement project in Modesto by **Teichert Construction**. **Ebert/McGuire and Hester**, a Joint Venture (JV), started construction on the primary outfall rehabilitation project for the city of Modesto, and **Mozingo Construction** is finishing the Patterson Old Town utility replacement project.

Some of the projects scheduled to bid this year are the widening of state Route 219/Kiernan Avenue from Morrow Road to McHenry Avenue, the Pelandale Avenue Interchange, the binary wastewater-treatment plant for the city of Modesto and the San Joaquin Pipeline for the Hetch Hetchy Water System (please see the feature in this edition for more details about Hetch Hetchy improvements). We are hopeful that these projects bid sooner than later.

District 30 is focusing on organizing to create work opportunities for the membership. While trying to get a non-union employer to become signatory in these tough economic times is

very difficult, there are other avenues to get the same result. Through the training and strategy from the Local 3 officers, we have had some success in the district. This new strategy involves attending pre-bid meetings and job walks, bid openings and bid protests. Through these strategies, we were able to get a non-union contractor thrown off a \$1.5 million waterline in Modesto, and the project was awarded to **Mountain Cascade**. We had the same result in Manteca with a project that went to **DSS dba Knife River Construction**. If companies are not willing to sign, then we are looking forward to making it difficult for them to get prevailing-wage projects.

With that concept in mind, we're also making it hard for anti-union company Road Machinery. Local 3 went on strike against the company on Sept. 15, 2009, and strikers and supporters have walked the picket lines every day since. You can help us in this fight. If you see any Road Machinery service trucks or unmarked service trucks working on Komatsu equipment on your jobsite, please call the Hall immediately. You are our army.

*Correction:* Thirty-year member Don Bese and 25-year member Faustino Saldivar were misidentified in January's edition.



Several volunteers attended the Manteca City Council Meeting over one of our bid protests that was successful. They include, front row, from left: Hugo Bucio, Margarito Bucio, Myles Mendonca and Business Rep. Greg Flanagan. Second row, from left: Andres Bucio, Ron Valenzuela, Omar Perez, John Garcia and Dean Fadeef. Back row, from left: Hank Gutierrez, Richard Cardona, Gary Anglin, Steve Brown, Dick Criner, Roseanna Criner and David Duran.



Don Bese, 30 years



Faustino Saldivar, 25 years



**Operators’ professionalism was second-to-none in emergency situation**

District 01 would like to thank all of our dedicated volunteers who attended the High Speed Rail public hearing at Palo Alto City Hall on Jan. 21. The large turnout will influence opinions about this much-needed construction project. Business Manager **Russ Burns** is labor’s voice on the High Speed Rail commission.

Thanks also for the large turnout at District 01’s quarterly meeting on Jan. 14. A special welcome to our newest members: **William Conn, Sean Burke** and **Charles Hammons** were sworn in by Rec. Corres. Secretary **Jim Sullivan** at the meeting.

There is positive news about several huge projects breaking ground in the city and San Mateo County. It was reported that **C.C. Myers** mobilized for contract No. 3 of the Doyle Drive project, which includes retaining walls and the first section of elevated roadway. **Ghilotti Brothers** continues with contract No. 2, the utility relocation using subcontractors **St. Francis Electric, Ghilotti Construction** and **Maggiore Ghilotti**. About 30 Operating Engineers were working on the project in January. Work restarted on the Chinatown campus of San Francisco City College. Surveyors **Peter Nuessmann, Nick Jacobson** and Apprentice **Brian Field** are onsite for **BKF. Sandis** is also onsite, surveying for the second building.

**LVI** completed demolition at the site of the \$620 million UCSF Children’s Hospital at 16<sup>th</sup> and Third streets. The first contract for utility relocation for the central subway was awarded to **Synergy Project**

**Management**. Word is, two large, private buildings in Mission Bay that came to a halt in the depths of the financial crisis are going ahead again.

The **Schlage Lock** demolition and remediation project, which Local 3 fought hard to make all-union, continues on track. Contractor **RMCI** of Colorado is impressed with the skill sets of the Operating Engineers onsite.

On the new Bay Bridge, the first Open Box Girder (OBG) sections arrived, and, at the time we go to press, **American Bridge/Fluor** hope to start erecting the permanent road deck.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) still has more than \$1 billion worth of Water System Improvement Program (WSIP) contracts to be let in the district. Ongoing projects include the **Shank/Balfour Beatty** Bypass Tunnel in San Mateo, where the boring of the tunnel is near completion. Members **Vance Pope** and **Larry Cary** are staying busy in support of the tunnel excavation.

Progress on the Hwy. 1 Devil’s Slide **Kiewit** project is nearly 70 percent complete. Concrete Batch Plant Engineer **Robert Morin** is not only a great hand but a fine teacher to journey-level operators and apprentices at Devil’s Slide with his 30 years of experience.

Other jobs in San Mateo County include **Mills Peninsula Hospital** on Trousdale with **J.J. Albanese** and **Preston Pipelines** leading the way and **Sequoia Hospital** in Redwood City with **McGuire** and **Hester**. **Sheedy Crane and Rigging** was a big help at Esplanade

Avenue in Pacifica, lifting baskets of rock over apartments and down to the beach to prevent the building from falling into the ocean. Watching **Sheedy** in an emergency situation was truly a sight to see. The professionalism and leadership was second-to-none. (For more on this job, see page 6.)

This is a political year, and volunteers will be needed throughout Local 3’s jurisdiction. We are asking members to step up and give District 01 a hand.

We also ask members to help in Local 3’s strike against Road Machinery. If you see any Road Machinery trucks or other unmarked service trucks on your jobsite, please call the Hall immediately. You are our eyes and ears.

If you are on the out-of-work list, don’t forget to renew your registration every 84 days. Make sure we have your current contact information for those job calls. Contact Dispatcher **Joe Siegfried** at the number listed above.



*Ed Guinn works in the rain for San Francisco Recycling and Disposal.*



*Member Tim Gibbons works on Doyle Drive for C.C. Myers.*



*Operators work at C.C. Myers’ lay-down yard for the Doyle Drive replacement project.*



*Members Troy Fogelman and Pat McLaughlin work as a team at the Schlage Lock demolition project.*

## DISTRICT MEETINGS

All meetings convene at 7 p.m.

### March 2010

10<sup>th</sup> District 11: Reno  
Operating Engineers' Building  
1290 Corporate Blvd.

16<sup>th</sup> District 12: Salt Lake City  
IBEW Local 354  
3400 W. 2100 S

### April 2010

No meetings scheduled.

### May 2010

4<sup>th</sup> District 04: Suisun City  
Veterans' Memorial Building  
427 Main St.

4<sup>th</sup> District 30: Stockton  
Italian Athletic Club  
3541 Cherry Land Drive

5<sup>th</sup> District 50: Clovis  
Veterans' Memorial Building  
453 Hughes Ave.

5<sup>th</sup> District 80: Sacramento  
Operating Engineers' Building  
3920 Lennane Drive

6<sup>th</sup> District 10: Ukiah  
Hampton Inn  
1160 Airport Park Blvd.

11<sup>th</sup> District 20: Martinez  
Plumbers 159  
1304 Roman Way

11<sup>th</sup> District 40: Eureka  
Best Western Bayshore Inn  
3500 Broadway

12<sup>th</sup> District 70: Redding  
Operating Engineers' Building  
20308 Engineers Lane

12<sup>th</sup> District 90: Morgan Hill  
Operating Engineers' Building  
325 Digital Drive

13<sup>th</sup> District 01: Burlingame  
Transport Workers Union  
1521 Rollins Road

13<sup>th</sup> District 60: Oroville  
Southside Oroville  
Community Center  
2959 Lower Wyandotte



## Semi-Annual Meeting notice

Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan has announced that the next Semi-Annual Meeting of the membership will be held on Sunday, March 21 at 1 p.m. at the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo, Calif.

## Service pins

In honor and remembrance of years of service in Local 3, service pins are available to members with 25 or more years of membership. These pins come in five-year increments from 25 through 70 years of service. Please contact your district office to receive your pins. A gallery of some pin recipients is available online at [www.oe3.org](http://www.oe3.org).

## New members

Congratulations to the following new members.

*District 01: Burlingame*  
Sean Burke  
William Conn  
Charles Hammons

## Election of Market and Geographic Area Committee Members

Business Manager Russ Burns has announced the election of Market and Geographic Area Committee members will take place at each district's regularly scheduled district meeting, except for Hawaii, during the first quarter of 2010 with eligibility rules as follows:

- 1) Must be a member in good standing of the parent local
- 2) Must be living in the committee's geographical area
- 3) Must be working/making a living in the industry in that area
- 4) Must be an "A" journey-level operator
- 5) Cannot be an owner-operator
- 6) No member will be nominated unless he or she is present at the meeting and will accept the nomination and position, if elected
- 7) No member is allowed to serve more than two consecutive terms on the Market and Geographic Area Committee

The schedule of the meetings at which these elections will be held appears on this page under March's "District Meetings."

## 2010 Political Action and Grievance Committee Election

Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan has announced that in accordance with Article X, Section 10 of the Local 3 Bylaws, the election of Political Action and Grievance Committee members will take place at the first regular quarterly district meeting of 2010.

The schedule of meetings at which these elections will be held appears on this page under March's "District Meetings."

## Get ready for picnic time

It's hard to believe it's district picnic time again. Listed below is the picnic schedule for 2010. Mark your calendars. Please note: The Retiree Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 5 at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTTC).

Rohnert Park District 10: Sunday, April 18

Stockton District 30: Sunday, May 2

Utah District 12: Saturday, May 8

Nevada District 11: Saturday, May 15

Oakland District 20: Sunday, May 16

Fairfield District 04: Sunday, May 23

Sacramento District 80: Sunday, May 23

*Retiree Picnic: Saturday, June 5*

Burlingame District 01: Sunday, June 13

Redding District 70: Saturday, June 19

Morgan Hill District 90: Saturday, July 10

Hawaii District 17: TBA

Fresno District 50: Has decided not to hold a picnic this year.

Yuba City District 60: Has decided not to hold a picnic this year.

Fairfield District 04 and Sacramento District 80 will be having a joint picnic.

### *District 10: Rohnert Park Picnic Details*

Sunday, April 18, 8:30 a.m. to noon

Showcase Cafe at the Santa Rosa Fairgrounds

1350 Bennett Valley Road, Rohnert Park

Menu: Pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, coffee and orange juice

Cost: Retirees – free, children under 12 – free, adults – \$5 members, \$7 non-members



# Honorary Membership

The following retirees have 35 or more years of membership in Local 3 as of January and are eligible for Honorary Membership effective April 1, unless otherwise noted.

Anthony M. Belardes	1615546	District 70: Redding
Martin Cabradilla	1609987	District 17: Hawaii
Gerald Carson	1241527	District 80: Sacramento
Robert Ellithorpe	1074783	District 99: Out of Area
Thomas Falconer	1615521	District 10: Rohnert Park
C. Figueroa	1386846	District 99: Out of Area
Raymond Gaughen	1562911	District 17: Hawaii
Jan R. Higginbotham	1219827	District 04: Fairfield
Alan Kumalae	1620773	District 17: Hawaii
Antonio Mendoza	1321416	District 50: Fresno
Mike Noble	1590856	District 30: Stockton
*Steve Peguero	1620777	District 50: Fresno
Allan Pennington	1461580	District 12: Utah

*\*Effective Jan. 1, 2010*

# DISPATCHER’S DESK

District 17 Dispatcher Arley Nozawa wants to thank “all our anonymous callers who give our business agents a ‘heads up’ about the different trades operating our equipment. This is what brotherhood/sisterhood is all about. Our agents can’t be on every jobsite every day. This is how we all pull together as one and keep an eye out for each other, because who knows: You might be unemployed one day, with the Laborers or Carpenters operating your equipment. With jobs being few, people want to earn brownie points with their bosses, so that they can keep working, but not if that takes away an Operating Engineer’s position. Keep up the good work, gang.

“Some of our members believe that it is the business agents’ job to solicit five-year or 10-year-letter jobs for them. This is inaccurate. If you are an active ‘A’ member in good standing for the past 10 years (you must check with the union to verify), you can solicit your own jobs. Tell your company that you qualify for a 10-year letter, and ask them if there are any jobs available. The company should send the dispatcher a 10-year letter requesting you. The same rules apply for five-year members.

“Our business agents are here for you to make sure you are treated fairly on the job. Let’s all help them out by being their eyes and ears.”

## DEPARTED MEMBERS

Barney, Doyle Spanish Fork, UT District 12 10-24-09
Bellicitti, Louis Saratoga, CA District 90 11-18-09
Blaisdell, George Salt Lake City, UT District 12 10-05-09
Bloom, Charles Watsonville, CA District 90 11-30-09
Bohn, Afton Palm Harbor, FL District 99 11-28-09
Bong, Carl Fairfield, CA District 04 10-16-09
Burch, Frank Oregon House, CA District 60 10-17-09
Camara, Bernard Sr. Waianae, HI District 17 11-19-09
Carmody, Harold Orangevale, CA District 80 10-09-09

Carnegie, Nolan Stockton, CA District 30 11-08-09
Cummings, Gary Sr. Anahola, HI District 17 10-25-09
Delfino, Gary Placerville, CA District 80 10-19-09
Dillon, Thomas Montague, CA District 70 10-15-09
Ferrin, John Midvale, UT District 12 12-02-09
Franks, Henry Loma Rica, CA District 60 10-24-09
Gilles, William Menlo Park, CA District 01 10-22-09
Gough, Ken McAlester, OK District 99 09-26-09
Hanna, William Gilroy, CA District 90 11-01-09

Irving, Daniel Sandpoint, ID District 99 10-15-09
Jiron, Roy Salt Lake City, UT District 12 11-29-09
Lemmons, Charles Ogden, UT District 12 10-23-09
Lowrey, Gerald Yuba City, CA District 60 11-05-09
Lowry, Ernest Coalinga, CA District 50 11-12-09
Madeiros, Tony Fallon, NV District 11 11-21-09
Marrotte, Dennis Anahola, HI District 17 10-18-09
Mickey, Samuel Cave Junction, OR District 99 10-18-09
Rhea, Chris Berkeley, CA District 20 11-16-09

Robbins, Kirby West Valley City, UT District 12 11-26-09
Santos, Gordon Lucerne, CA District 10 11-29-09
Shields, Herman Lamar, OK District 99 11-16-09
Siler, Robert Pahrump, NV District 99 12-04-09
Suazo, Pat Salt Lake City, UT District 12 12-12-09
Vaughn, Robert Windsor, CA District 10 10-29-09
Walgraeve, Thomas Sacramento, CA District 80 10-13-09
Wilberg, Fred Hemet, CA District 99 10-22-09
Willden, Fontell West Valley City, UT District 12 11-17-09

Williams, Truman Apache Junction, AZ District 99 04-11-09
Withers, R Salt Lake City, UT District 12 11-21-09
Zucker, Felix Pinole, CA District 20 11-22-09
Autio, Ruth. Wife of Autio, Paul (dec) 07-07-09
Gandall, Helen. Wife of Gandall, Clement (dec) 12-14-09
Glispey, Christabel. Wife of Glispey, Billy (dec) 12-04-09
Gottula, Virginia. Wife of Gottula, Laverne (dec) 09-27-09
Howell, Pauline. Wife of Howell, Lee (dec) 11-22-09

Knapp, Martha. Wife of Knapp, Robert (dec) 10-27-09
Lemons, Alene. Wife of Lemons, Ernest (dec) 12-02-09
Osborrow, Helen. Wife of Osborrow, Walt (dec) 11-20-09
Palmer, Edith. Wife of Palmer, Albert (dec) 09-28-09
Peterson, Beverly. Wife of Peterson, James A. (dec) 12-19-09
Phelps, Elaine. Wife of Phelps, William (dec) 12-16-09
Richardson, Ellen. Wife of Richardson, Semmie (dec) 11-23-09
Spivey, Cherrill. Wife of Spivey, Theodore 11-23-09
Zimmer, Claire. Wife of Zimmer, Fred (dec) 12-22-09

## DECEASED DEPENDENTS

# OE3 medicine man a local legend

By Mandy McMillen, managing editor

Most people don't worry about their health until something goes wrong. By that time, however, some treatments are too late. Preventing illness before it occurs by living a healthy lifestyle is a trend in the health-care industry called preventive medicine. With health-care costs on the rise, most companies, including Operating Engineers Local 3, are seeking ways to maintain health rather than cure illness.

Retiree and 44-year member Kenneth Brockman is too. However, health awareness wasn't something he stumbled upon in old age.

"I asked healthy old people questions about their health when I was 5 years old," he said. "By the time I was 12, my friends started coming to me with their health problems."

His early "research," coupled with his lifetime curiosity about health, has led some to call him a medicine man, especially his co-workers and the Maidu Indians living near his hometown of Redding, Calif. Unlike clinical preventive medicine urging patients to cut fats, Brockman takes a more natural approach insisting that fat-free diets "starve the brain."

"I have been a health nut since age 5 with the goal to outlive my grandparents. To do that, I must live to age 120."

Brockman, who is one-eighth Cherokee Indian, is 71 years old and has "no pains, no arthritis. ... I don't do prescription drugs," which means he saves the Pensioned Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Plan quite a bit.

He does take certain supplements and stays active by logging about 68 hours a week.

"I started my own logging business in Round Mountain, Calif. in 1976 and worked ... in the Operating Engineers since 1966.

"I don't eat food cooked in a microwave, the number one cause of cancer. I'm not a vegetarian. I eat a healthy diet," consisting of plenty of raw and steamed vegetables and fruits.

He also doesn't drink water with chlorine in it, since he believes chlorine depletes minerals from the body. "Drink filtered water or run tap water into a glass, put a towel over it, and it's drinkable the next day," he said, "chlorine-free."

But his diet is not what makes him a local legend; it's his home remedies: Brockman's home remedies are so famous, local alternative health-care doctors and his family have asked him to write his remedies down. He has "followed their orders" and produced some 50 pages of home remedies. This is in part because "they [his family] will be lost when I'm gone," but also because his remedies are very specific. For example, Brockman urges: "For prostate cancer, eat 2 ounces of pumpkin seeds a day. Cancer should be cured in six months."

Don't believe it? He explained this remedy to a friend who was diagnosed with stage-five prostate cancer. His friend followed the remedy closely and within six months, he was cured. His friend's doctor said he'd never seen anything work like that and now takes pumpkin seeds himself.

While some may say home remedies are merely "quackery," many of Brockman's remedies are based on some science. According to several leading health magazines, the prostate needs a ready supply of zinc to function properly, and pumpkin seeds are a rich source of zinc. The prostate stores more zinc than any other part of the body, and levels decline dramatically in men suffering from prostate cancer.

"I see people trying to kill themselves with their diet and then expect the fat doctor to try to make them healthy."

He said he knows a lot of Operating Engineers lead unhealthy lives.

"I see their photos in the paper," he said. "Diet is the main thing, along with exercise."

Again, these elements of health are not new to Brockman's lifestyle. He joined the Operating Engineers, because "it was the best union in the whole country, the first to train apprentices."

Brockman started out as an apprentice himself by working as a mechanic. From there, after getting acquainted with every piece of equipment, he started operating them. He can run everything from cranes to backhoes: "Whatever they needed."

He also worked any place, including Ogden, Utah, until his family got too big (he has four children between the ages of 35 and 48), and he moved back to Round Mountain, Calif., where he started his own



From left: Alford Clark and his cousin, Retiree "Medicine Man" Kenneth Brockman.

logging business "to keep up with my dues in the winter." The 1992 Fountain Forest fire took away his logging for awhile, but not his determination to thrive.

Today, Brockman takes capsules of CoQ10, a naturally occurring compound found in every cell in the body, for his heart.

"Take 200 mg, twice a day with a cup of coffee on an empty stomach," urges Brockman.

Again, research has shown that people with heart failure have lower levels of CoQ10 in heart-muscle cells. Brockman also takes CoQ10 to "keep his brain working." Studies show that CoQ10 may protect brain cells from free radicals. "The brain is electric," says Brockman.

Brockman is not opposed to conventional medicine and openly claims: "I am not a doctor. I am an old logger." He visits the doctor for his bi-annual physicals, but he will tell you plenty of other means to achieve health (in case you can't fathom logging 68 hours a week).

Stay tuned for more home remedies from Brockman.

Please consult your doctor before trying any home remedy.

*"By the time I was 12, my friends started coming to me with their health problems."*

*Do you have a fool-proof home remedy worth sharing? Call, write or e-mail the Engineers News at 3920 Lennane Drive, Sacramento, CA 95834; [mmcmillen@oe3.org](mailto:mmcmillen@oe3.org); (916) 993-2047, ext. 2505.*



Swap Shop ads are offered free of charge to members in good standing for the sale or trade of personal items and/or real estate. Please notify the office immediately if your item has been sold. Business-related offerings are not eligible for inclusion in Swap Shop. *Engineers News* reserves the right to edit ads. Deadline 1st of the month. Limit two ads per issue.

To place an ad, type or print legibly and mail to:

Operating Engineers  
Local Union No. 3  
3920 Lennane Dr.  
Sacramento, CA 95834  
ATTN: Swap Shop\*  
(916) 993-2047, ext. 2506

Or fax ads to: Swap Shop  
(916) 419-3487

Or e-mail to:  
jjohnston@oe3.org

\*All ads must include Member Registration Number or ad will not appear.

Doser; Bare Tractor D-2. \$20 each. Contact Mike at (707) 996-8097. Reg# 1768903.

FOR SALE: Two side-by-side cemetery plots. Chapel of the Chimes in Sacramento, Calif. \$1,800 each. (888) 483-6583. Reg# 0870831.

FOR SALE: A 1989 International Bobtail dump truck DT466. 32,000 gvw. Air brakes, 10 speed, 145,000 on rebuilt engine, chrome wheels, good tires. \$7,500. Also: A 1986 Miller Tilt Trailer. New paint, good tires, 20-ton air brakes. \$4,500. (209) 986-5526. Reg# 2354802.

FOR SALE: Player cigarette trading cards. "A character of Dickens" by John Player & Sons Tobacco Co. Cigar bands. Antique wooden cigar mold with 20 cavities; two original cigars, Pat. 1914. "Useful Birds of America" cards of Arm & Hammer and Cow Brand Baking Soda. Postcards circa 1905-1920; some stamped 1cent, some sent free and postmarked only, some new. (208) 734-5540. Reg# 1121987.

FOR SALE: Old bottles - 4 bitters, 2 amber, 2 clear; 1 amber round, 1 square, 1 clear round, 1 oval. Old bottles - 2 "black" glass 3 piece wood molded, 1 onion or captain's bottle. All date back to the early 18th century. (208) 734-5540. Reg# 1121987.

FOR SALE: Reduced price for timeshare in Cancun - 2 bd/2 ba, can be split. On the water. Year-round use. Gold Membership, first on "Hotel Zone" from the airport. Part of Westin Hotel. Exchange for other properties for versatile travel. Shuttles available to nearby tourist attractions. Restaurant; gift shop. Valued at \$22,250; selling for \$5,000 OBO. (714) 624-4641 or loretta4art@msn.com. Reg# 0868839.

FOR SALE: A 2002 Kawasaki 650 KLR dual sport. New motor. Never been motor crossed. Extras. \$3,000. (916) 955-7878. Reg# 2106364.

WANTED: E-mail addresses. Local 3 wants to communicate with our membership in a faster, more cost-effective way. In return, we'll send you updates about political campaigns, strikes and upcoming meetings. Register on the Members Only Web site at [www.oe3.org](http://www.oe3.org) or call your local hall. Local 3 Political Department.

FOR SALE: A 2002 Dolphin LX motorhome, 36 feet, two slides. Work horse chassis, 8.1 Chevy, fully loaded. Only 35,000 miles. Allison transmission. Dark cherry wood interior, leather seats. Beautiful condition. Must see to appreciate. \$70,000 (408) 828-8347. Reg# 1392003.

FOR SALE: Antique (early 1900) W.F. and John Barnes 18-inch engine lathe. Pictures of what it looks similar to can be seen at [www.lathes.co.uk/barnes/page4.html](http://www.lathes.co.uk/barnes/page4.html). Still works good. \$2,500 OBO. (530) 520-4103. Reg# 1189114.

FOR SALE: A 30-foot Vintage 1961 Norwalk Cruiser. Twin Chrysler straight six engines with two velvet trans; all Mahogany wood; sleeps six; electric head and sink; two-burner stove; refrigerator and sink; two canopy back windows and sides; electric anchor wrench; auto starter for 110v generator. All original parts. Contact Dan at (209) 470-7029. Reg# 1774822.

FOR SALE: Sullivan brand blocking chute, all steel construction. Excellent condition. Also a show box with some supplies. Will sell separately. Blocking chute: \$400. Show box: \$300. Contact Paul at (209) 499-2026. Reg# 2193846.

FOR SALE: A 1999 Harley Davidson Ultra Classic. Fuel injection, 26,000 miles. Mint condition. XM, iPod, GPS. Black leather covers. Stage 1. Professionally maintained. \$12,000 OBO. (415) 760-6013. Reg# 1764307.

FOR SALE: Baja getaway - 600 square feet, Palapa, solar power, turn key on large, palm-treed leased lot near the beach. Great fishing and diving. Small, friendly village. \$15,000 or \$18,000 with 2004 Polaris ATV. For more information, e-mail [connierodrigues@yahoo.com](mailto:connierodrigues@yahoo.com). Reg# 1006711.

FOR SALE: Chocolate Labrador Retrievers born Dec. 5. AKC registered. Both parents are OFA certified. Dew claws removed, first set of shots and vet checked. All puppies are family raised in a loving environment. The puppies have champion hunting bloodlines and wonderful temperaments. Starting at \$700 each. (775) 762-2903. Reg# 2573819.

WANTED: Old car body, '30s or '40s coupe body to build replica of 1950s -era Jalopy race car. Just want the body, firewall back. Any make. Rust, dents perfectly OK. Winnemucca, Nev. (775) 623-6924. Reg# 1500057.

FOR SALE: Condo in Kailua Kona, Hawaii; 1 bd/1 ba, plus bonus room, with washer, dryer and extra storage. Tile floors. Dishwasher, AC, ceiling fans, refrigerator. Short walking distance to downtown Kona and Pier. \$179,000. (408) 888-1414. Reg# 1137643.

FOR SALE: Backhoe Case 1975 580B. Good condition, 90 percent rubber, 6,000 hours on meter, 12-inch and

18-inch buckets, hyds all good. \$7,500. (530) 272-4497. Reg# 1054933.

FOR SALE: A 2007 Ford Ranger FX4 - four-door extended cab; 6-foot bed; off-road package; 4.0 liter V6, 207 HP, automatic; limited slip rear axel; 5,200-pounds towing package; Sirius radio; 60,000 power train warranty; tachometer; tire pressure monitoring system; fog lights; anti-theft system; privacy glass; tags paid through December 2010. Many extras. Excellent condition. 49,835 miles. \$19,800. (530) 921-0832 or (530) 436-0204 (evenings). Reg# 2646554.

FOR SALE: A 1985 18-foot Searay (seville) eight-passenger boat with trailer, 3.0 liter Chevy engine OMC inboard/outboard, extra prop. Has new battery, trailer tires, AM/FM/CD, lifejackets. Runs good and is good on gas. \$3,500 OBO. (510) 409-1485. Reg# 2031721.

WANTED: Antique bottles. Paying up to \$500 for embossed whiskey and bitters bottles. Also want other antique bottles, and buying old match book collections and casino chips. Will give operators free appraisals on antique bottles. (707) 542-6438. Reg# 1025301.

WANTED: Ultralight aircraft, kits, bent, broken or parts. Contact Charlie at (707) 338-6256 or [cmakiva@comcast.net](mailto:cmakiva@comcast.net). Reg# 1166637.

FOR SALE: Mobile home - 2 bd/2 ba, laundry area, storage shed. Deck and carport has awnings. Has siding and skirting. Composition roof. Adult park, 55+. Pool, clubhouse. Needs to be sold. Make offer. (209) 365-0768. Reg# 1054983.

FOR SALE: A 1986 Ford L-8000 diesel 10-wheel, 18-foot Kirby Feed mixer body and Eaton scales. \$6,000. Also: Massey Ferguson 1100 six-cylinder diesel 100 horsepower 3-pt power adjust rear rims. All new electrical. \$2,200. Will trade up, down or for articulating front end loader. (775) 623-4353. Reg# 2548805.

FOR SALE: A 1997 Cab over Camper Weekender 1010, 11-foot bed, 9-foot overhang. New mattress, rubber roof, no leaks. \$7,500 (paid \$26,000). Excellent condition. Also: A 1965 CJ5 Jeep. Needs some work. \$1,200 OBO. Contact Gary at (209) 736-0704 or (209) 663-5056. Reg# 2123401.

FOR SALE: A 1998 Ford 10-wheeler with 3406 Cat engine (C-12), 236,000 original miles. Truck has heavy rock box with Henderson suspension, dual frame, Eaton tran. Runs excellent.

All power, 99.9 percent on all eight tires. Front has 92 percent use left, with 20,000 front axle. Reduced price of \$35,000. Truck is almost new. (559) 760-4888 or (559) 645-5924. Reg# 1733311.

FOR SALE: An AL-120 unloader. Fits tailgate of dump truck. Used for filling trenches, curb paving or pot holes. Never used. Paid \$9,000; will take \$2,500, or make offer and it's yours. Will let go with 1998 dump truck. Auger Fed, Briggs Straton engine, has all parts. (559) 760-4888 or (559) 645-5924. Reg# 1733311.

FOR SALE: Retired mechanic has Macimizer mac tool box with snap on tools and mac tools. There are many items; can't list them all. (209) 357-8372 or (209) 985-4882. Reg# 1965693.

FOR SALE: Timeshare condo in Kihei (west side of Maui). April2-16. Recently remodeled 1 bd/2 ba, sleeps six. Condo on beachfront property. Swimming pool, spa, weight room, tennis courts, putting green. Comparable units selling for \$20,000-\$24,000. (530) 224-9967 or [www.mauisunset.com](http://www.mauisunset.com) to view the property. Reg# 1989890.

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FOR SALE: Work boots - made in USA by White Boot Co., Spokane. Black leather. Lineman style - 10-inch shaft, tongue guards. Size 8 men = size 10 women. As new. \$350. (707) 887-1244. Reg# 2018324.

FOR SALE: A 2001 Itasca Sunrise, 30-feet, 1 slide, Vortec V8, 60,000 miles. Runs strong. Also: A 2004 Jeep Wrangler Sport tow vehicle, with tow cover. Jeep is set up with Roadmaster braking system off of Motorhome while being towed. \$44,000. (530) 273-3891. Reg# 2253924.

FOR SALE: A 21-foot 1988 Marlin Cruiser on a Hawkins trailer. Radar-chart plotter, depth finder. CB and VHF radios. Two electric downriggers and crab pot puller. 4.3 Merc V-6 engine. \$6,500 OBO. (707) 725-5334 (evenings). Reg# 0939694.

FOR SALE: A 2001 Dodge Ram sport dually, 5.9 diesel engine superchip, extra gauges, tow package, chrome nerf bars. 84,000 miles. \$14,000 OBO. (209) 772-9426 or (209) 772-0851. Reg# 1051452.

# Strike action goes national

## At Texas convention, Local 3 strikers gain support of community, labor organizations

Several OE3 Road Machinery strikers, staff and lawyers headed to the Associated Equipment Distributors (AED) 2010 Summit Convention and CONDEX in San Antonio, Texas late January with the strong support of International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) President Vincent Giblin and International Vice President/Business Manager Russ Burns. While there, they distributed some 800 fliers to convention attendees educating them about the ills of Road Machinery, the anti-union company OE3 has been on strike against since Sept. 15. Since Road Machinery CEO Dennis Romanson sat on the convention's board, OE3 made quite an impact, even on a sector of non-union police that continually tried, along with convention organizers, to force the growing team of labor leafleters to leave the premises. A union police force sided with OE3's cause, noting its professionalism. The local community also joined the strikers' fight for workplace justice, as Local 3 was joined by Texas IUOE unions Local 178, Local 450 and Local 564, along with the San Antonio Central Labor Council, the San Antonio AFL-CIO and the San Antonio Building and Construction Trades Council. Other unions participating included the International Union of Elevator Constructors, Sheet Metal Workers Local 67 and Letter Carriers Local 421.

Since Texas is a right-to-work state, the labor support it displayed truly proves the power of solidarity to heal and strengthen labor's cause. Many thanks to these unions, the IUOE and the San Antonio community. Patrons responded favorably to the fliers. According to Director of Special Operations Bob Miller, several convention attendees shared the union's concerns about Road Machinery, adding to the company's embarrassment.



Front row, from left: Stockton Business Rep. John Bruckner, striker Rodney Hill, Director of Special Operations Bob Miller and Local 564 Asst. Business Manager Ronnie Orsak. Back row, from left: IUOE Local 178 Business Rep./Organizer Robert Teran, Fresno Business Rep. John Prichard, Oakland District Rep. Pete Figueiredo, striker Mark Matney, Local 564 Business Rep./Organizer Eric Wells, IUOE Southern Region Rep. Bobby Brown and IUOE Local 450 Business Rep. Fred Swift.

Maybe that is why shortly after the convention, Romanson lost his position as CEO, and, we understand, is no longer with the company.

On the home front, the strike line stayed strong in front of Road Machinery's West Sacramento facility. To "weather" the weeks-long storms that drenched the area, strikers and staff recovered an old trailer used for previous strike actions and maintained a constant presence despite conditions.

Several tips from members have resulted in victories. Following a recent Oakland District meeting, a member followed through with some information after reading the Road Machinery wallet cards that were passed out. The union is taking action and appreciates this kind of information. Another tip involved volunteer member Scott Mehawk traveling with Oakland Business Rep. Mike Croll

from Sacramento to Redwood City to follow a Road Machinery mechanic headed to work on a truck for Kingdom Pipelines. Croll and Mehawk educated the company about the strike, and the company kicked the rat off – a victory for labor!

Operating from another tip, staff and strikers discovered a Road Machinery "ghost" service truck working out of the Sacramento Airport. For a photo of this truck, please see the Sacramento District report. If you recognize this truck on the jobsite, call your district office immediately.

Our struggle is far from over, but every little bit and every little tip we receive from you, the membership, strengthens us and helps weaken Road Machinery. Call your district office for ways you can help, and don't hesitate to walk the line with these members in District 80, District 50 and District 70.

For updates and more photos of the strike, visit [www.oe3.org](http://www.oe3.org).



In West Sacramento, strikers and staff sport new stickers from Texas. They include, from left: Volunteer Charles Bynum, strikers Reggie Stepney, Douglas "Marty" Davis and Nicholas Metcalf, Director of Special Operations Bob Miller, Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC) Construction Equipment Operator (CEO) Instructor Andy Lagosh, RMTC Scraper Instructor Rubén Gaytan and striker Mark Matney.