A dynamite job

J.F. Shea improves Manzanita Chute
For The Good & Welfare
By Russ Burns, business manager

Which side are you on?

At the time of this writing, the results of the June Primary Elections were just tallied, and we are weeks away from knowing the outcome of our Master Agreement negotiations.

Regarding the political results, check out Political Director Mark Kyle's column in this edition for the breakdown of where we won, where we lost and what's ahead as we re-focus on the November General Election. We pulled off some close victories, meaning every one of your votes counted, and I thank you for doing your due diligence for our political aim.

We now know the gubernatorial candidates for California will be Attorney General Jerry Brown (who we endorse) and former eBay CEO Meg Whitman. In the next few months, I urge you to learn everything you can about these two candidates, and we will provide a breakdown of their positions on our issues as well. You will not be surprised as to our endorsement of Brown when you learn about Whitman's extreme anti-labor agenda that includes taking away workplace protections, eliminating Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) and cutting pensions and wages for state workers. We cannot let her become the next California governor. In the next few months, we will be calling upon you again to stand strong against her and candidates like her — those intent on fixing the backs of workers. We won't take it.

We will also not take anything less than what we’ve worked so hard to secure in terms of our Master Agreement negotiations. I wish I had a crystal ball knowing the outcome of our Master Agreement negotiations. I wish I had a crystal ball at a time when we cannot afford one. If it passes all the hurdles, more of these projects may get a push with the recent approval of Measure J, the proposal to build a $937 million stadium in the South Bay, obviously a huge project for us and former eBay CEO Meg Whitman.

In the next few months, I urge you to keep looking forward. There are many battles ahead, but we always come out on top, because we are fighters.
The Obamas visit Local 3’s jurisdiction
President tours District 20 jobsite

Many Local 3 members got an up-close look at what President Obama has been doing since he was elected when they went to work on the construction of Solyndra's solar-manufacturing plant in Fremont, Calif. last year. In May, they got an up-close look at the president.

Barack Obama visited the worksite on May 26 during his second trip to the Bay Area since taking office. After touring the facility, which Engineers News featured in January, Obama addressed a select crowd of 250 and, according to the San Jose Mercury News, praised construction workers for their hard work. This includes the members working for general contractor Rudolph and Sletten and subcontractors Dees-Hennessey, Maxim, Coneo, J.J. Albanese and Kier and Wright, who are working 10-hour day and night shifts to finish the project by November.

The Mercury News called Solyndra “a poster child for the success of federal stimulus spending and its ripple effects on the economy,” as the Department of Energy gave the project a $535 million loan guarantee funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and will put an estimated 3,000 people to work before the project is completed.

Campbell Watch: First lady supports Reid

Michelle Obama was also nearby last month as she toured Nevada to talk about healthy living and promote U.S. Senator candidate Harry Reid. The Associated Press reported that the first lady was in both northern and southern Nevada and attended a town hall meeting in Reno with a crowd of 1,600 Reid supporters.

Local 3 also endorses Reid. For more on who the union supports and why, visit us online at www.oc3.org.

A few Health and Welfare Fund costs
These statistics may surprise you

It was great to see retirees and actives at the last round of meetings and at the June 5 Retiree Picnic. The turnouts were good, as was the interaction between members. I would like to thank everyone for their input and support.

As of this writing, negotiations for the Northern California Master Agreement are going as expected. The rank and file are doing a great job with their input.

Our Health and Welfare Best Practices Committee is meeting regularly to brainstorm ideas on how to better serve the membership by lowering the Fund's cost. The following statistics include the biggest cost items to the Fund, as well as some other interesting facts:

• Diabetes: 1,212 participants at a cost of $13.9 million per year
• Asthma: 1,343 participants at a cost of $6.6 million per year
• The annual cost for diabetes per member is $111,868 versus $3,922 for members without diabetes (see the Fringe Benefits article on page 11 for ways to battle diabetes)
• Musculoskeletal disorders related to back pain account for $15.7 million in annual costs
• Emergency room visits cost $11.5 percent above the benchmark due to the high cost of non-emergent visits (75 percent of emergency room visits are not emergencies)
• 15 percent of claimants account for 82 percent of costs

These are just some of the statistics that make up our Health and Welfare costs. This kind of data helps us chart an effective plan based on what we’re dealing with. This is what the Best Practices Committee is set up to determine. We need to come up with the data first, then analyze it and effectively communicate the information to the membership.

This is a long process that will take some upfront costs, but in the long-run, it should reduce costs, because by changing our lifestyles — eating right, resting, taking care of ourselves and having the Trust Fund provide tools and resources on how to do this — we should prevent expensive illnesses before they happen, therefore improving our quality of life.

For me, it means changing my lifestyle, so I can stop taking high blood pressure and cholesterol medications.

One solution the committee has discussed is to give members and their spouses the opportunity to get a head-to-toe physical, and then based on those results, some healthy lifestyle counseling. Other ideas include incentives for healthy living, such as a debit card for a healthy diagnosis with a dollar amount for deductibles, co-pays, etc. We need to start some place, and research shows over and over again that prevention is the best cure for any disease and condition.

It is also the cheapest!

We are also exploring alternative medicine, such as natural vitamins and home remedies (a few are discussed in this edition’s Health News). When I told the committee members about my blood pressure and cholesterol prescriptions, they said I could fix it with a mixture of cinnamon, lemon and whiskey (not too much whiskey!). There are alternatives to expensive prescriptions, but please don’t start any new health regimen without first consulting your regular doctor.

Another cost-savings solution may be the use of surgical centers. For instance, if you need knee replacements, it may be recommended that you go to Los Angeles or Oregon to get the surgery at the best price.

These are just ideas with no known implementation date. We can’t leave any stone unturned, and we must research all the data available.

Regarding the work picture, while we aren’t going to break any records, there are some good jobs going to bid, and our signatories are getting most of them. Business Manager Russ Burns, Financial Secretary Dan Reding and I recently had the opportunity to talk to California Democratic gubernatorial candidate and current Attorney General Jerry Brown. The first thing I asked him about was work for our members and what he planned to do, if elected, to get more of it. We had a good conversation about how the levee system is falling apart. Brown realizes that we need to invest in California’s infrastructure. Burns discussed with him the importance of high-speed rail to California’s economy and invited him to come to our meetings for some one-on-one time with the membership. I know many of you have questions for him.

Thanks for the support, and remember: If you have any ideas on lowering our Health and Welfare Fund’s costs, please get them to us. Your ideas could be the ones we use.

Talking Points
By Fred Herschbach, president
Honorary Member wills his estate to Local 3 Scholarship Foundation

By Jamie Johnston, associate editor

Local 3 has always been important to Honorary Member George Azevedo. He was dying to get in at the young age of 14, and after willing his estate to the Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Foundation, he's ensured his commitment to the union will continue after his death.

“It's a selfless, special thing to do, but Azevedo feels Local 3 deserves it. After all, if it wasn’t for the union and the Pension he received, Azevedo is sure he never would have survived or had any of what he has now.

The 82-year-old was initiated into Local 3 in 1950.

“I signed up for anything I could get on,” he said, explaining that he “operated everything” instead of specializing in one piece of equipment. “It means a lot in your future employment. If you're a versatile operator, they can find another spot to put you in. You have to be more of a complete operator.”

Except for a few years in the '50s when he served as an Army combat aid-man on the frontlines in Korea, Azevedo worked as a union equipment operator until retiring in 1978. He worked for many companies in many capacities: He was a foreman for Guy F. Atkinson Co. on the Hetch Hetchy Dam in Yosemite, operated dozers on highway jobs in the Bay Area and did finish work. He was operating a blade on a jobsite in 1977 when his life changed forever.

Azevedo recalls the day vividly: It was an early morning; he was grading a road when he drove over a branch. The branch hooked onto his equipment and shot upward, hitting him across his eyes.

“It punched a hole through my right eye, but never in his left. For three years, his right side was paralyzed. The impact of the accident popped discs in his back, and the blow to his head was severe. He was eventually told he couldn’t drive anymore, and after years of legalities, he was put on permanent disability. Azevedo says it was his Local 3 membership that offered him continued health benefits (for him and his wife) and the Pension he got every month that kept his family of four afloat. (And his wife, Gervis, lived in Morgan Hill with their two adopted children.)

"This has always been in my mind,” he said. “I could not have survived... if it hadn’t been for the union's Pension checks. The two of us [George and Gervis] wouldn’t have survived if it was just Social Security. This has always left me with the feeling that I owe more to Operating Engineers than I do anyone else in the world. I don’t owe Social Security, because that is money that was withheld from my check... but I do feel that without the Operating Engineers, I would not be here today. ... The county would have had me. "I kept that in my thoughts all the time."

Tragedy struck again in 1993, when his son was killed. Azevedo says the stress caused his wife to suffer a stroke. The couple eventually moved to Red Bluff, away from hurtful memories, and were married for 55 years until she passed away last September.

He admits his wife was “hesitant to agree with me” when they talked about leaving their estate to the union, but, “Now there’s nothing left but me to think about,” he said.

His wish was made possible through the Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Fund. His contribution will help fund the education of a child of a Local 3 member.

Azevedo now lives in Elk Grove and has already started donating money to the fund in the hopes he may meet the beneficiary.
Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Foundation

Giving gifts that last a lifetime

A charity is only as strong as its contributors want it to be, and the Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Foundation is no exception. Today the Foundation is strong, both financially and in the support it receives from Local 3. It has grown substantially in the last several years, with much of the success due to increasing donations from members, friends of labor and the employer community. Most contributions come in the form of traditional cash donations, but some have chosen more creative donation methods. (For more on this, please read this month's feature on Retiree George Azevedo.) Because of tax considerations, some contributions can result in the donors being able to give a gift that is greater than they thought possible. These gifts help build the strength and future of the Scholarship Foundation and allow the donor to experience giving the gift of a lifetime. The Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Foundation offers a variety of ways to contribute:

- Cash gifts in any amount to the general scholarship fund.
- Merit sponsors and memorial and honor gifts. You can contribute to the Scholarship Foundation in the memory or honor of a loved one, friend or colleague or to commemorate a special occasion. The Foundation will acknowledge your gift to the person(s) you designate and will also provide written acknowledgment of your gift and the amount. A $500 minimum is necessary to establish a named gift, and there are three donation levels:
  - First-place academic $6,000
  - Second-place academic $5,000
  - Merit $500
- Bequests. Gifts made through your will allow you to retain control of your assets during your lifetime and distribute them as you wish upon your death. Many people choose to include a gift to the Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Foundation. The most common types of bequests are leaving a fixed dollar amount or specific property. A charitable bequest may reduce your estate tax. Consulting an attorney is advisable anytime you make or change a will.
- Securities. There may be advantages to giving marketable securities – stocks, bonds or mutual funds – instead of cash. In some cases, you may receive a charitable deduction on your taxes, as well as avoid taxes on capital gains. Consult your financial advisor for details.

If you would like more information on donating to the Scholarship Fund, please contact the Foundation’s treasurer, Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan, at (510) 748-7400.

Congratulations 2010 Local 3 Scholarship Foundation award winners

Local 3 is pleased to announce this year’s male and female winners of the Academic Scholarship Awards. These four deserving students from across Local 3’s jurisdiction were chosen to receive scholarships based on their academic achievements, community service and school involvement. Besides their scholarship award for the first year, each student will receive an additional $1,000 per year from the Scholarship Fund for their second, third and fourth years of college, provided they remain full-time students at an accredited U.S. college.

~ First place: $3,000 ~

Tom J. Stapleton Memorial Scholarship

Caroline Federighi
Daughter of Robert Federighi
Reg# 1594869
Pleasanton, Calif.

Colby Johnson
Son of William Lawson
Reg# 2346461
Cloverdale, Calif.

~ Second place: $2,000 ~

Liliana Vargas
Daughter of Jose Vargas
Reg# 2335199
Richmond, Calif.

Jordan Toy
Son of Julie Toy
Reg# 2636098
Milpitas, Calif.

Yes!

I would like to support the 2010 Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Fund.
Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of: □ $20 □ $50 □ $100 □ Other $_______

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

Address: ___________________________

City: ___________________________ State: _______ Zip: __________

Clip out & mail to: Jim Sullivan, Recording-Corresponding Secretary
Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3, 1620 South Loop Rd., Alameda, CA 94502

Please note: Anyone who contributed $20 or more will receive a scholarship pin.
Caltrans Workers Memorial:
A day to remember

By Gary Rocha, business representative

In 1924, the first Caltrans employee was killed working on our state highways. Today, more than 174 Caltrans employees have died while keeping the highways safe for the motoring public.

Every year, these workers are remembered at the front of the state Capitol for the Caltrans Workers Memorial, a day to remember the highway workers who have given their lives to build, maintain and operate our highway transportation system. Being part of the Caltrans family is a great honor but comes with much sadness at the memorials.

Last year, Caltrans lost two more family members in unfortunate incidents. One of them was 19-year Unit 12 member Don Lichliter, a 27-year employee of the Caltrans Highway Maintenance Tree Crew. Lichliter was struck by a truck when working near Hwy. 99 in Lodi.

At the April 29 memorial, I saw a small child standing by a cone (a symbol of fallen members). It was Lichliter’s cone – her grandfather – and the child, Gia, proudly displayed a badge pinned to her shirt with his picture on it. I was saddened, only to think of my own grandchildren. Too many cones! Local 3 wants zero cones from now on. But with budget cuts, furloughs, layoffs and the threat of federal minimum wage, how can you focus on your job? I don’t know how, but they do. A special thanks goes out to all of them. To further protect these members, the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) and Local 3 have supported and made into law Senate Bill (SB) 15, the Assault Bill, and Assembly Bill (AB) 240, the Move Over Bill. Keeping safety first is our main goal.

Caltrans workers line up in honor of those who lost their lives on the job.

Don Lichliter’s granddaughter, Gia, proudly wears her grandfather’s picture.

One sign, two signs, red sign, blue sign

By Gladys Perry, business representative

Within Caltrans, each district has special crews. The sign crew is one within the maintenance division that is responsible for all delineation and markings on federal and state highways. The crew also takes care of secondary highways.

The San Leandro crew is responsible for signs, markers, stripes, etc. in Sonoma, Napa, Marin, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Alameda and Santa Clara counties. This is not an easy task, as there are more than a million different signs.

As you travel, glance at some of these signs, stripes and markers. There are speed-limit signs, directional signs, on- and off-ramp signs, school-crossing signs, reminder signs with distances and exits, signs for trucks, signs for trailers, population signs, height signs, overlays for temporary repairs, temporary detour signs, overhead guides, route shields, highway numbers, arrows and symbols, etc. These are just a few!

Guides are green; warning signs are yellow. Motorist service signs are blue, park signs are brown, regulatory (speed) signs are white and construction signs are orange. The route shields for the federal government are red, white and blue.

Standard signs are ordered, but emergency signs are made at the sign shop. For example, during the Loma Prieta earthquake, more than 3,000 signs were fabricated. There were signs for detours, road and bridge closures, dangers and warnings for all types of emergencies. There were overlays for temporary situations that changed during the rebuilding process.

When signs have graffiti on them, the employees must remove the graffiti or change the sign. Some signs are so large they are in sections or mounted in panels. This also assists in not having to close too many lanes at one time. Crews try to make changes on the weekends, but work is done anytime of day or night. The work must be coordinated with other crews when possible for lane closures, etc.

The federal government is trying to standardize signs on all federal highways and freeways across the country. As old signs come down, they are replaced with symbols as opposed to words. Most exits are now numbered instead of named.

Requests for signs are generated by a variety of methods: Missing signs and complaints from the public, California Highway Patrol (CHP) and other maintenance crews that identify a problem. Caltrans District 4's construction projects create new signs. Traffic engineers determine if there is a need for new or different signs for safety or other reasons. Adopt-A-Highway also generates new or replacement signs for customers.

Stop signs are a priority. No matter what the weather, if there is a sign falling down or covered with graffiti, new signs are replaced. The most recent push has been for signs for the “S” curve on the Bay Bridge.

Old signs are recycled. Some of the posts are hazardous and are treated with chemicals to endure the weather elements. When crews replace a sign, their clean-up process is very strict. All wood shavings, screws, etc. are cleaned up.

Signs are not the only visuals that help the traveling public. Ever noticed the markers on the ground? Some roads that are not illuminated by light have reflector markers. Stripes and lines are also used for safety and direction. Crews may use stencils or do what is known as burn downs, which can be raised or recessed. Next time you’re on the road, take a second to notice all the signs and markers that keep the motoring public aware and safe.

Caltrans District 4 Maintenance Leadworker
Bo Brown is surrounded by signs.

Unit 12 Meet the Members

David Manley,
Caltrans equipment operator

Steve Marker,
Caltrans equipment operator
Mercer-Fraser began work at the Arcata-Eureka Airport in McKinleyville in early spring, and even then, the infamous fog and rain of Humboldt County made progress slow, though work continues.

The project will be completed in three phases, with Phase Two open for bid in August. Phase One includes safety area improvements, which entails shifting runway No. 1-19 about 40 feet to the south, extending and resurfacing the runways and installing new lighting. Mercer-Fraser is currently working on the staging area. The entire project, which will also include grading to stabilize a nearby bluff, is expected to be completed in 2011. The upgrades are necessary for compliance with new Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety standards, something operators on the ground and passengers in the air can appreciate, although there aren’t many of either.

With about 50,000 annual flights, the Arcata-Eureka Airport is one of the smallest in existence. It was originally built by the Army Air Corps of Engineers in World War II as a site to test fog-dispersal techniques. After demobilization, the airfield was given to Humboldt County as a civilian airport.

It is also one of the foggiest airports in the world. Yet, planes manage to depart and land on a busy schedule, with daily flights to San Francisco, Sacramento, Portland and Seattle.

While the project is small – only 10 operators are on the $4.3 million project at any given time – it is big on safety, and for those 10 operators, that is important.

Foreman Doug Wilkins often looks to the sky at all the air traffic overhead, but he is not worried. All the equipment on the project flies safety flags to be visible to all incoming and outgoing planes.

If the sun comes out and the rain holds off, Mercer-Fraser expects to finish its portion of the job by October, just in time for the wet winter season!
Spotlight: Foothill-De Anza Community College District police officers

For the last several months, my articles have been doom and gloom. However, there are some good things to report in the Public Employee Department. To highlight the positives, I’m starting a new series: “Getting to know our public employees.” This month, I am spotlighting the police officers at the Foothill-De Anza Community College District.

It takes a special person to perform law enforcement in an educational setting, and our members at the Foothill-De Anza Community College District exemplify the skills and qualities for success. Educational facilities provide a learning environment, run by educators. The environment works on the principle of enrichment, not punishment. Law enforcement at educational facilities has to be very cognizant of interactions with students.

At the community-college level, young adults formulate their opinions about many things, including law enforcement. Law enforcement relies on help from the community it serves, and it’s very difficult to gain the confidence, support and assistance of communities who mistrust or hold bad opinions. Some community-college students have already had some negative dealings with law enforcement and may already be leery. Interaction at the college level is crucial to their perception.

I don’t think I’ve ever met a law enforcement leader who understands this more than Foothill-De Anza Police Chief Ron Levine. He embodies the true meaning of community policing. This is apparent when you meet his officers. They have the patience of saints. They enforce the rules and keep everyone safe, while acting much like the educators they work with. It’s all about quality service. As a former deputy sheriff, I don’t think I could have been so patient when I was still working the beat.

The crew at Foothill-De Anza covers two campuses with more than 40,000 students annually. That’s one of the largest community-college populations in California. So, hats off to the officers at Foothill-De Anza Community College. Rest assured: If your son or daughter attends this fabulous college, they are in safe and competent hands.

San Francisco union members ‘strike’ a deal

By Dave Gossman, business representative

The city of San Francisco faced a budget deficit of $852 million for the upcoming fiscal year, July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. The city administration responded by handing out 17,000 layoff notices. The intent was then to impose a 37-1/2-hour workweek on all workers whether they had an open or closed contract. The city also wanted an 8.25 percent concession in wages and health-care benefits. The unions formed a Public Employees’ Coalition (PEC) to meet head-on with the San Francisco administration through the meet-and-confer process. The united voice of all unions in the PEC was heard as a loud and clear message of unity and fairness.

The city and PEC worked together during a six-week period and hammered out an agreement in the best interests of union members, the city and San Francisco citizens. It was agreed that contracts would be extended for two years. Unions would give a concession of 4.62 percent in wages for the first year. The second year could be reduced based upon budget forecasts. Union members agreed to take 12 unpaid furlough days to make up the concession. There will also be Pension restoration for any union member who decides to retire within the next two years.

There will be no change in health benefits in the first fiscal year, and the second year will be based on a new meet-and-confer negotiation. In the end, the city of San Francisco will save $100 million based upon the negotiations with the PEC for the first year, and San Francisco Local 3 members from the operators’, probation supervisors’ and Institutional Police Officers’ Association (IPOA) sergeants’ units will not be laid-off.

A special thanks to Mayor Gavin Newsom, who participated in the negotiations and provided leadership, honesty and fairness in resolving the major issues facing the city of San Francisco and its union members. How many other elected officials in Northern California attend and participate in open negotiations? I can’t name one! They hide behind their locked doors and send out their cronies to attempt to strip away rights, wages and benefits of union members. That is the reason it is so important that we speak in a united voice in electing officials who support the hard-working middle class and vote out elected carpetbaggers. Unite and vote!

Lastly, a special thanks to the following Local 3 stewards who participated with skill, knowledge and zeal in representing their units: Operators Mike O’Drisssal, Dennis Day, Rick De Renzi, Gary De Renzi, Chuck Bruenmer, Willie Sparks, Luis Amador, John Mullen and Craig Hurst, San Francisco probation supervisors Ray Yany, Ernestine Cadehill, Roger Gainey, Hector Ballesteros and Lee Ann Hudson and IPOA Sgt. Eric Cranston. Congratulations on a job well done!
Negotiation news
By Rick Davis, business representative

As of this writing, I am back at the table in Alpine, Sierra, El Dorado and Plumas counties. I am still in negotiations with the Rancho Murieta Community Service District (CSD), which has been going on for seven months. I did receive a last, best and final from the district, but that will probably go to impasse and state mediation. I will be shocked if the employees ratify the contract.

Rancho Murieta CSD employees were offered absolutely nothing to speak of. The district changed the retiree health insurance for its own benefit, removed some certificate incentives for new hires and gave no salary adjustments to union-represented employees. The district is going to maintain employees’ step increases per the step schedule (as if that’s a favor!). This is the same board of directors that did give non-represented employees a 2 percent salary increase and talked about giving them a 4 percent to 6 percent increase. Those same non-represented employees also have 100 percent coverage on their retiree health insurance. On the flip side, if you calculate the dental, vision and life insurance for the union’s retiree medical insurance, it barely equals a 50 percent benefit.

One of the CSD directors, Bob Kjome, stated in a board meeting: “The district is running efficiently, and while the whole nation may be hurting, we are financially sound.” Yeah, sound enough to give non-union employees a 2 percent pay increase and 100 percent retiree medical insurance, but not sound enough to give union employees the same. CSD directors Dick Taylor and Betty Ferraro wanted to wait and give the non-represented employees their raises after our negotiations were over. Taylor felt that any increase to the non-represented employees would give an indication to OE3 that the represented employees what they’re worth, then it shouldn’t sound enough to give non-union employees a 2 percent increase. What are those core benefits? Public safety is brought to us by police and fire departments. The Department of Public Health handles garbage, water distribution, sewer plants and water treatment. Public health officials deal with medical conditions that affect entire communities. Streets and utilities are other areas covered by special taxes.

If the Rancho Murieta CSD Board of Directors is so concerned with residents like Ted Hart, who didn’t want the board to show its hand to the union prior to negotiations being over, and what the community might think if, God forbid, the board paid represented employees what they’re worth, then it shouldn’t give anybody anything. Why are there unions? This is a perfect example. One set of employees is treated one way and others are treated another. If there was no voice of representation for working men and women, they would be steam-rolled on a daily basis. Good job, Rancho Murieta CSD! You have now separated your employees into two groups, those who are important and those who are not.

Wizards behind the curtain
By Fred Klingel, business representative

What will happen when Dorothy and Toto look behind the curtain and find that everything was orchestrated by a wizard? This reminds me of certain city managers with their magical math and the financial wizardry involved in their budgets. Here you see it – now you don’t.

Let’s look at how most of us handle our finances: Income goes into a checking account and then we pay for our expenditures. Pretty simple. Now, let’s take the same approach as governmental budgets. Let’s go to the bank, open up a main checking and savings account and about 15 or more special checking accounts. When our income is deposited, let’s immediately move it to savings where we can collect interest. Each special account is designated for some item like a vehicle fund, utility fund, communications fund, etc. Those funds receive a certain percentage of the savings when it is time to pay. We are not allowed to touch those funds or the percentage within the savings fund. It is a way to keep funds in those special accounts that pay for those less important programs. So what happens when our main checking account runs short? We can sell some stuff or borrow it, but that will put us further in the hole with all the interest that accrues and late fees if we don’t get it in fast enough. Starting to get the picture? Dorothy did too, and she didn’t like what she saw.

Now we have a deficit and must do something or file for bankruptcy, lay-off workers or eliminate certain positions. Now our attention is focused on retaining our jobs. Management is focused on covering the deficit.

In government, covering the deficit is usually accomplished by getting concessions from employees via pay or benefits but never from cutting out expenditures like social programs – the “free this” or the “free that.” Government employees do the work that provides core benefits to the taxpayers for the taxes they pay. What are those core benefits? Public safety is brought to us by police and fire departments. The Department of Public Health handles garbage, water distribution, sewer plants and water treatment. Public health officials deal with medical conditions that affect entire communities. Streets and utilities are other areas covered by special taxes.

For these core benefits to be administered, it is necessary for a few to run the show smoothly. That’s it in a nutshell. The rest of the fluff can be cut. Government officials: To balance your budget, don’t take pay and benefits from those who perform duties to the satisfaction of the community they serve. Union members: Don’t allow government employers to take pay and benefits that you worked so hard to get. Don’t give up what you have, unless you get something in return.

I have heard it said often: “You get what you pay for.” That is why union workers produce products, services and infrastructure with pride and workmanship. When products or services are purchased from the lowest bidder, guess what? They fall apart or are performed with poor service. Imagine that?

We know the truth, because we seek it out and will fight for it. We’re not in Kansas anymore.

On the job with the city of Santa Rosa Public Works

Job classification: Equipment Mechanic 2 for the city of Santa Rosa Public Works

Interesting job duties: In his 33 years with the city, Perry has been a job steward, fought to be represented by the union and was instrumental in creating and implementing a medical stipend.

“I was part of the rowdy group – we fought for what was right,” admitted Perry.

Advice to others: “Get into the union right away.” And: “Stick around,” because this is a good job with good benefits.

Name: Leo Perry
Age: Turns 72 this year
Years in Local 3: Five

Hobbies: Rebuilding old cars – a hobby he began as a teenager. He rebuilt a ’57 Olds J2 hardtop that took top honors in shows in Reno. When he retires in October, he will have more time: “I have a lot of old cars waiting for me.”
Switching financial institutions can be difficult. There are forms to fill out, personal checks to reorder, new PIN numbers to remember ... It all seems messy and inconvenient. Regardless of whether the relationship between a member and a credit union (or a customer and a bank) has issues, most people would rather avoid the hassle. We know because we’ve been there. But we’re here to say that making the switch to Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union (OEFCU) is worth it.

The management and staff of OEFCU fully understand the value each member brings to our organization. We also know that during every transaction, whether in person, on the phone or online, members evaluate their relationships with us and decide if they are worth keeping.

That is why, at OEFCU, we go above and beyond expectations during every interaction to strengthen our relationship with each member for the long term. We encourage our loyal members to help us expand our Credit Union family by sponsoring their own family members to join us, so they can also share in the OE experience – a lasting relationship with the Credit Union. Unlike ordinary financial institutions, we exist to serve the financial needs of our exclusive membership.

A real life story told by one of our loan officers:

“I had this member whose daughter is the power of attorney/conservatorship on his account and took out a home equity line of credit when I was in the real estate department to use for his care in his home five years ago. Since the beginning, when she called, she always asked me to help her with advances, payments, payment amounts or whatever else she needed. I was always happy to help her no matter what department I might have been working in. She called me for the last time a couple of months ago to get some information and informed me that he was dying, and it wouldn’t be much longer. It’s very sad, and she was crying, and having lost both of my parents, I wanted to cry with her. She thanked me for my help all these years. It’s sad. After talking about it this morning, I was able to locate his account and looked it up and saw that he did pass away in February. I am going to call her to give her my condolences.”

If you’ve considered switching to OEFCU but found it too cumbersome, it’s time to give us a second look. If you’re tired of being treated like just an account number and paying all those high fees, you owe it to yourself to call or visit us. Whether on the phone or face-to-face in one of our 22 branch offices, OEFCU always provides the personal service of a small credit union with the strength, sophistication and convenience of a large and exclusive establishment. If you’d like to join our OEFCU family, contact us at (800) 877-4444. Visit our website at www.oefcu.org for more information on our products, services and other “Member Only” benefits.
Eat right to prevent type 2 diabetes

This information is provided by the National Institute of Health.

Type 2 diabetes is a metabolic disorder. To prevent type 2 diabetes, reduce the amount of food you eat to help with weight loss, or consider switching from foods that are high in fat, sugar and cholesterol to healthier options, such as:

- Whole-grain foods, such as whole wheat bread, crackers, cereals, brown rice, oatmeal and barley
- A variety of colorful fruits and vegetables
- Small portions of heart-healthy fats, such as nuts, seeds and vegetable oils
- Low-fat or skim milk, yogurt and cheese

Try these other tips:

- Eat 3-ounce servings of meat, poultry and fish – about the size of a deck of cards.
- Choose fish, lean meats and poultry without the skin.
- Choose foods that have been baked or broiled instead of fried.
- Limit sweets and desserts. They usually contain a lot of fat and sugar. Have a small serving at the end of a healthy meal – and not every day.
- Share large portions when eating out.
- When your grandkids visit, offer them healthy snacks, such as fruit, instead of cookies and chips.
- Choose water to drink.
- Eat breakfast every day.

Giving thanks

Thanks to all of our retirees and spouses who attended the June 5 Retiree Picnic at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC).

What a festive bunch! There was plenty of great food, good camaraderie and many old war stories – some of which were probably true!

It was great to see all of you. Thanks for coming and enjoying the day. Business Manager Russ Burns, the other officers and staff wish to thank all of you and commend you on your many years of service – especially you 50-year honorees. See those very folks along with the whole day’s events on pages 12 and 13 in this issue.

Many thanks to RMTC Executive Director Kris Morgan and his entire staff, especially Director of Training Dave DeWilde, Director of Apprenticeship Tammy Castillo and Kitchen Manager Red Herrera and crew.

We’re here to help
Fringe Benefits Service Center: (800) 532-2105
Trust Fund Office: (800) 251-5014

Fringe Benefits
By Charlie Warren, director

Retiree Post

A Grand honor

Retiree named Grand Marshal of Cottonwood Rodeo Parade

Submitted by Retiree Association Chairman/Bylaws Committee member Ken Green

Retiree John Hinote, a Local 3 member for 50 years, was honored May 8 as Grand Marshal of the Cottonwood Rodeo Parade.

Hinote was chosen because of his many years volunteering and participating in youth and civic organizations. He has a special place in his heart for young people – not only his own children, Shelly and Brian, who are now grown, and his grandchildren, but any child who needs help or instruction. For many years, Hinote served as a Cub Scouts leader, hunter-safety instructor and Little League coach. In recent years, he has devoted his time to the Northern Free Trappers, which raises money for young cancer patients.

He and his wife, Barbara, have lived in Cottonwood for 38 years. Hinote received his 50-year Local 3 membership pin and mantel clock at the 39th annual District 70 Picnic on June 19, where he, once again, presided over the pit-roasted beef. (Look for pictures and more details on this event in next month’s Engineers News.)

Do you have an event coming up you’d like to share or good news worth repeating? Contact Engineers News at (916) 993-2047, ext. 2505, mail us your suggestions with your photo at 3920 Lennane Drive, Sacramento, CA 95834 or e-mail us at mmcmillen@oe3.org.
Local 3 is a family, and nowhere is that more prevalent than at the annual Retiree Picnic, this year held on June 5 at the Rancho Murietta Training Center (RMTC). Members came from all over to celebrate the brothers and sisters who reached their 50-year-membership milestones, including Don and Alice Riggs, who drove from New Mexico, Lynn and Marilyn Barlow, who traveled from Utah, and Retiree Bob Stretch, who came from Nevada via motorcycle. (For a complete list of our 50-year members, please see the back page.)

The picnic was also an opportunity to reunite with family over a feast of tri-tip, barbecue chicken, beans, salad, rolls, ice cream and drinks.

Forty-year member Larry Nicholson traveled 487 miles in his motorhome from Coos Bay, Ore. to visit with his uncle, 45-year member/retired crane operator Don Maland. Nicholson’s father, grandfather and great-grandfather were also Operating Engineers.

Retirees George Yount, Bob Schulhauser, Bill Fox, Otto Wise, Bob Marr, Larry Caporale, Bob Edenberger, Donald Parker and Ray Bisaillon may not be blood relatives, but after working together for 30 years in south San Francisco for Buzz Haskins, they became “like family” and are now linked for life. They also met up at the picnic and get together for retiree breakfasts and outings with their wives.

The same is true for 35-year member Orin Stuart and 31-year members Gerald Armstrong and Chris Abercrombie, “aka Super Bass Fisherman,” said Stuart. The trio goes on regular fishing expeditions, and Abercrombie usually reigns supreme.

Fifty-eight-year member Clyde German and 46-year member Ralph Palazuelos also reconnected at the picnic, spending the day sifting through old photographs. “We’ve done time together for a long time,” said Palazuelos.

While reaching the 50-year mark was the highlight of the event, some had other reasons to celebrate. President Fred Herschbach and Retiree Joe Correia bonded over their birthdays. Correia turned 96 the day of the picnic; Herschbach turned 56 the day before. For Retiree Ray Bruno and his wife Inger, the picnic was a reason to share the news about their 55 years together and 55 years with Local 3. “We married the same year he joined the union,” Inger said. (In August 1955.)

Whatever the celebration and whatever the connection, everyone seemed to have a great time. Business Manager Russ Burns and the other officers presented the 50-year honorees with special timepieces (and loaded their plates with tri-tip), while Local 3 staff mingled with members and worked at some of the booths, such as the history and political ones.

We congratulate our 50-year members once again, and hope to see you all at the next one.

For more photos from the event, visit us online at www.oe3.org. Click on the Engineers News tab, and you can find them in the “photo galleries” cue on the left.
Irma and Jim Keenan pick out a new shirt to show off their Local 3 pride.

Don and Alice Riggs enjoy a few games of bingo before lunch.

Lynn Barlow and his wife Marilyn made the drive from Utah to pick up Lynn's 50-year award.

Retiree Frank DelaCerna tries out the mini-excavator, while Wally Wickum watches.

Regular attendees, Ramona and Joe Jones share pictures from previous Retiree Picnics.

Santa Rosa's Burt Schultz and Alice Bongolan enjoy themselves at the June 5 Retiree Picnic.
With the downturn in the economy, you might have to make some changes to obtain work. The days of driving across town to the jobsite are temporarily gone. Private work has also diminished – working on subdivision or commercial building sites may be a thing of the past.

If you want to work, you may have to accept a job further away from home. You may even find yourself working two or three counties away from your “adobe.” You may find yourself living out of a suitcase, staying in motel rooms or a travel trailer. If you’re willing to make some lifestyle changes, there is work to be had, such as in Utah and Nevada with the large, natural-gas pipeline, known as the Ruby Dome project. Nevada will host the “mother lode” of this pipeline work.

Therefore, do not be afraid to venture into another state to find work.

A reminder: Local 3 has one construction Pension and one Health and Welfare Pension, however, there are four separate Health and Welfare programs throughout the local’s jurisdiction (one in each state). So, if you decide to travel and work in a different state within Local 3’s boundaries, you may want to sign a letter of reciprocity that states Health and Welfare funds earned in the traveling state are transferred back to your home state, therefore making you current, so that your health insurance stays solvent. Contact the district office or the business agent in that area to find out about your health-insurance coverage.

Mechanics Corner

By Dave Bibby, Heavy Duty Repair (HDR) instructor

Bolt basics

Fasteners are a major part of our everyday lives, as they mechanically join or affix two or more objects. A fastener simplifies the manufacturing process along with maintenance and repair.

Although many types of fasteners exist, I will discuss the Hex cap screw, otherwise known as a bolt. This is a type of fastener with a helical ridge, known as an external thread, around a cylinder.

Modern machining began in the late 18th century in Great Britain. The modern lathe, capable of cutting threads with precision, was invented in 1797 by Henry Maudsley. Creating threads became much easier with this invention, but everyone had their own pattern. A missing screw from a company no longer in business had to be custom-made at great expense by another company. Maudsley’s apprentice, Joseph Whitworth, invented a method for producing a true plane surface in steel – a fundamental operation in precision-making. Whitworth then worked as a toolmaker for Joseph Clements. In 1859, Whitworth produced a machine capable of measurements to one-two-millionth of an inch. He incorporated his own ideas and collected screws from England to note the sizes that would be most useful. By 1860, Whitworth’s thread standards became the national standard for the United Kingdom, referred to as British Standard Whitworth.

Americans experienced the same lack of thread standardization. William Sellers took up the cause and specified a thread form along with a series of nuts and bolts that used it. The Franklin Institute recommended the adoption of Sellers’ system of screw threads in 1864. The thread form became known as the Franklin Thread, or the Sellers Thread, and later as the United States Standard Thread. In May 1924, it was designated the American Standard Thread.

Basic thread terminology is described and illustrated with the following:

• The root is the bottom of the threaded cross-section; the highest point is the crest. The major difference between Whitworth’s and Sellers’ thread forms was in the crests and roots. Where Whitworth’s were rounded, Sellers’ were flattened.

• The diameter of a screw thread measured across the crest of the threads and perpendicular to the thread axis is referred to as the major diameter.

• The minor diameter of the screw thread is measured across the thread roots and perpendicular to the thread axis.

• The pitch diameter is the mid-point between the major and minor diameters.

• The screw thread pitch is the distance from crest to crest.

• The helix angle is formed by angle from crest to crest of the axial line.

• The screw thread angle is the angle between the threads with most bolts having a thread angle of 60 degrees.

The helix thread twists into directions referred to as handedness. Most threads are oriented so a bolt is tightened by turning it in a clockwise direction and loosened by turning counterclockwise, which leads to the saying “righty tighty, lefty loosey.” This is known as a Right-Handed (RH) thread, while threads oriented in the opposite direction are known as Left-Handed (LH) threads. To determine if the thread is RH or LH, simply look straight at the thread. If the helix of the thread is moving up into the right, it is an RH thread. The helix moving up into the left is an LH thread. The default handedness for screw threads is RH, with LH threads used for special applications.

Next month, we will continue with fasteners by discussing thread specification, bolt terminology, bolt strength and preload.
Reid and former assemblywoman Sharron Angle.

U.S. Senate race between Majority Leader Harry
reservoirs, canals, etc. This bond measure is a
Local 3 members throughout California – dikes,

If passed, this bond would mean thousands of jobs for
water problems plaguing California. If passed,
the Water Bond designed to address the chronic

In stark contrast, Angle wants to get rid of
Social Security, Medicaid and unemployment
benefits.

Hawaii

Hawaii held a Special Election for the
vacant Congressional District (CD)1 on May 22.
Despite the efforts of Local 3 and other unions,
endorsed-candidate Hawaii State Sen. Colleen
Hanabusa fell short of the required majority.
Democrats split the vote in a crowded field and
Charles Djou won.

Since the election, former congressman and
fellow Democrat Ed Case has withdrawn from the
September Primary Election, leaving Hanabusa
to face Djou solely in November. Hanabusa has a
long record of being a strong advocate for Local
3 members. She's the right person for the CD1
seat – and we'll work to help get her there in
September and November.

Utah

When anti-worker incumbent U.S. Sen. Bob
Bennett failed to secure the endorsement of his
own party for the Primary Election, he declared
he wouldn't run again.

Now, working families have a real chance
to replace him with Local 3 ally and small
businessman Sam Granato, who has created jobs,
made payroll and given back to the community.
He’s successfully brought Democrats and
Republicans together to get results.

The state also has a governor's race and
several important local races. At the time of this
writing, the Utah Primary Election hasn't taken
place. Look for updates and information on the
Utah races in the upcoming issues of Engineers
News and on our website at www.oe3.org.

As the November General Election gets
closer, Local 3 will be regularly communicating
with members via Engineers News, the website,
mail and e-mail. To get involved – and earn
great prizes through the Voice of the Engineer
(VOTE) volunteer program – call your district
office for information. Visit the website
(www.oe3.org) to sign up for alerts and
updates about events, meetings and volunteer
opportunities.

Nevada

At the top of the General Election ticket is the
U.S. Senate race between Majority Leader Harry
Reid and former assemblywoman Sharron Angle.

Labor couldn't have a better friend than
Reid. He led the U.S. Senate to defeat attempts
to ban PLAs and successfully fought to extend
unemployment insurance benefits and COBRA
assistance during the economic crisis. His record
on public works, prevailing wage and pensions is
strong. He's helped Nevada secure pipelines and
training dollars.

In stark contrast, Angle wants to get rid of
Social Security, Medicaid and unemployment
benefits.

**Political Perspective**

By Mark Kyle, director of government affairs and public relations

**Political breakdown 2010**

*What happened in the primary and what’s ahead*

Local 3 members recently voted in a special election (Hawaii) and three state primary elections (California, Nevada and Utah). The results are in. For more detailed information on these final results, visit Local 3’s website at www.oe3.org.

Now that the dust has settled following these
primary elections, Local 3 has a clear view of the
choices facing us in November.

Elections are about choices – and agendas.
Local 3’s agenda is to invest in the infrastructure
of our four-state jurisdiction by rebuilding roads,
bridges and transportation and water systems.

See the state breakdown below for candidates
who will make this agenda a reality.

**California**

In the governor’s race, voters will have to
choose between current Attorney General Jerry
Brown and former eBay CEO Meg Whitman.
Whitman is on record as being against prevailing
wage and Project Labor Agreements (PLAs). If you
saw any of Whitman’s television ads, you know
she openly attacked unions. She also threatened
to eliminate 40,000 state workers’ jobs.

Whitman has no record of community or civic
engagement. She failed to vote for most of her
life. She’s another in a long line of celebrity CEOs
who use their money to attempt to buy an office,
just as she spent $80 million buying her way into
the Republican nomination. A former Goldman
Sachs board member, Whitman “earned” her
money by cutting jobs and pensions, while
protecting her own golden parachute.

Another big race is the U.S. Senate seat
between incumbent Barbara Boxer and former
Hewlett-Packard (HP) executive Carly Fiorina.
Fiorina is another corporate hack with a lot of
money to burn. Her phony claim of being
qualified because she was a corporate executive
rings hollow when you look at her record: Mass
firings of employees, HP stock going into the
tank under her command, fired from HP for poor
performance and investigations into criminal
and ethical violations.

As a county supervisor, congresswoman and
chair of the U.S. Senate Environment and Public
Works Committee, Boxer has always backed
Local 3 and the International Union of Operating
Engineers (IUOE). She supports high-speed rail,
harbor dredging and maintenance, extending
unemployment insurance and pension reform.
We need friends like her in high places, not rich
phony’s.

The General Election will also include lots
of ballot initiatives. Pay particular attention to
the Water Bond designed to address the chronic
water problems plaguing California. If passed,
this bond would mean thousands of jobs for
Local 3 members throughout California – dikes,
reservoirs, canals, etc. This bond measure is a
definite YES vote come November.

**Nevada**

At the top of the General Election ticket is the
U.S. Senate race between Majority Leader Harry
Reid and former assemblywoman Sharron Angle.

“Retirement, benefits, the wage rates. We’re
making a good living.”

– Don Checketts,
31-year member

“I’m a union member because I believe
in the union did for me. Now I understand
what the Pension [and retirement benefits]
is about.”

– Dan King,
12-year member

“Security for my family.”

– Ralph Hildenbrand,
17-year member

“Cause my father was in it. My cousins are in it.
It was a family thing.”

– Oliver Block,
21-year member

“Everyone who works for the union there?
Did you decide to join the union there?”

– Mark Kyle,
Director of Government Affairs and Public Relations
Workers are having a blast on J.F. Shea’s Hwy. 44 curve realignment project just outside Lassen Volcanic National Park in District 70. In fact, they’re having them at least three times a week.

Set off by dynamite, these blasts are part of the job, as crews break up the large basalt cliffs that line the old road. Basalt is a hard, volcanic rock that can be difficult to work in, yet operators are getting the job done and ahead of schedule. While a Laborer “powder monkey” oversees the setting of explosives, a Local 3 apprentice helps load them into holes that have been made by a Local 3 drill operator.

The blasts are impressive, and so are the safety precautions taken during them. All traffic is stopped and workers must stay more than 1,000 feet away from where the explosion is made.

The $7.7 million project focuses on a 1.5-mile section of highway known as “Manzanita Chute.” Operators are widening shoulders, extending an existing truck-climbing lane and increasing the unobstructed area beyond the edge of the roadway to make it less accident-prone.

While it’s great news for those who travel that way, it’s also great news for Local 3. Funded in large part by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) – $6.4 million – the project went union. Local company J.F. Shea was awarded the bid on the one-year anniversary of the ARRA being signed, and the company is employing local operators in a time of need. About 20 members (excavator, blade, dozer, hoe-ram, compactor, drill and haul-truck operators, gradesetters, mechanics and a supervisor) have been dispatched from the Redding Hall. Apprentices are also being utilized.

Work should be completed by January but could be finished sooner.

ON THE COVER: Second-generation Excavator Operator Troy Porter moves rock, while Blade Operator Mike Avila moves dirt.
Hoe-Ram Operator Leon Johnston breaks up rock to be hauled away.

Haul-Truck Operator Scott Gill.

Gradesetter Jimmy Horan.

Haul-Truck Operator Jeff Wierzbicki.

Excavator Operator Eric Kirch.
Regularly scheduled Fair Industry Strike Training (FIST) and FIST II (strike captain classes) continue with participation exploding in every district. More may be scheduled at a district near you, so call your hall to see about upcoming classes.

FIST classes were held in Nevada in May, with trainings in Reno, Elko and Hawthorne, and in Utah, with training in Salt Lake City.

Throughout the districts, members finished the classes thinking differently about strikes and negotiations.

“It [the class] was great. The last time I was on strike it was in the ’90s. Some of the rules and regulations have changed,” said 21-year member Om Harakh. For fifth-step Apprentice Chris Sine, it was eye-opening: “I’ve never seen one [picket line]. It taught me to be prepared.”

The Unit 12 Be Educated And Ready (BEAR) classes are also running in top form with Special Rep. Pete Figueiredo urging state workers to take the possibility of striking seriously.

“The future of our membership depends on it,” said Figueiredo at a recent Stockton BEAR class. “During the worst economy of our lives, you are dealing with furloughs and cuts in premium holiday pay, as the state uses you as pawns. We have to find new tactics and apply pressure to get a fair bargaining agreement.”

During the BEAR classes, participants learned how to do just that. They also discussed frustration with the media’s misrepresentation of their plight. Caltrans member David Phillips said he is thankful for the support the classes have provided and is “ready to fight for what we want.”

Please note: The Redding BEAR training is scheduled for Saturday, July 17 at the Hall at 20308 Engineers Lane from 9 a.m. to noon. Fairfield’s BEAR training will be re-scheduled soon. Call the Fairfield Hall at (707) 429-5008 for more details.

FIST II classes also operated successfully and will continue as needed. Some fine union stewards and activists will make great strike captains when the time calls for them.

Throughout the duration of all trainings, union support has surged, as members in the classes – and in the field – have been educated on ongoing contract negotiations and urged to call the Master Agreement Hotline at (888) 870-6888 for further details and whether any action need be taken.
FIST in action: Another rally outside Case successful, despite rain

Even a torrential downpour won't stop Local 3 members from exercising their rights to stand together. After a rally in early May proved successful outside the Case Power and Equipment shop in District 80, members geared up again – in rain suits and with umbrellas – to brave the elements and educate the company's patrons about what's at stake for the union if the company fails to reach a fair contract and honor the union's Pension.

It's an old story. Engineers News is rife with tales of employers balking at our decades-old Pension that allows our hard-working membership to retire in dignity.

While the rain kept photographers from snapping photos, it didn’t keep the members down.

* * *

More job actions, rallies and political events are in need of volunteers. Put your FIST, FIST II and BEAR training to work and join your fellow members. Call your district office or Special Rep. Pete Figueiredo at (650) 333-5516 to find out how.
Happy Birthday, America!

Break out the sparklers! It’s time to party.

While all Americans have reason to celebrate this month, with Independence Day celebrated on July 4, Utahans have a second reason at the end of the month, with Pioneer Day falling on July 24.

Fourth of July is a federal holiday commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain.

Pioneer Day is an official holiday in Utah. Though it has special meaning to members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, it is a celebration of everybody, regardless of faith and nationality, who settled in the Salt Lake Valley during the pioneer era, which is generally considered to have ended with the 1869 arrival of the transcontinental railroad.

However you observe these holidays, please celebrate safely, and remember: All Local 3 offices will be closed on July 4, and the Utah office will be closed on July 23.

THE ULTIMATE MEMORIAL

Many people associate the month of July with patriotism and memorializing those who have fought for American freedom. You could say that Apprentice Scott Ross has the ultimate memorial with this tattoo, done in memory of his friend, Crane Operator Dale Thomas. Ross was his oiler for more than a year on the Bay Bridge and developed a friendship with him through a special mentorship. This month, we honor both men for their craftsmanship and keep Thomas in our memories.

History in the making – twice

This is one in an occasional series of commentary from Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan.

Local 3 literally made history with its recent publication of Breaking Ground: The History of Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3. This full-color book presents a decade-by-decade account of the 70-year history of the largest construction trades local in the United States – a celebration of the union’s 70-year anniversary with members’ detailed accounts, photos and newspaper clippings from some of the biggest construction projects and milestones of this nation’s history.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of Local 3’s Scholarship Foundation.

In 1965, Business Manager Al Clem recommended to the Executive Board that Local 3 inaugurate a Scholarship Foundation determining that “there is a tremendous need for higher education to meet the demands of modern technology that our nation may keep in step with the rest of the world in developing a higher standard of living for the citizenry of our country.”

The Executive Board approved Clem’s recommendation, providing two scholarships for $500 each to the sons or daughters of Local 3 members. Since that time, the Scholarship Foundation has given more than 450 scholarships and increased their dollar amounts many times.

Today, the Scholarship Foundation consists of two first-place, $3,000 prizes and two second-place prizes of $2,000 each. These winners were recently announced and may be found on page 5 in this edition. Twenty 8500 scholarships are also awarded every year.

Both Local 3 legacies, the book and the foundation, will be highlighted, Wednesday, July 14 at the union’s headquarters in Alameda, Calif. (1620 South Loop Road) from 5:30-8 p.m., where the history book will be for sale with proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund. The multi-media event is in conjunction with LaborFest, an event established in the Bay Area in 1994 to commemorate the San Francisco General Strike and West Coast Waterfront Strike.

I can think of no better way to participate in your union and its history than joining in the event. You’ll have the opportunity to purchase a documented piece of Local 3 history and contribute to the long-standing scholarship tradition that has furthered labor’s cause in the sons and daughters of Local 3 for decades. You don’t want to miss it! More details on the event can be found below.

Join in the fun

Celebrate 70 years of history at Operating Engineers Local 3’s multi-media event.

Watch historical videos of San Francisco Bay Area operators at work and get an in-depth look at Local 3’s history book: Breaking Ground: The History of Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3.

This full-color book presents a decade-by-decade look at the extraordinary 70-year journey of the largest construction union in the United States. Books will be available for purchase at the event with proceeds going to the Local 3 Scholarship Foundation.

LaborFest Book Event

When: Wednesday, July 14
5:30-8 p.m.

Where: Local 3 headquarters
1620 South Loop Road
Alameda, CA 94502
There’s work in southern Utah – let’s make sure we get it

Things in Utah are going well considering a late start to the season with companies waiting on designs and permits.

Ames Construction has double shifts on the I-15 CORE project with Multiserv (Harsco Metals) supplying materials. Copperhills Constructors (Granite/W.W. Clyde/Kiewit), a Joint Venture (JV), started on the Mountain View corridor. Kiewit received the go-ahead for dirt work on the National Security Agency (NSA) building at Camp Williams and will put day and night shifts to work on the job through October. The power line project should also be wrapping up for Kiewit in August or September. W.W. Clyde is doing widening and improvements in Provo Canyon and paving I-15 in southern Utah. Granite is working on the Dixie Exchange in St. George, providing more union presence in that area. We need members to give 110 percent to help our contractors in southern Utah, so we can obtain more of the market in that region for years to come.

On May 18, we were pleased to have Local 3 Director of Special Operations Bob Miller and Special Rep. Pete Figueiredo in Salt Lake City for Fair Industry Strike Training (FIST) classes for our members.

For more information on the FIST program, feel free to contact the Hall, and check out page 18 for photos and more coverage. Call the Local 3 Northern California Master Agreement Hotline at (888) 870-6888 for important updates regarding your 2010 Master Agreement contract negotiations.

On a different note, we as union members need to be sure we are registered to vote and become involved in Local 3’s Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program. Please contact the Hall if you are willing to help phone bank, do precinct walks for candidates and offer support through other volunteer opportunities. It’s money out of all of our pockets if we don’t get and keep the right legislators in office. The General Election will be here soon.

Lastly, we wish to recognize our own Political Coordinator Dale Cox, who was recently appointed by the governor to the Board of Trustees for the Utah College of Applied Technology. Cox’s appointment was unanimously confirmed by the Senate as the union representative on this board. Congratulations, Dale!

We all need to stay strong as union members – work union, stay union, God bless America!

**Oakland**

1620 South Loop Road, Alameda, CA 94502 • (510) 748-7446

About 100 Operating Engineers would be needed for Calaveras Dam job

On June 30, O.C. Jones was set to begin the $65 million Hwy. 4 widening project. Starting at Loveridge Road in Pittsburg, work will go to Summersville Road in Antioch with lots of demo work. Traffic will be bad, so please remember that our brothers and sisters are out there doing the work. The project is expected to last 30 months. Also, E-BART will be going through this project – the first of four phases that will continue to Hillcrest Avenue in Antioch.

Great news: The Contra Costa Building and Construction Trades Council indicates that Lawrence National Laboratories is seeking to expand its facilities to Richmond’s 152-acre field station. The laboratory, which is managed by the University of California, conducts unclassified research across a wide range of scientific experiments. It’s reported that the new facility would be dedicated to alternative energy, such as high-efficiency photo-voltaics and advanced bio-fuels – cutting-edge fields for the 21st century. A project of this scope would be great for Richmond, as it would produce jobs and enhance the economy.

The much-needed and long-awaited Calaveras Dam replacement project is closer to a reality. The advertisement date is set for September, and the construction start date is April 2011. This project will include building a new earth and rock-fill dam immediately downstream of the existing dam. The existing dam will serve as a cofferdam during construction. The new dam will have a structural height of 220 feet, a crest length of 1,210 feet and a width of 1,180 feet at the base and 80 feet at the crest. Construction of this dam will require about 3.45 million cubic yards of material and should put about 300 tradespeople to work, including about 100 Operating Engineers. This is one big job that we need. We will keep you up to date as this project gets closer.

District 20 would like to recognize someone who has made a substantial difference in the lives of working people in California: Barry Luboviski served as the secretary-treasurer of the Building and Construction Trades Council in Alameda County for 15 years before retiring in April. He began his career as an Ironworker in 1965 and became active in his union. He became an apprenticeship instructor while still working at the trade, and in 1979, his union elected him as a delegate to the building trades council. From there, history was made. In 1998, Luboviski was instrumental in helping defeat Proposition 226, which would have weakened the voice of union members. He helped mobilize 15,000 construction workers throughout California to defend prevailing wage during Gov. Wilson’s term, and he was key to the implementation of the nation’s first Project Labor Agreement (PLA) – the 2000 Maritime and Aviation PLA – to see that local community diversity was reflected on the worksite.

Luboviski has been a tireless advocate for the building trades and organized labor. His persuasive nature and ability to mobilize people for a common goal has been an invaluable asset. His hours may have been long, but he always pursued justice as a passion, not merely as a vocation.

Luboviski has retired from the council, but the partnerships he developed will endure because of his commitment to ensure just that. The District 20 staff is especially grateful for his friendship and mentorship; he will always be appreciated for his contributions. We wish him well in retirement.

**Apprenticeship Spotlight**

Congratulations to Gradechecking Apprentice Daniel Christie and Construction Equipment Operator (CEO) Salvador Jimenez on completing the apprenticeship program.

Christie is currently working for Bay Cities Paving & Grading, and Jimenez worked throughout his apprenticeship with Mitchell Engineering.

Attention members: Call the Local 3 Northern California Master Agreement Hotline at (888) 870-6888 for important updates regarding your 2010 Master Agreement contract negotiations.
Another $25 million approved to widen Hwy. 101

This year, the bulk of the work in District 10 will once again be in Sonoma County, as Measure M funds continue to fund transportation projects there. Measure M is a ¼-cent retail and use tax passed by Sonoma County voters in 2004 to maintain local streets, fix pot holes, accelerate the widening of Hwy. 101, build safe bike and pedestrian routes, enhance transit and support the development of passenger rail.

Highway projects currently underway in Sonoma County that are funded in part by Measure M include the Hwy. 101 north project from Steele Lane to Windsor River Road with O.C. Jones. It’s expected to be completed by this fall.

The Wilfred undercrossing, a 1.5-mile stretch from the Rohnert Park Expressway to Wilfred Avenue with Ghilotti Bros. Construction, includes the construction of a new overpass and could be complete in 2013. On May 20, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved $22.8 million to widen Hwy. 101 from Pepper Road on the Cotati Grade to just south of the Old Redwood Highway interchange in Petaluma.

Local Measure M funds will make up the remaining $25 million of the $25 million cost to widen the segment. Construction is set to begin in the fall, with completion expected sometime late next year.

Please remember how important politics are to get these jobs for our members. It took countless hours of work by our members who volunteered time to make phone calls, put up signs and get campaign literature out so voters could approve this measure that is providing so many jobs. You can help us secure more good jobs by contacting Dispatcher Gordon Lunde and asking him to place you on the volunteer list.

The bridge replacement spanning the Russian River on Talmage Road near Ukiah is now underway. C.C. Myers was awarded the job, which is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Subcontractors currently working on the project are Foundation Constructors, which is driving pile, and W.C. Maloney, which is demolishing the old bridge. The new bridge will have two, 12-foot traffic lanes with wider shoulders.

Attention members: Call the Local 3 Northern California Master Agreement Hotline at (888) 870-6888 for important updates regarding your 2010 Master Agreement contract negotiations.

Fairfield/Sacramento joint picnic held May 23

The Rivers family, from right: Member Trevor Rivers, his wife, Jenne, and their children, Savannah and Will have fun with Kelly the Clown.

Newlyweds Don and June Gano.

Seventeen-year member Dominic Accettola holds his son, Anthony, while eating lunch with his brother, Joe, also a 17-year member.

Judy and Dieter Mueller drop their tickets in the raffle bag in hopes of winning the TV.
Wastewater treatment plants provide about $30 million worth of work

Several projects should be in full swing by now after the late spring rains delayed many of them. Like last year, we have a lot of public-works projects in District 60. Most are small to medium-sized jobs that will employ four to 10 members, but there are a couple of projects that should take more, and, as of this writing, there are many still going to bid. Work is also continuing from last year.

Teichert and Independent Construction are back to work on the levees in south Sutter and Sacramento counties. Cox & Cox, Syblyn Reid and RGW are doing about $30 million worth of work between three wastewater treatment plants in the district. Granite is in full swing on a $6.8 million project and a $5 million project on Hwy. 99. A good project in the Feather River Canyon on Hwy. 70 is now going as well. C.C. Myers won the bid to replace the Spanish Creek Bridge; Cox & Cox will be subbing. Mountain Cascade was awarded the $18 million contract to build a fish screen in Sutter County. Proven Management is working hard on a $4.4 million pump station near Yuba City, and Marques Pipeline is continuing work in Yuba City. For more details and a complete list of District 60 jobs, stop by the Hall and view our board, or call us and ask. You can also call the Local 3 Northern California Master Agreement Hotline at (888) 870-6888 for important updates regarding your 2010 Master Agreement contract negotiations.

California’s Primary Election occurred on June 8, and the General Election will be here before you know it. This may be the single biggest, most important election of some of our careers. If you want to continue a career in construction or as a state employee, the choices are crystal clear. If prevailing wage goes away, so will our quality of life. You must consider your back pocket and your future in November. We, as a union, must speak as one voice to get it done. If you can help or volunteer, please do so by calling the Hall.

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The estimated $71 million Foresthill Bridge project will bid soon

District 80 would like to thank all of the apprentices, journey-level operators and staff who came out early to hand out flyers and walk precincts for Sacramento city councilman candidate Ryan Chin and Placer County Supervisor Jack Duran. This was important timing, as they beat the vote-by-mail (absentee) crowd, and for working families and labor-friendly candidates, this is a very important year at the polls. If every member volunteered a few hours a year, labor would be unstoppable! There are lots of ways to help, so call the Hall to see what you can do.

We would also like to thank the members and staff who met at the Capitol for Senate hearings on Proposition 1B bond money. Many spoke from the heart about hard times in the construction industry and the importance of getting that bond money so projects can start ASAP and jumpstart the economy. The committee unanimously voted to release $1.5 billion now with more to come. (For more on this hearing, read Vice President Carl Goff’s column in this edition.)

As many of you know, OE3 stays very active in state and local politics, attending city council and union trade meetings as well as political club fundraisers and meet-and-greets with local and state politicians. It’s a great way to network and build relationships with people who can help further the agenda of the middle class. One such meeting was the Placer County Democrats’ Jefferson Dinner that was attended by District Rep. Rob Carrion, Business Rep. Dan Kern and Retiree Del Surette at the Placer County Democrats’ Jefferson Dinner in Loomis.

One job we are keeping a close eye on is the Foresthill Bridge seismic retrofit. The engineers’ estimate is $71 million, and the job is due to bid soon.

Please remember to update your registration on the out-of-work list. All it takes is a call to any district office.

It was nice to see so many faces at our first joint-district picnic on May 23. District 80 joined forces with Fairfield District 04 for a successful and fun event in Winters. A good time was had by all, including Business Manager Russ Burns, President Fred Herschbach, Vice President Carl Goff and Financial Secretary Dan Reding.

Until next month, stay safe.

Attention members: Call the Local 3 Northern California Master Agreement Hotline at (888) 870-6888 for important updates regarding your 2010 Master Agreement contract negotiations.
Times are tough, but signatories do have work

This year got off to a late start, but the work picture looks OK. There is still work being put out to bid that we hope will keep our signatories secure.

MerceFraser finally started the Arcata-Eureka Airport lighting, paving, runway/taxiway and site-development job. This project was awarded last August, yet just started in May. The project should continue for five months and be a good run for about eight to 10 members. MerceFraser is doing some patching, grinding and paving on Harris Street and is tearing out and replacing bridges on Hwy. 169. The company was also the low bidder on the Wildwood Avenue project in Rio Dell, which includes grinding, paving and sidewalk improvements.

Hopefully, Bear River Rancheria is under construction by the time you read this. There have been problems getting all involved parties on the same page.

It appears MerceFraser is the low bidder for the $1.4 million reconstruction of metal-beam guardrails in Del Norte County. This project is more than $600,000 under the engineers’ estimate. All contractors are bidding this way. It’s a sign of the times we are going through, but with luck and hard work, hopefully this will improve.

Granite is carving away at the Alton Interchange and expects to have it online this year, ahead of schedule. The company also picked up the hot-mix asphalt overlay project 8.6 miles south of Orick to McDonald Creek Bridge. The winning bid was $799,264. Once more, this is almost $400,000 under the engineers’ estimate. The project is scheduled to last for 40 days. Granite is paving Hwy. 36 near Bridgeville to improve the vertical curve and replace some structural steel for about 30 working days.

Wahlund Construction is working on the Ramey Pump Station in McKinleyville at North Bank and Azalea Drive. Crews will demolish the existing pump and rebuild it. The company started the sewer-system rehab project throughout Crescent City. This job encompasses about 2,442 feet of pipe and calls for replacing or lining 8-inch gravity line to 6-inch clay pipe. The company was also the low bidder on a couple of metal-beam guardrail jobs at various locations on Hwy. 101. The winning bid for the Humboldt County job is more than $4.2 million. The other guardrail reconstruction in Mendocino County is more than $4.5 million. Between these jobs, the project is almost $2 million under the engineers’ estimate.

By the time you read this, Golden State Bridge should be close to having the new southbound bridge over the water, or parts thereof. The company has been chomping at the bit to get moving.

Calex Engineering picked up a shoulder tieback wall on Hwy. 299 east of Blue Lake and west of Redwood Creek Bridge. The company won the project with a bid of about $1.1 million, almost 38 percent below the engineers’ estimate. It will provide between three and five months of work.

Gordon N. Ball started back up on the Red Crest Sink, and word is the company will be working long hours to finish.

Have a safe and prosperous season.

Attention members: Call the Local 3 Northern California Master Agreement Hotline at (888) 870-6888 for important updates regarding your 2010 Master Agreement contract negotiations.

Red Bluff pumping plant, fish screens go to signatory contractor

District 70 would like to introduce its newest Business Rep. Dave Kirk. He looks forward to serving our members, calling them “a very proud brotherhood of Operating Engineers.”

As for work in the area, Cox & Cox Construction is working on the almost $636,556 Mary Street sewer-force main in Redding. Ron Hale Construction is replacing sidewalks, curbs and gutters on an almost $1.4 million project in Los Molinos. We are proud to announce that Balfour Beatty was awarded the $67 million Red Bluff pumping plant and fish screens. Subcontractor Maxim Crane will be making lifts on pit No. 3 and pit No. 4 PG&E stations for valve replacement projects. Maxim Crane is also a subcontractor on the Hatchet Ridge windmill farm project. Ford Construction is working on the Battle Creek salmon and steelhead restoration and started the $2 million Wildcat Dam removal project.

At the time of this writing, we are still in negotiations. Call the Local 3 Northern California Master Agreement Hotline at (888) 870-6888 for important updates regarding your 2010 Master Agreement contract negotiations.

In honor of our Unit 12 members, on Tuesday, April 20, Caltrans District 2 held its annual workers memorial. District 2 had no fatalities in 2009. We all realize how dangerous the job is for highway workers. In passing the “Move Over Law” and looking for new ways to educate and protect workers, we hope to see injuries and fatalities continue to decrease statewide. (For more on this memorial, please read Unit 12 Business Rep. Gary Rocha’s article on page 6.)

Hope you and your family have a nice Fourth of July. Keep your heads up, and we will prevail.

Red Bluff pumping plant, fish screens go to signatory contractor

Notes from the May 12 Retiree Association Meeting

Vice President Carl Goff and Financial Secretary Dan Reding were honored to present 50-year-membership recognition to retirees Eric Johnson and John McKinney at the Retiree Association Meeting in Anderson. (Please look for Johnson’s and McKinney’s photos in an upcoming pin-recipient spread in Engineers News.)

Retirees were updated on negotiation proceedings and the status of their pensions and health-and-welfare benefits. District Rep. Bran Eubanks and representatives from the Credit Union, Health and Welfare Trust Fund, Fringe Benefits Department, Apprenticeship Program and Hearing Aid Care Plan spoke and provided the retirees an opportunity to ask questions.

The meeting was well attended. Tri-tip and chicken were provided by the union and served with side dishes and desserts that were brought potluck-style.
Paving crews, rock plants should stay busy this summer

With summer well upon us, projects all over the district are underway. This is a refreshing sight after the wet winter and slow spring. One of the projects coming up for bid is the second phase of the San Joaquin Pipeline System for the Hetch Hetchy Water System. This project is estimated at between $870 million and $890 million and consists of 11 miles of 92-inch pipe that runs through the southern end of San Joaquin County. The second phase of the Sonora Bypass still looks like it will be out for bid later this year at an estimated value of $830 million. The Kiernan Avenue overpass at Hwy. 99 widening also looks to bid later this year at an engineers’ estimate of $26 million. These projects will employ many members.

Granite Construction started the Ladd and McHenry Avenue intersection improvements with subcontractor D.A. Wood. This project involves widening the intersection, installing traffic signals and moving the storm drain.

Haskell Construction began work on the new Woodland 3 Generation Unit for the Modesto Irrigation District. This $18 million project will keep members working into the winter months.

RGW started the Hwy. 99 overlay and barrier replacement project. Along with the overlay portion of this project, crews are tearing out the old metal barrier and installing a new concrete one that will prevent vehicles from crossing into oncoming traffic.

There are also several overlay projects throughout District 30 that range from $1 million to several million that will keep our paving crews and rock plants busy this summer.

In closing, the District 30 staff wishes you and your family a very happy and safe Fourth of July. Hopefully you get to enjoy a good barbecue or a nice day with your loved ones. Thank you to all who attended our District Picnic on May 2 and got to do both! Nearly 600 members, their families and friends attended, and a good time was had by all.

Attention members: Call the Local 3 Northern California Master Agreement Hotline at (888) 870-6888 for important updates regarding your 2010 Master Agreement contract negotiations.

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Highway work on the horizon

The Valley Transportation Agency (VTA) secured $84,365 million for a project designed to ease traffic congestion on Hwy. 101 in east San Jose. The first phase of Hwy. 101-Yerba Buena to I-280 construction will begin soon. It includes adding a southbound lane to Hwy. 101 from south of Story Road to north of Capitola and reconstructing the Hwy. 101/Tully Road interchange. The later part of this project includes adding an access ramp from south Hwy. 101 to Yerba Buena and reconﬁguring the Hwy. 101/Capitol Expressway interchange. This project funding comes from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, which is the transportation, planning and ﬁnancing agency for the nine counties of the San Francisco Bay Area.

California High Speed Rail is showing signs of life and is expected to be fully operational by 2020. It is slated to have routes from San Diego to Sacramento and the Bay Area, transporting passengers at speeds up to 220 mph. A 123-mile stretch from Mereed to San Jose would run through Pacheco Pass with a station in Gilroy. An update on the High Speed Rail issued a few months back included a revised Environmental Impact Report (EIR) stating the project should continue to run through Pacheco Pass and not over the Altamont Pass. This is due in part to Union Pacific Railroad having more rights-of-way along the Altamont, which could result in more land/property acquisitions. The report also stated that rail should run through downtown Gilroy and include a station. (A couple of different routes were suggested.) This is all good news for our members and residents in that county.

The total cost is about $84 billion.

Federal funds have been approved for two bridge-replacement projects in San Benito County at Union and Hospital roads. These funds are approved under the Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program. The feds picked up 88 percent, and the county picked up the remaining 12 percent of the total cost. The Union Road Bridge is about $15.5 million and is slated for 2012-2013. The Hospital Road Bridge is about $13.9 million and is scheduled for 2011-2012. Other bridges in the county that may get funding in the future are on Shore Road, Pancheo Road, Rosa Morada Road and Rocks Road. Let’s keep our fingers crossed that federal money keeps coming. We need the work!

Work is underway on the Tennant Avenue/Hwy. 101 Bridge in Morgan Hill. Top Grade Construction got the bid and subcontractors Viking Construction, Bigge Crane, Central Concrete, Joseph J. Albanese, Interstate Concrete Pumping and Malcolm Drilling are performing some of the work. The city of Morgan Hill is overseeing the $89 million project that has a tentative completion date of spring 2011. The bridge is being widened to four lanes with a carpool bypass lane to Hwy. 101, and a new ramp will be added from East Tennant to north Hwy. 101. Vote, vote, vote! Get out the vote! Please remember to get out and vote this November. Even if you only know about one person or initiative on the ballot, we need to get candidates in ofﬁce and measures passed that make a difference to OE3, so our members can get back to work. If you need advice, look for a full list of endorsements in the October Engineers News, go online and get involved. Take time to show up for meetings, training programs, volunteer activities, etc. Together we can make a difference. With that said, stay informed by calling the Local 3 Northern California Master Agreement Hotline at (888) 870-6888 for important updates regarding your 2010 Master Agreement contract negotiations.

Last but certainly not least, mark your calendars for District 90’s annual picnic. This year, it’s a little later than usual, Saturday, July 10, but it’s always a great time for all who attend. Tickets are $10 before and $12 at the door. Retirees and kids under 10 years of age are free. The menu includes tri-tip, chicken, beans, rolls, salad, hot dogs, beer, soft drinks, ice cream, snow cones and cotton candy. Hope to see you there!
Hazwoper class puts members to work

On April 26-27, the second 40-hour Hazwoper class was held at the Kahuku Training Facility. Local 3 members with Bobby K Construction came for training to qualify for work on the new Lowe’s project on Nimitz Highway. These members are now working and using the skills taught in class.

The class instructors were Dain Kamakaala and Fabian Kaliili. Class members were James Keaulana, Curtis Robertson, Derek Wright, Paulette Dabis, Guy Silva, Mamerto Aglanao, Mamerto Aglanao Jr., Paul Calamayan, Robert Kahama Jr., Judson Kailikae, Payton Chang, Danton Sugai and James Macadamia.

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Signatory company awarded Silver Package at SFO

In San Mateo County, we are pleased to report that we have more members working now than we have had in a long time. This is partially because of work from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)/Hetch Hetchy Water System Improvement Program (WSIP) Project Labor Agreement (PLA). The Bay Division Tunnel, the first true tunnel under the San Francisco Bay, was awarded to Michels Construction’s tunneling division. OE3 has been in discussion with the company regarding the $215 million project. Site and shaft work should begin in east Palo Alto soon. While on the subject of tunnels, mining at Kiewit’s Devil’s Slide tunnel project is near completion with only 350 feet more to go. Waterproofing, electrical, rebar installation and concrete are all part of the finish work in these tunnels. With three shifts and 40 Local 3 hands, this job is and has been a blessing for the past three years.

Work at the San Mateo Union High School District is in full swing with Evans Brothers, Inc. (EBI) at Capuchino High School in San Bruno. Thirty-year member Vince Marcum is operating an excavator for EBI and is a demolition pro. By his side is 20-year member Mark Lagrasso. Overseeing the project is Bill Sparks, another valued and experienced member of this great union. The value of their job is $160,000. One mile south of this job, McGuire and Hester is working on a $600,000 job at Millbrae’s Taylor Middle School with operators Victor Gonzalez, Del Corral and Henry Azebedo.

At Terminal 2 at the San Francisco International Airport (SFO), Turner is keeping a dozen Local 3 hands busy. McGuire and Hester was awarded the Silver Package to do all the underground work. Silverado is on top, while other contractors, like Proven and Synergy, are working at smaller miscellaneous areas of the airport. Mills Peninsula Hospital, another Turner job, is on schedule and should be completed in 2011. At any given time, we have eight to 12 operators there.

Other projects in the county include the San Bruno grade separation on the Caltrain line. Disney Construction began this operator-intensive project that will raise the tracks and relieve traffic congestion. At the Millbrae wastewater plant, subcontractors Foundation Constructors, Conquest and Bed Rock Construction are busy on the $35 million project.

Looking ahead, the San Mateo Building Trades Council is lobbying hard for the Bohannon Gateway project in Menlo Park. This job is worth hundreds of millions and looks like it will be approved by the Menlo Park City Council, but it will be close.

In San Francisco, the SFPUC began wastewater-system upgrades. From the people who brought you Hetch Hetchy, this plan is worth $4 billion over the next 10 years. The first contracts have been awarded – the North Force Main went to A&B Construction, and the Sunnydale Auxiliary Sewer project, a more than $30 million sewer tunnel in the Visitacion Valley area of the city, was awarded to Super Excavators, which plans to use a Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM).

At Doyle Drive, four of the eight construction contracts have been awarded. Contract No. 4 for the cut-and-cover tunnel went to R&L Brosamer. The company will join Ghilotti Bros., Inc. and C.C. Myers, Inc. as general contractors on what has been renamed the Park Presidio Parkway. Funding for the project sparked a torturous debate with the California Transportation Commission on whether the remaining contracts for the project were eligible to let under the Public Private Partnership (P3) delivery method. In this funding model, a contractor is responsible for financing and is repaid by the state over a 30-year period. The contractor is responsible for repair and maintenance during that time. The commission voted 6-5 that the project did qualify as a P3. It is scheduled to start around Labor Day 2011.

The District 01 staff thanks all the actives and retirees who turned out for the second-quarter meetings. A special congratulations to Joseph M. Spiteri, who collected his 50-year watch from Business Manager Russ Burns. Look for his photograph in an upcoming pin-recipient spread in Engineers News. A hot topic at the meeting was negotiations. You can now call the Local 3 Northern California Master Agreement Hotline at (888) 870-6888 for important updates regarding your 2010 Master Agreement contract negotiations.
Several overlay projects go to bid soon

In a normal season for our district, members are called upon for work or recalled to their previous employers by the end of May or first part of June. May 5 is when things seemed to start moving this year, and in a matter of two weeks, 80 dispatches were processed. Thank goodness it is beginning to look like a normal work season.

Teichert Construction seems to have the bulk of work in Merced, including the $5 million Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad underpass near G Street and the $85 million I-80 project near Friant Road.

Granite Construction continues to work on the Wawona Road project in Yosemite, along with several overlay projects throughout the district.

Currently, there are several overlay projects waiting to go to bid. The majority of them are in Tulare County near Avenue 384, Avenue 232 and Avenue 56, with estimates from $3 million to $5 million. A larger project, estimated at $14 million, is the freeway widening and bridge construction near Ashlan and Grantland in Fresno.

To date, more than 100 members receive a list of current and upcoming projects in our district, in addition to other information, via e-mail. Contact the Hall if you would like to add your name and e-mail address to the list. You can also call the Local 3 Northern California Master Agreement Hotline at (888) 870-6888 for important updates regarding your 2010 Master Agreement contract negotiations.

If you are registered on the A or B out-of-work list, your registration is valid for 90 days. The C out-of-work list is valid for 30 days. If you are dispatched to a short-duration job (48 hours or less), you must contact the hall that dispatched you to reactivate your registration and be given your spot back on the list.

Please note: The office will be closed on Monday, July 5, in observance of the Fourth of July holiday. Be safe, not only for this holiday, but also on the job. Local 3 members are some of the most efficient, qualified and safest operators in the industry. Let’s keep it that way.

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More projects released because of legislative success

Work in northern Nevada has finally started to pick up. Mother Nature’s attempt to slow down our progress was fairly successful, but she decided to let up and allow us to begin.

The Ruby Pipeline has had a few fabrication and warehouse yards going throughout the state. At the time of this writing, the biggest part was scheduled to start this month. Keep your fingers crossed.

Around the Reno area, projects have slowly but surely begun to grow. The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) is releasing more projects than before, thanks largely in part to Senate Bill (SB) 201, which passed during the last session. These projects range from less than $500,000 to $5 million and include Granitex at East Lincoln Way, Q&D Construction on the Sparks Consolidated Street Program and Sierra Nevada Construction on South Virginia and Kietzke Lane. Granite Construction is also working on I-580, Jacks Valley Road in Dresslerville and on street rehabs for the cities of Reno and Sparks. Q&D Construction is working on Topsy Lane in Gardnerville, Victorian Square in Sparks, water-supply improvements in Glendale and the permanent patch program in Reno. Sierra Nevada Construction is working on the water tank and supply line in Fallon, Afonoso Drive in Yerington and projects in Eureka.

Peak Construction (formerly El Camino) has projects at Kingsbury Grade, Carson City, Lovelock and Wells.

In the Elko area, work is slowly moving. A few mine projects are getting started, and there is talk of more. Gold prices are hanging around the $1,200-an-ounce range, which will hopefully get things going. Newmont Gold has been in full swing, and Ames is working on a tailings dam there.

We would like to thank the members who helped with the Rally for Nevada Jobs in May. Members walked from downtown Reno to the University of Nevada-Reno (the biggest offender) to voice the opposition to local entities using out-of-state contractors. We would also like to thank the volunteers who helped with the Reno Picnic, which was a great success.

The Reno staff has been working on contracts for Truck Crane Rental, Mine Crane, the city of Sparks and Waste Management. We appreciate the support of the members who contributed their time to the appropriate committees. Our members in California are also working on contracts. Please call the Local 3 Northern California Master Agreement Hotline at (888) 870-6888 for important updates regarding your 2010 Master Agreement contract negotiations.

We look forward to a good summer of work and ask that you be safe.
DISTRICT MEETINGS
All meetings convene at 7 p.m.

JULY 2010
No meetings scheduled.

AUGUST 2010
3rd District 04: Suisun
Veterans' Memorial Building
427 Main St.
3rd District 40: Eureka
Best Western Bayshore Inn
3500 Broadway
4th District 10: Rohnert Park
Operating Engineers’ Building
6225 State Farm Drive
4th District 70: Redding
Operating Engineers’ Building
20308 Engineers Lane
5th District 60: Marysville
Veterans’ Memorial Building
211 17th St.
10th District 20: San Leandro
Sheet Metal Workers
1720 Marina Blvd.
10th District 30: Stockton
Italian Athletic Club
3541 Cherry Lane Drive
11th District 50: Clovis
Veterans’ Memorial Building
453 Hughes Ave.
11th District 80: Sacramento
Operating Engineers’ Building
3920 Lennane Drive
12th District 01: Burlingame
Transport Workers’ Union
1521 Rollins Road
12th District 90: Morgan Hill
Operating Engineers’ Building
325 Digital Drive
25th District 11: Reno
Operating Engineers’ Building
1290 Corporate Blvd.
26th District 12: Salt Lake City
IBEW Local 354
3400 W. 2100 S.

SEPTEMBER 2010
25th District 17: Honolulu
1075 Opakapaka St.
Kapolei
29th District 17: Hilo
Hilo LIWU Hall
100 W. Lamikaula St.
30th District 17: Maui
Lihikai Elementary School
335 South Papa Ave.
Kahului

Semi-Annual Meeting Notice
Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan has announced that the next Semi-Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, Sept. 19 at 1 p.m. at the Rancho Murrieta Training Center (RMTC), 14738 Cantova Way, Sloughhouse, CA. Stay tuned for further details.

Congratulations to the following new members
Fairfield: District 04
Ken Kellogg Jr.
Rohnert Park: District 10
Robert Whitmire
Oakland: District 20
Derik Gaddis
Anthony Richardson
Morgan Hill: District 90
Nancy Rocha-Ortiz

Picnic season winds down
Listed below is the rest of the summer’s picnic schedule for 2010. There will be others in the fall. Mark your calendars. Note: Districts 50 and 60 will not be holding a picnic this year.

District 90: Morgan Hill District Picnic Details
Saturday, July 10, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Christmas Hill Park (Mulberry areas), Gilroy, Calif.
Menu: Roast, chicken, hot dogs, salad, beans, ice cream, cotton candy, water, soda and beer
Cost: Retirees and children under 10 – free, adults – $10 pre-sale, $12 at the door
Other information: Face-painting, bounce house and raffle

District 17 (Oahu): Hawaii District Picnic Details
Sunday, Aug. 29, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Oahu District Office, 1075 Opakapaka St., Kapolei, Hawaii
Menu: Hawaiian food – Kalua pork, chicken long rice, squid luau, Lomi salmon, rice and potato/macaroni salad
Cost: Free

Join our online users
We invite you to join us on the Web. By registering on our Members Only website, you’ll have access to important, confidential information. Visit www.oe3.org to get started.
Please also join our E-mail Campaign. E-mail us at 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.

Breaking news:
Salt River Construction thwarted again
At a recent bid opening at the city of San Francisco Parks and Recreation Department for a dredging project at Gas House Cove, Salt River Construction (SRC) came in dead last, proving once again: Good triumphs over evil. Since 2007, Local 3 has fought against this non-union dredging company that has repeatedly violated safety and wage laws.

Corrections
The dates regarding Retiree Robert W. Grant were misprinted. He lived from 1916-1991.
Former Seabee and current Local 3 member Clyde “Buck” Freeman freely joined the Seabees and was not drafted for Vietnam. He had three tours of duty in Adak (Alaska), Vietnam and Coronado. It was in Vietnam that he used M-16s and M-14s.

Another book for your labor library
Have you already purchased Local 3’s Breaking Ground: The History of Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3? If so, are you in need of another good labor history book? You’re in luck. California Workers’ Rights: A Manual of Job Rights, Protections, and Remedies, Fourth Edition, by David A. Rosenfeld, Miles E. Locker, and Nina Fendel is available this summer.

Published by the University of California, Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, this valuable guide features essential information on everything the California worker needs to know to protect their rights. The book is a resource for workers, union representatives, leaders, organizers, lawyers and others who represent workers. The manual provides an overview of workers’ rights, demystifies the law and empowers workers to speak up for their rights.
For more information about the book or to purchase a copy, visit Local 3’s website at www.oe3.org.
Meetings & Announcements

Honorary Membership
The following retirees have 35 or more years of membership in Local 3 as of May 2010 and are eligible for Honorary Membership effective July 1, unless otherwise noted (*).

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Member No.</th>
<th>District</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Alves</td>
<td>1640726</td>
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<td>Sacramento</td>
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<td>Robert Buell</td>
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<td>0745043</td>
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<td>Orville Reitz*</td>
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<td>Julian Rosa Jr.</td>
<td>1600654</td>
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<td>Robert Swanson</td>
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<td>Earl L. Whitney</td>
<td>1647224</td>
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*Effective April 1, 2010

DEPARED MEMBERS

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Deposit, payable by check or credit card, is $250 per person. Final payment is due December 10, 2010. Payments are fully refundable until October 25, 2010, at which time Norwegian Cruise Line’s cancellation penalties and terms and conditions apply.
Excited about asparagus?
The green vegetable is low in calories; good for your cholesterol

By Jamie Johnston, associate editor

Apprentice John Garcia said it all when he threw his hands in the air victoriously, a stock of asparagus clutched in each one. It was though he was rejoicing the vegetable’s beautiful color and nutritional value and applauding its inclusion in the Stockton District Picnic menu on May 2.

OK, probably not, but he should have been.

Asparagus has been eaten and used for medicinal purposes by many cultures since the beginning of time. The young shoots are eaten, as they’re low in calories, contain no cholesterol and are packed with vitamins. Asparagus is also a good source of calcium, magnesium, zinc, dietary fiber, protein, folic acid, iron, potassium and a host of antioxidants.

Asparagus may not top everyone’s list of favorites, but that could be because it wasn’t tried the “right” way, as there are a dozen ways to eat it. This time of year, it’s often roasted or cooked on the barbecue; in Asian-style cooking, it’s typically stir-fried; in French food, it’s usually steamed and served with hollandaise sauce or melted butter. It’s also common for asparagus to be blended and used in soups.

At this year’s District 30 Picnic, Garcia and business reps. John Bruckner and Greg Flanagan sautéed it in a wok, using a little bit of olive oil to prevent it from burning. Mixed with Kosher salt and minced garlic and served alongside tri-tip, beans and salad, the menu was a hit.

Serving asparagus is a District 30 tradition, explained Bruckner, and it’s always purchased from a local grower. This year, the crop came from nearby Tracy.

“Everyone is excited about it,” he said. “It’s just very good. It’s very tasty.”

Picnics are popular activities this time of year, but they can be unhealthy, so make sure the right side dishes are served – like asparagus – and guests can snack all summer, guilt-free. Eating healthy is a great way to stay healthy, and with health-care costs on the rise, staying out of the doctor’s office is smart on many levels.

Home remedies trump prescription drugs for some members

A ‘Short’ solution for high cholesterol

Retiree Jack Short uses a natural drug to lower his cholesterol called Nordic Naturals Omega LDL, which contains a blend of highly concentrated omega-3 fatty acids, red yeast rice and CoQ10. Short prefers taking it over prescription drugs like Lipitor, since, for him, it has been more effective with no side effects.

A ‘super duper cold remedy’

Retiree Jim Poole also believes in home remedies as opposed to prescription drugs. His solution to curing colds?

- Boil two cups of water and add:
  - 1-inch piece of fresh ginger
  - 2 cloves smashed garlic
  - 1 tablespoon fresh-squeezed lemon juice
  - 2 tablespoons honey
  - 2 dashes cayenne pepper
  - 2 bags of green tea

Leave for 10 minutes, then pour into a mug and let it steep until it’s cool enough to drink.

Stumbling on this remedy has been good for Poole, but the “best thing that ever happened,” was joining Local 3 in 1965. “I never looked back,” he said.

More from the ‘Medicine Man’

Retiree Kenneth Brockman has become quite famous for his home remedies after he was featured in *Engineers News* in March. Here is another one of his natural “cures”:

For migraines: “Sit down, rub your hands together very fast to charge the electricity in your hands. Spread your fingers wide. Using the tips of your fingers, place the right hand on the front part of the head and the left hand on the back of the head. After about 10 seconds, move fingers to another spot and hold for 10 seconds. When you have covered the whole head, the migraine is gone. You may get one more migraine, but I have never seen them get the third migraine.”

For constipation: “Take ½ teaspoon licorice at bedtime. Chase with water.”

Please remember: Before taking any medical advice, consult your regular doctor first.

Do you have a home remedy that you use to get well? Share your tips with us. Send them to *Engineers News*, 3920 Lennane Drive, Sacramento, CA 95834, e-mail them to mmcmillen@oe3.org or fax them to (916) 419-3487.


FOR SALE: A 2002 18-foot Sunbird boat. 4.3 liter Chevy V6 engine with King Cobra package and OMC Cobra outdrive. Open bow. Low hours. Good condition. (707) 472-2340.


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50-year members

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Evaristo Abila 11/59 San Jose, CA
Silas “Ted” L. Adamson 09/60 Gazzelle, UT
Ronald Anders 10/58 McCloud, CA
Gary M. Anderson 10/56 Ferron, UT
William Anderson 08/48 Yuma, AZ
Edward Andreini 09/56 Half Moon Bay, CA
Phyllip Arnold 09/57 Citrus Heights, CA
Lynn Barlow 09/57 Sandy, UT
Kenneth F. Barrow 01/60 Incline Village, NV
Joe L. Bengeocha 11/59 Reno, NV
Bernard Berch 07/60 Newark, CA
Carl Borg 12/60 Fairfield, CA
Frank J. Borges 09/58 St. Helena, CA
Ralph Bowman 12/59 Santa Rosa, CA
James Brashear 10/59 Igo, CA
Gary E. Burghardt 08/57 Antioch, CA
Bennie Burns 11/60 Modesto, CA
Harold L. Byer 09/60 Grass Valley, CA
John A. Camarra 10/60 Elk Grove, CA
Bruce Cameron 12/60 Marysville, CA
Tiffinn Cannon 09/56 Stanshil, CA
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Ralph Kahoonip 07/58 Kaneohe, HI
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Eric Johnson 03/55 Redding, CA
Lily Y. Inaba 09/60 Hilo, HI
Masami Inaba 09/60 Hilo, HI
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Norvin Cox 08/57 Sparks, NV
Deveril Craig 08/60 St. George, UT
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Gerald Guthrie 09/60 Cupertino, CA
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