Happy Holidays to all of our members from the officers and staff of Local 3. Thank you for your dedication, support and hard work over this past year. We wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Russ Burns, Business Manager
Political successes celebrated in all four Local 3 states

Brothers and sisters, I know you worked hard this election season, helping us phone bank, walk precincts and talk to fellow members at the jobsite for the candidates we endorsed in the Nov. 2 election. It was a lot of work and a challenge for some of you, but your efforts were not in vain. We celebrated victories throughout Local 3’s jurisdiction – in California, Nevada, Utah and Hawaii – and I thank you for that. The future work picture will be brighter because of you.

In Nevada, we were able to secure another term for U.S. Sen. Harry Reid. This was incredibly important for Local 3 because he is a huge supporter of Davis-Bacon and was instrumental in getting big jobs, like the Ruby Pipeline, passed and secured for our members. The pipeline project has been a major job creator for us in Nevada, and with Reid in office, we’re confident that more work like this will follow.

In Utah, although we lost a couple of the big races, we saw a 69 percent success rate, winning two out of every three races we endorsed. This will help build major inroads into the Legislature and build a bipartisan support system in Utah. These are steps in the right direction!

In Hawaii, Gov. Neil Abercrombie was elected into office. Abercrombie will be a major driving force in moving the Honolulu rail project forward, unlike his Republican incumbent who has held it up for so long. We’ve been anticipating the rail’s groundbreaking for some time, so we’re excited to see this major step toward making it happen.

In California, we had probably the biggest success: We elected Jerry Brown as governor and sent his opponent, billionaire Meg Whitman, and her anti-union, anti-worker ideas packing. Brown supports infrastructure jobs and the California high-speed rail; two things Whitman did not, so there is a stark difference in what is going to happen now that Brown is elected.

California U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer was also elected to another term. Boxer is a longtime friend of Local 3’s and another supporter of high-speed rail. With their support and another $871.5 million awarded to the project’s development recently, the future for high-speed rail in California has never looked so good. Federal officials recently announced that all of the federal funds raised for the project so far will be spent in the Central Valley, on the Merced-to-Fresno section or the Fresno-to-Bakersfield portion of the project. This is good news, because the Central Valley desperately needs work, and either choice guarantees work for Local 3 members. The High Speed Rail Authority Board is scheduled to choose the section that will be constructed first at its meeting this month. The selection of a heavy-maintenance facility will not be part of that decision, but instead, decided on after the environmental-review process has been completed. I sit on this board and will keep you posted.

Another huge success for us in the Nov. 2 election was the passing of Prop. 22, which gives California the best protection for transportation funding that we’ve ever had. The Legislature can no longer raid, beg, borrow or steal gas-tax funds for other purposes. It also requires the state to make quarterly transfers of these funds, instead of hanging onto the money until the end of the fiscal year, which has created havoc in the past, as transportation agencies try to meet their cash-flow needs.

Five of the seven Bay Area transportation measures also passed in our favor and will generate more than $820 million a year for our industry (Alameda Measure F, Marin Measure B, San Francisco Measure AA, San Mateo Measure M and Santa Clara Measure B).

As 2010 comes to a close, we look to 2011 with a refreshed confidence. With the right people in office, several big jobs on the books and a fresh start ahead, there’s no question that next year will be better all around. I thank you all again for your support leading up to the election, because I know we could not have been as successful as we were without you.

I wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to seeing you in the new (and brighter) year.
Oakland Airport Connector groundbreaking ceremony.

A recent groundbreaking ceremony celebrating the long-awaited start of the $484 million Oakland Airport Connector (OAC) project drew Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) directors, elected officials, media and labor unions.

Working on behalf of its members and the Building Trades, Local 3 played a large part in lobbying for this project, which is expected to create between 2,500 and 5,000 jobs, many of which will be local union jobs under a Project Labor Agreement (PLA).

With a 17.5 percent unemployment rate, Oakland needs every bit of help it can get. According to District Rep. Mike Croll: “We have worked hard to push for this project. This will put many of our members back to work. It’s shovel-ready jobs like this that will get California back on track in rebuilding the Bay Area and state infrastructure that we so badly need.”

The OAC project will provide regional connectivity, while taking cars off the road. With trains arriving every 4.5 minutes, the 8.5-minute ride will ensure on-time arrival at the Oakland International Airport. It will also connect arriving passengers to all parts of the Bay Area.

Once running at full capacity, the OAC will carry an estimated 3.1 million passengers to and from the Oakland Airport and BART system. Statistics also show that about 9,300 passengers a day will utilize this transport system. Most importantly, it will create jobs for our membership.

Help those in need, if you can

Merry Christmas and happy new year!

It has been a very busy year for your officers and staff. We had many negotiations to do and lots of business to take care of. I know for many of our brothers and sisters, this was a very challenging year just keeping their heads above water. Those of us who stayed employed should be extremely grateful. Let’s not forget those who weren’t as fortunate and remember to lend a hand. We don’t need to advertise or ask, just do it.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff. As officers, we couldn’t do the things that need to get done on a daily basis without them. More times than not, staff will stay late and show up early, even when not asked, to get the job done. The offices operate at least 52 hours each week (unless there’s a holiday) to ensure that any membership needs are taken care of. Local 3 is a very large machine, and it takes many parts to make it run properly. We are always striving to improve membership service any way we can.

Let’s hope the work picture also improves for 2011. As of this writing, it looks promising. There are a lot of good-sized jobs on the horizon. Please read the district reports on pages 18-23 for upcoming projects in your area.

The results of the Nov. 2 election will also help the work picture, since many of the labor-friendly candidates we endorsed were elected into office, specifically California U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer, California Gov. Jerry Brown, Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie, Hawaii Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa and Nevada U.S. Sen. Harry Reid. These elections were extremely important to Local 3, and I thank everyone who came out to help phone bank and walk precincts to get the word out. We couldn’t have celebrated these successes without you. (Please visit our website at www.oec3.org for other Election Day results.)

I was at the Retiree Meeting in Concord, Calif. in October, and after I gave my report on the Trust Funds, we opened it up for comments. Brother Norris Casey had a suggestion on how to not only save the Health and Welfare Trust Fund money, but also save the brothers and sisters co-pays. He suggested that members who are veterans of the armed services use the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for some of their medical needs – hearing aids, glasses, etc. By serving the country, they deserve whatever this country has to offer. This is another example of how we can come together to share ideas and help each other through these tough economic times. For other ideas about how to save the Health and Welfare Fund money, please read this month’s Health News feature, which highlights the Best Practices Committee, a board I sit on that is committed to saving the Fund money.

I would also like to take this opportunity to suggest a book to read, “There is Power in a Union,” by Philip Dray. In these tough times, I like to reflect on our roots and think about what our forefathers fought for. This book gives a history of unionism – how it started and what we need to do to rebuild unions across this country. I haven’t finished it yet, but it is a very good read, and I highly recommend it.

Happy holidays to you all. Please remember to give to your fellow brothers and sisters, if you can.
The third quarter of 2010 was marked by mixed economic news as the U.S. economy continued to improve but at a sluggish pace. Third quarter Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at a rate of 2.0 percent, slightly higher than the second quarter’s 1.7 percent growth rate but not nearly strong enough to generate the massive number of jobs needed to bring down our nation’s unemployment rate. Business and consumer spending increased during the third quarter as did personal income; however, residential construction remained weak and state and local government spending continued to decline. Economists expect fourth quarter 2010 growth to be similar to that of the third quarter.

Nationwide, private-sector job creation continued to improve marginally during the third quarter of 2010, adding 202,000 jobs, but not enough to offset the 482,000 jobs lost in federal, state and local governments. After adding 596,000 total jobs in the second quarter, employment fell by 280,000 in the third quarter, reflecting this continued layoff of government workers. Nationally, the 9.6 percent September 2010 unemployment rate was slightly changed from June 2010’s 9.5 percent level and has remained virtually unchanged since June 2009. California, Nevada and Utah saw their unemployment rate increase modestly during the third quarter (to 12.4 percent, 14.4 percent and 7.5 percent, respectively), while Hawaii’s rate remained steady at 6.3 percent.

During the third quarter of 2010, Local 3’s membership decreased an additional 351 members, bringing the year-to-date membership loss through September 2010 to 1,085 members, or 2.93 percent.

Financially, while Local 3 posted a loss of $467,316 for the third quarter of 2010, it was much smaller than in the prior two quarters. Third quarter 2010 receipts came in at $10.1 million, a 21 percent increase over the second quarter, while expenses were $10.5 million, a 3.4 percent increase over the second quarter of 2010. Monthly supplemental dues revenues continued to increase as the seasonally strong third quarter showed significantly higher hours worked as compared to the first and second quarters of 2010. Third quarter 2010 expenses increased modestly due to slightly higher employee costs and per capita tax payments to the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE). Overall, the third quarter of 2010 ended on a positive note, with net income for the month of September coming in at $688,782.

With the successful completion of Northern California Master Agreement negotiations and the continued release of funds from the federal Stimulus program, hours finally appear to be picking up. The month of August 2010 showed the first year-over-year increase in supplemental dues hours since June 2007, and with construction projects commencing throughout the local’s entire jurisdiction, hopefully this is a sign that 2010 will end on a strong footing.

### Fund Balances ($ in millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>09/30/10</th>
<th>09/30/09</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>$37.2</td>
<td>$40.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardship, Strike, Lockout</td>
<td>$4.1</td>
<td>$3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency</td>
<td>$12.1</td>
<td>$11.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defense</td>
<td>$5.3</td>
<td>$4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Maintenance</td>
<td>$0.7</td>
<td>$1.8</td>
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</table>

### Third Quarter 2010 Financial Report

#### Profit & Loss Statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(September 30, 2010 - Year-to-Date)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership Revenue</td>
<td>$23,338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>$3,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Receipts</td>
<td>$26,782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries, Benefits &amp; Taxes</td>
<td>$19,434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Capita Taxes</td>
<td>$3,855</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office &amp; Operations</td>
<td>$2,397</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>$1,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Services</td>
<td>$784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PACs &amp; Fund Allocations</td>
<td>$791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin &amp; Public Relations</td>
<td>$2,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$30,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income/(Loss)</td>
<td>($4,143)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Balance Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(As of September 30, 2010)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash, Investments &amp; Deposits</td>
<td>$29,917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Funded 457 Plan</td>
<td>$1,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automobiles</td>
<td>$3,466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Furniture &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>$1,823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computers &amp; Software</td>
<td>$9,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Equipment</td>
<td>$960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print Shop Equipment</td>
<td>$1,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Accum. Depreciation</td>
<td>($9,290)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$38,588</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td>($2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Funded 457 Plan</td>
<td>$1,424</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Fund Balance</td>
<td>$37,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities &amp; Fund Balance</td>
<td>$38,588</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notes:
1. Medical includes regular and Kaiser medical (including Kaiser Drug), stop-loss and Medicare reimbursement.
2. Pensioned Health and Welfare prescription drug cost is the claims paid less Medicare drug subsidy of approximately $1.4 million.
3. Other benefits include vision care, life insurance, burial benefits, hearing aids, physical exams, disability and chemical dependency.

Plan Assets
(1) Total Investments $2,823,782,275
- Domestic Stocks 1,049,655,938
- International Stocks 234,481,107
- Bonds 785,492,812
- Hedge Fund of Funds 232,464,292
- Real Estate 347,877,170
- Other Investments 173,810,958

Plan Returns / Funded Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Investment Return (3)</th>
<th>Target Return</th>
<th>Ratio (4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>108.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>110.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>105.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>96.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>-6.6%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>100.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>164.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>115.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>94.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>131.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>83.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>-25.6%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>69.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>116.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) YTD 2010: 5.0% 7.5% N/A

Notes:
1) Asset figures and returns are preliminary and unaudited. YTD 2010 return is 9 months ending 9/30/10.
2) Other Investments include an insurance contract with New York Life and operational cash.
3) Returns through 12/31/2007 were not calculated by IPS.
4) The Funded Ratio is the value of assets used for the annual pension plan valuation divided by the present value of accumulated plan benefits as provided by the actuary.

Commentary (3rd Quarter 2010):
The third quarter of 2010 saw equity indices rally from the losses experienced during the prior quarter. The S&P 500 Index returned 11.3% for the third quarter and 10.2% for the trailing one year. In September, unemployment increased by 95,000 and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 9.6%. The total number of unemployed workers stood at 14.8 million. Government employment declined (-159,000), reflecting both a drop in the number of temporary jobs for Census 2010 and job losses in local government. Private-sector payroll employment continued to trend up modestly (+64,000). At the start of the recession in December 2007, the number of unemployed persons was 7.5 million, and the jobless rate was 4.9%. The Barclays Aggregate Index, which measures the broad fixed income market, returned 2.5% during the third quarter and 8.2% for the trailing one year. Corporate debt posted strong gains in the third quarter as investors no longer sought the safety of government backed debt and spread product rallied as a result.
How decisions are made

Members always suggest different ways we officers should run our union. While these ideas are appreciated, whether or not they’re implemented sometimes is not solely our decision. You might say we have to wear two hats – our union hat and our trustee hat.

In particular, when it comes to the Health and Welfare and Pension funds, there is a system of checks and balances put in place by the government to ensure things are done correctly, legally and constructively and voted on by the board of trustees, which are made up of equal numbers of union officials and employer reps signatory to our Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs). Different trustees oversee each fund, and making a decision involves the entire board of trustees voting to approve or reject modifications to our funds. This may seem like a convoluted way to get things done, but think about what is decided in the board meeting and just how important the decisions are to our organization and us as members of OE3.

Today, our funds are governed by the Taft-Hartley Act, a federal law that monitors the acts of labor unions, and the Employer Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), which establishes minimum standards for pension plans and extensive rules on the federal-income-tax effect associated with employee-benefit laws. ERISA is also the federal law that regulates both union and employer trustees and the actions taken by them as fiduciaries to the funds to protect against activities that would not be in the best interest of the participants – you the member. We must adhere to certain laws when making any change to our funds, and these changes must be approved by all trustees.

We officers sit on these boards, but as trustees, we must take off our “union hats” and do what is right for the fund as a whole, the whole union and for everyone as a group, not as individuals. This is what makes us a union.

We do welcome your ideas – after all, this is not my union or your union; it’s our union, and when we work together, we win. But remember: We must go through the proper processes to ensure success.

Happy holidays to all our members. I’ll see you in the new year.

Unit 12

Unit 12 members keep you safe for all seasons

Photos by Gary Rocha, business representative

Behind every visible hero is a behind-the-scenes one. For professional athletes, it’s the trainers. For musicians, it’s the “roadies.” For the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) firefighters, it’s the Heavy Duty Repair (HDR) mechanics who keep the fire-truck fleet in good working order, so firefighters can save the day safely and efficiently.

Unit 12 represents several of these mechanics throughout Local 3’s jurisdiction, including HDR Mechanic Ruben Barajas. It is after fire season that our members are the busiest, providing maintenance and repairs on the equipment, so it’s ready for the next fire season. The behind-the-scenes mechanics ensure smooth-running operations, so that the men and women of CalFire can provide stewardship over the 30 million acres of California’s privately-owned wild lands and emergency services in 36 of the state’s counties.

Other members in Unit 12 who are not so behind-the-scenes are the Caltrans heavy equipment operators who are responsible for maintaining the safety and driveability of California’s roads. For example, operators David Jensen and Dave Taylor recently provided bridge clean-up and guardrail maintenance along Hwy. 59. You may have passed them on your travels.

No matter their role, so many of our Unit 12 members are heroes. Thank one today, and have a happy holiday.

Unit 12 operators David Jensen and Dave Taylor repair a guardrail and provide bridge clean-up on Hwy. 59.
What does outsourcing really cost?

At the time of this writing, we are finishing another round of district meetings. I would like to thank all the members who attended and those who came to the last Semi-Annual. I have received nothing but positive feedback from the membership about the Semi-Annual. Our staff did a great job putting it together, and from the response, it seems everyone really liked the new location at the Rancho Murieta Training Center’s (RMTC’s) training site.

Along with traveling to this round of meetings, Vice President Carl Goff and I flew to Guam to meet with the Navy “powers that be” to discuss doing the island’s military work under a Project Labor Agreement (PLA). We explained the obvious benefits of a PLA. Other labor crafts from Hawaii were also there, as were mainly non-union employers who argued against a PLA.

The Navy plans to spend $20 billion on construction work in Guam – $6 billion will come from Japan and $14 billion will come from U.S. taxpayers’ money. The Navy wants 8,600 full-time Marines stationed there, with the project completed by 2014, and will need 20,000 construction workers for the task. Currently, 7,000 construction workers are in Guam.

There are several problems with this plan: Even if the Navy goes with a PLA, officials plan to use Guam’s prevailing wage, which is only about $13.77 an hour for an operator with very little for fringe benefits. We told them point-blank that they will never build the project on time or within budget at those rates. Also, the skill-level on the island is not journey-level status, by any means. They will end up doubling the time to do the project and at least tripling the cost, because unskilled labor always forces projects to be done two or three times. We told them we had statistics for project after project that ran over budget and time because of an unskilled workforce, versus on-time and on-budget projects finished with skilled labor. True, $13.77 an hour is cheap, but it’s very expensive to redo an entire project two or three times. What is the total cost of that?

We also know that our members would never travel that far for that low of a wage. So, if plans don’t change, $14 billion of taxpayers’ money is not going to help our economy one bit. This is another example of outsourcing our jobs and the high cost of it. Even though the election is over, please take a hard look at those politicians who don’t see anything wrong with outsourcing.

We are continuing to work on these issues with Guam, but it’s going to be an uphill battle if we can’t raise the wages. In addition, Guam has the strictest right-to-work laws we have ever seen. We will keep you informed of any news about this.

Be safe, and enjoy the holidays.

Local 3's own Director of Apprenticeship Tammy Castillo and apprenticeship coordinators Holly Brown, Debra Carrell and Sherry Chapin were recently honored as Tradeswomen of the Year during a ceremony hosted by Tradeswomen, Inc. in Oakland.

Founded in 1979, Tradeswomen, Inc. was California’s first organization for women in the trades. Since its inception, the organization has worked to create fair and safe conditions for women in non-traditional, blue-collar jobs by recruiting them into the Building and Construction Trades and developing leadership skills on the job and in their unions.

The ceremony awarded Local 3’s finest for leading the apprenticeship programs in their crafts across Northern California.

Several Local 3 apprentices and operators, as well as Vice President Carl Goff, attended the event to honor the awardees.

Local 3 is proud of our female directors and coordinators for this big accomplishment.

For more on Tradeswomen, Inc. or ways you can get involved, visit www.tradeswomen.org.

Front row, from left: First-step Apprentice Ashleigh Hodoh, Director of Apprenticeship Tammy Castillo, Apprenticeship Coordinator Holly Brown, fourth-step Apprentice Shannon Janssen and Apprenticeship Coordinator Debra Carrell.

Back row, from left: Crane Operator Kristi Tuemmler and fourth-step Apprentice Lisa Brown.
Betcha didn’t know what goes on behind the curtain

Operating Engineers Local 3 represents 1,200 middle-management employees working for Santa Clara County. The membership manages nearly every function of government throughout the county.

This month’s spotlight is on the members who manage the myriad of functions within the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC). When you are sick or injured, you never think about the people behind the curtain, so to speak. What you see are doctors and nurses attending to your condition.

Ever wonder how your medical records are produced so quickly, how the proper medications are administered so they don’t conflict with any other medical conditions or how the billing works so you pay a small co-pay and your insurance is billed the rest?

Hundreds of support functions operate within a hospital system, and they work together to make your treatment safe, seamless and efficient.

Nurse managers review your care and ensure medications do not conflict with any pre-existing conditions. Nurse managers also schedule the appropriate number of nurses in each area of the hospital and ensure they are properly trained for the specific function, whether it is pediatric care, radiology or trauma, so you don’t have to worry about their qualifications. Hospitals rely on technology to provide rapid, accurate care. There is a huge amount of work to maintain and modernize this technology on a daily basis to keep up with ever-changing trends in patient treatment. A pharmacy, security team, outpatient/specialty care, payroll, billing, etc. all have to be managed.

So, the next time you end up in a hospital, take a moment to appreciate the amount of work that occurs to provide you with safe, efficient, professional care. Rest assured, if you end up at Valley Medical Center for any reason, you are in excellent hands, thanks to our very own union brothers and sisters who keep a watch on your treatment.

Good news in negative times

By Doug Gorman, business representative

I don’t need to tell you about the negative comments being made about public employees, their benefits and their unions. I think it’s time to start telling you about the positive things going on in the Central Valley.

Over the last couple of years, you may have read articles about the issues our members in Clovis, Gustine and Hughson have been having. Well, all three of these city’s managers failed to have their contracts renewed and have since moved on to other agencies. This is a huge victory for our membership in these cities.

Your union has also been active in keeping the public informed of Unfair Labor Practices (ULPs) against our members, and while some of the causing parties still remain employed in Oakdale, we’re hoping for a positive change in city leadership, so we can help send more managers packing.

The Oakdale Police Officers’ Association (OPOA) has gone through some serious trials this year because of the city mayor, city manager and chief, but the OPOA is strongly united and dedicated to its citizens.

Sgt. Mike Eggener retired from Oakdale and came to work with OE3 in the Modesto office. This allowed a laid-off officer to return to work and gave us a new business rep. for the Central Valley.

We were also able to get pay raises for our members with the Fresno Mosquito District and the Firebaugh Police Officers’ Association and extend contracts without any concessions in Livingston and Hughson.

This year also brought us new members from the recently reinstated Mendota Police Department, and OE3 was made the exclusive bargaining agent for the newly formed Clovis Transit Unit. Also, the newly formed Porterville Public Safety Unit negotiated its first Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with the city of Porterville.

While we may still be in a fight, the economy is on the mend, and if we continue to stay united, we can look forward to continued achievements in the following years.
City of Red Bluff

Miscellaneous Unit negotiates successor agreement

By Art Frolli, business representative

On Aug. 18, we reached a tentative agreement with the city of Red Bluff, which was ratified by our membership the same day and by the City Council at its next meeting. As with many of our contracts, concessions were made. However, this contract differed because we used a different approach to solving the city’s financial needs.

The police and fire bargaining units rely nearly 100 percent on monies from the General Fund. Our Miscellaneous Employees Bargaining Unit includes many members who work in the Water, Waste Water Collections and Waste Water Treatment departments. These employees’ salaries are predominately paid from Enterprise Funds, which come from fees for services provided by our members. About 80 percent of all salaries for this bargaining unit are paid from Enterprise Funds. Thus, the burden on the General Fund for these employees’ salaries is about 20 percent.

The police and fire bargaining units had already settled for salary and benefit reductions of 12 percent. During our negotiations, the city wanted to reduce the salary and benefits of our members by 16 percent. We assumed that since only 20 percent of our salaries were paid from General Fund money and the General Fund had a shortfall, the city needed to obtain a larger percentage from us to funnel a larger cash balance back into the General Fund.

Bargaining unit negotiators Marvin Eckels, John Hacker and Dawn Arnett and I discussed alternatives to the city’s proposal and elected to make a cash-payment offer. The payment to the city, which could be deducted from the employees’ salaries after taxes as a gift back to the city, allowed the city to use all of the received funds toward the General Fund. The city bought into the idea, but did not accept our first offer. Finally, we settled on the amount of $97 per pay period. The impact on our members’ salaries was a reduction of 5.3 percent to 8.3 percent over the term of the contract.

In these poor economic times, it is not easy to find members who are willing to be involved in the negotiation process. I would like to thank the three bargaining unit members mentioned above for giving up their personal time and stepping up to the plate to assist me with the negotiation of this contract.

CEMA acts on members’ behalf

By Prudence Slaathaug, business representative

I wanted to update you this month on County Employees’ Management Association’s (CEMA’s) political-action activities and lobbying efforts during the election cycle this year. We worked hard to help elect candidates who best represent our interests as county workers and public employees, while setting the stage for 2011 contract negotiations. One of our top priorities was to elect Jerry Brown as governor of California, which we did!

The Political Action Committee (PAC) calendar has been full these past several months. Our committee started the political season with Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren’s Annual Picnic on Aug. 8. On Aug. 26, the Executive Board met with Assemblyman Jim Beall to get an update on the state budget and the political scene in Sacramento. On Sept. 17, a delegation of members met with Board President Ken Yeager and Paul Murphy from Supervisor Liz Kniss’ office. On Sept. 21, we met with a representative from Supervisor George Shirakawa’s office, and the next day, we met with Don Gage. On Oct. 4, we spent an hour with Supervisor Don Cortese. These meetings covered CEMA’s concerns about the upcoming 2011 negotiations.

On Sept. 22, we met with County Executive Jeff Smith, Luke Leung and Saba Kraja to discuss possible approaches to negotiations, CEMA’s support for the training efforts to engage middle managers in innovation and the challenges our members face at Valley Medical Center (VMC). Smith indicated that he was interested in some version of “interest-based” bargaining. On the VMC front, he committed to involving CEMA in the selection of the director of the hospital and membership on an umbrella committee that will examine the impact of Health Care Reform (called the Health Care Task Force), which convened on Oct. 14.

On Sept. 30, we attended Beall’s fundraiser and took part in the celebration of the signing of AB12, which extends foster-care services to age 21.

On Oct. 2, PAC Chair Janet Atkins attended a meeting at the South Bay Central Labor Council, along with other union representatives, Lofgren and representatives from Assemblyman Mike Honda’s office.

Beginning Oct. 8, volunteers assembled at the CEMA office in Alameda to walk precincts and call our members to urge them to register to vote and vote for our endorsed candidates. We called every week leading up to the election. Thanks to our volunteers who logged more than 150 hours of campaign work: Trudy Felix, Lisa Sater, Marie Owen, Joe Coogan, Rebecca Haggerty, Tom Wilson, Lorraine Leipold, Richard Rapacchietta, Susan Rosenthal, Amando Cablas, Dolores Morales, Janet Atkins, D’Mitra Murphy, Lucy Sylva, Paulette Oellerich, Richard Nichols, Aileen Arellano, Cynthia Haines, Glenn Payne, Dania Schaffer, Claudia Erickson, Robin Rivas, Joann Cablas, Ed Calonje, Evan Dowling, Jonathon Weinberg and Patty Dadone.

Thank you, and goodbye

By Dan Venters, business representative

By the time you read this, I will have been retired for a month. I wish to thank all the members for the opportunity to serve you. We have been facing tough economic times for the past couple years, but being a part of the union and staying united is how the members will eventually regain their well-deserved wage and benefit increases. Without your continued support and the support of the Operating Engineers officers, District 11 staff, Public Employee Division and all the other OE3 staff and members throughout the years, we would not have experienced the success we accomplished together.

I hope to see all of you at the future district and Semi-Annual meetings and wish all of you a long and tenured career with Local 3.

Thanks.
As we enter our 47th year of service, I want to personally thank you, our members, for your loyalty and support. Your faith and trust in us is what drives the Credit Union to continue to thrive.

This year, we introduced you to the Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union’s (OEFCU’s) core values – they are what inspire us to serve you better:

- Putting members first
- Being honest and truthful
- Having integrity
- Providing quality service
- Giving respect to others
- Being fair
- Being a good citizen
- Being responsible
- Having accountability

We hope we have demonstrated these values to you through each and every transaction or interaction you have had with us. We are committed to providing the highest level of member service, being responsive to your financial needs and following through on our commitments.

Best wishes to you and your families in 2011. We look forward to serving all of your financial needs in the future.

As we close the books on another year, we welcome the coming new year with enthusiasm and anticipation of the opportunities ahead.

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Looking for an interesting read?

For decades, people have been enthralled with one of the Bay Area’s most iconic symbols – the 1.7-mile Golden Gate Bridge.

For San Francisco native, historian and current UC Southern California Professor Kevin Starr, the bridge was the inspiration for his new book, The Life and Times of America’s Greatest Bridge, which chronicles the history of the span. This is something you may be interested in, since your engineering brothers and sisters were largely responsible for the bridge’s construction more than 70 years ago in 1937.

The book is 200 pages, contains lots of paintings and photographs and is currently being sold for $23 (Bloomsbury Press).
We need to work together to keep health-care costs low

Local 3 is fortunate to have members who care and are concerned about the state of our health care. This administration encourages all members to be vigilant in reviewing all medical bills, always ask questions and be informed about any medical treatment a physician may recommend. We all need to work together to keep the cost of health care down. Local 3 and the Board of Trustees participate with the California Health Care Coalition (CHCC), a non-profit organization of employers, unions and trust funds that represents 2.5 million people and is attempting to end opportunistic pricing and poor-quality care that inflates costs for all of us.

Thank you, and happy holidays

Best wishes for the holidays. Thanks for all your efforts in assisting our great union and our benefit plans. It was good to see so many of you at meetings this year. Our officers rely on your input and welcome your comments.

Lend a hand if you are able to help any brothers and sisters in need. Pick up the phone (I guess I should say “text”) to say “season’s greetings,” especially to those who are unable to leave their homes due to illness.

Looking forward to working with all of you in the new year. Watch for the schedule of meetings and district visits in your area.

Thanks to all our officers and staff for their dedicated work, and a special thanks to our chapter chairmen: Leo Cummins, Leon Calkins, Jack Short, Burt Cunningham, Larry Summerfield, Myron Pederson, Norman Morell Jr., Mario Dumlao, Abe Sousa, Brian Bishop, Marin Vallejo, Alban Byer, Ken Green, Bill Marshall, Gary Morthole, Norman Smith, Robert Toscano, Bob Yturiaga, Virgil Blair and Ephraim Bergau.

Pre-Retirement Meetings

It’s never too early to plan for your retirement and learn a bit about the excellent plans we have. Join us at the Pre-Retirement Meeting in your area. Participants 50 years of age and over will receive a postcard reminder of the meeting closest to them, though participants of any age are welcome to attend. If you do not receive a postcard, please check with your district office or the Fringe Benefits Service Center at (800) 532-2105.

We’ll have plenty of time to discuss the Pension, retiree medical and annuity plans with you and your spouse. A Fringe Benefits staff member will be at the district office at noon on the date of your Pre-Retirement Meeting for any questions you may have regarding your benefits. Check with your district representative to schedule a time to meet on that date.

Retiree Post

Surveying the situation

Photos by Retiree Bill Anberg

Retiree Bill Anberg went back to work recently, but instead of bringing his old survey instruments, this time, he took his camera. The 10-year member was hoping to get some good action shots of the Teichert crew paving a seven-mile stretch of Hwy. 12 just west of Valley Springs near his home. Little did he know that this “assignment” would bring so much more. One of the roller operators he photographed was longtime member Barry Tarbat, a man Anberg has known for years. “His dad was my football coach 50 years ago,” said Anberg, “so I’ve known him [Tarbat] and his brother for years now.”

Anberg retired in 2008.

A Teichert paving crew works on Hwy. 12 in Stockton District 30.

Roller Operator Barry Tarbat rolls down Hwy. 12.
One bite at a time

Versatility is one of the keys to a successful career. Whether you’re an operator or a mechanic, the more you can do, the more valuable you become.

Many operators master one, two or three pieces of equipment and mechanics become specialized in several areas, but there’s still room for improvement. Why not be proficient on as many pieces of equipment or areas of Heavy Duty Repair (HDR) as possible?

If you are an operator who is skilled on a couple of machines, how proficient are you on the rest? Are you at journey-level? Are you competitive? Can you weld? If you have an interest in welding, get trained. It may be the skill that keeps you employed during the rainy season.

On several occasions, I’ve worked with operators who were helping mechanics during the winter months, because they had gained some mechanical skills.

So where are you? If you are already competent on the dozer, loader, scraper, backhoe, excavator and blade, why not learn to operate the bobcat, skip loader, paver or horizontal boring machine? Maybe you need a little help with gradesetting or GPS. Acquiring new skills will increase your versatility and make you a more valuable operator.

Are you up to date with your safety certifications? In California, you must have successfully completed a forklift-safety course in order to operate a forklift or telehandler. Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) and Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) require annual refreshers. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10 and 30 have no expiration date in California but are good for only five years in Nevada. First Aid is good for three years; CPR for one year. Forklift and Operator Qualification (OQ) certifications are good for three years. Regarding a Commercial Driver License (CDL), some jobs may require endorsements. Certified Crane Operator (CCO) certification is good for five years; Signalperson and Rigger for three years.

These are all courses offered through the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC). Visit us online at www.ooc3.org/training/california.html for more information.

In addition to the certifications offered, the following cards may also be of importance to you: The Transportation Worker Identification Card (TWIC) is good for five years, the Bay Area Training Corporation (BATC) card is good for two years and the Refinery Safety Orientation (RSO) card is good for two years and accepted statewide. These cards are only offered through their respective organizations. For links to these organizations, check out our website at www.ooc3.org/training/california.html.

This may look like a lot of training, but remember how to eat an elephant: One bite at a time.

Becoming more versatile by learning new skills during the down economy can and will help you build a successful career as an Operating Engineer.

Mechanics Corner

By Dave Bibby, Heavy Duty Repair (HDR) instructor

Read a good tire lately?

Aside from the tire and manufacturer’s name, all the numbers molded in a tire’s sidewall represent everything you need to know about it. The European Tyre and Rim Technical Organization (ETRTO) and the Tire and Rim Association (TRA) influence today’s tire standards by an alpha-numeric code.

Referring to the illustration: The first alpha code, which is optional, indicates the tire’s intended use. “P” represents Passenger-car usage, while “LT” is Light Truck, “ST” is Special Trailer and “T” is Temporary (space-saver spare tire).

The following three-digit number represents the distance from sidewall edge to sidewall edge (in millimeters) when measured up and over the top of the tread.

The slash acts as a character separator for the next two- or three-digit number. This number is the aspect ratio, specifying the sidewall height compared to the section width and expressed as a percentage. If this number is omitted, the aspect ratio is 82 percent.

The next optional alpha indicates the tire construction. A bias-belt-constructed tire is indicated with a “B,” “D” is Diagonal construction, and “R” is Radial construction.

The next two-digit number is the rim or wheel diameter in inches.

Then comes the load index, or the maximum load in pounds that a tire can support when properly inflated.*

The final alpha/digit combination corresponds to the maximum service-speed rating of the tire. This applies to passenger tires only; light-truck tires are not speed-rated, and this designation will be omitted.**

“M+S” (Mud and Snow) are all-weather tires, which have above-average traction in muddy or very light snow conditions and low ambient temperatures. Additional markings are typically located on at least one sidewall near the rim.

For instance, the Department of Transportation (DOT) symbol and tire-identification number is required on all tires in the United States. The number specifies the company, model, mold, batch and date of production, which are used to track tire production for recall purchases.

For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alpha</th>
<th>Bra</th>
<th>Radial</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DOT</td>
<td>EL</td>
<td>CB</td>
<td>DRE</td>
<td>2406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>E/F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A: DOT symbol
B: Plant manufacturer code
C: Tire size code
D: Tire manufacturer code
E: Week of production (1-53)
F: Year of production (last two digits of the year)

The information also includes:

- Maximum air pressure the tire can be inflated to before tire damage
- Tire-traction rating represented as AA, A, B or C, with AA being the best and C the worst
- Temperature rating, which indicates the tire's ability to withstand heat under high speeds, marked from best to worst: A, B and C
- Treadwear rating
- Tire grade, such as 150, meaning a tire will wear 1-1/2 times better than the industry standard 100-graded tire; an 80-graded tire will only have a tread life at 80 percent of the industry standard

Again referring to the illustration, the tire code reads P215/65R15 95H M+S. This tire is intended for passenger-car usage, with a 215 mm nominal tread width, a side-wall height of 139.75 mm as indicated by the aspect ratio of 65 percent (215mm x 0.65 = 139.75mm), radial construction, a load rating of 1,521, a maximum speed rating of 130 mph and a mud and snow designation.

*Refer to the appropriate Load-Carrying Capacity of Tires chart
**Refer to the appropriate Tire-Speed Rating chart
Welcome, Howard Meridian Inc.

Operating Engineers Local 3 would like to welcome our newest signatory employer in Redding District 70. Howard Meridian Inc., a full-service surveying company, recently signed our Northern California Technical Engineering Agreement. Owner Brian Howard is a licensed surveyor and is looking forward to a long and productive relationship with Local 3 and our other employers. His first job as a union employer will be subcontracting for Knife River Construction on the $2.5 million city of Chico bike path.

Howard Meridian Inc. is the first signatory surveying company we've signed in Redding. This was possible because of the great team effort between District 70, District 60, Surveying Business Rep. John Rector and Organizer Ron Roman. It's a fine example of cooperation between districts and departments, with the desired result.

If you have any organizing leads, please call your local district hall.

FIST continues to be utilized

Even though the Northern California Construction Master Agreement was recently ratified, the need for Fair Industry Strike Training (FIST) continues as other union contracts come up for negotiations and some employers try to wrangle away from paying their share of Pension/Health and Welfare benefits.

Members with Holt of California have firsthand experience with this, as their negotiating committee continues to meet and prepare for negotiations with their employer. These men are working hard and grasping the ins and outs of negotiations. They could use your support.

To further their knowledge of fair-industry practices, they attended a recent FIST class in Sacramento in the fall and learned the value of union labor and what happens when it is withheld.

Stay tuned for further updates from the FIST front lines.

On the lighter side . . .

STOCKING STUFFERS

Local 3 history book makes great Christmas present!

When you're making your list, make sure you're checking it twice, 'cause you gotta find out who's naughty or nice. Make sure your holiday wish list doesn't include items from those naughty, non-union companies.

Instead, stuff those stockings with items made in America. After all, doing so could provide an extra-special gift under the tree this year: A job!

For gift ideas, try California Leather Creations, a quality company that creates durable, American-made chaps, vests and jackets for men and women. Local 3's history book, “Breaking Ground: The History of Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3,” is another good idea for the holidays. Books are still available at most district offices and online at www.oe3.org.

Candy makes good gifts too, but make sure you choose sweets with substance. Products from Tootsie Roll Industries, which include Junior Mints, Andes mints and Dubble Bubble gum, Jelly Belly and Ghirardelli Chocolate Co. are union made, but be careful when buying Hershey and Nestle products, as many are made in low-wage nations and imported to the United States. For a list of what's “safe,” visit us online at www.oe3.org.

Turn your Engineers News to the back page for yet another good Christmas gift idea, this one from a member who'd never have non-union, made-out-of-America items on his list!
Good work, Local 3!

By now you know that California gubernatorial candidate Jerry Brown was elected into office on Nov. 2, but what you may not know is how important that win was. Brown’s successful run for office shows Wall Street that it failed in its unmasked attempt to buy the highest political office in California. Brown’s opponent, Meg Whitman, should hide in shame for her egotistical and selfish bid to become governor. Imagine what she could have done with the $162 million she squandered on her campaign. If she really had any civic interests, she could have used that money to “adopt” the 25 worst-performing public high schools in California or donate $2 million to each for hiring additional teachers, buying books and funding facility improvements. How many kids would be better off because of an effort like that? Instead, she catered to the worst traits in human nature: Greed, self-absorbed ambition and vanity. Californians did the right thing by rejecting her and anti-worker, former-CEO Carly Fiorina, who lost her bid for U.S. Senator to Local 3-endorsed Barbara Boxer.

Member-to-member communication was significant in determining the outcome of these and other competitive races in all four states covered by Local 3. Many of your union brothers and sisters talked to fellow Local 3 members on the phone (via our new, web-based phone-banking system), at the jobsite or at their homes during Saturday morning precinct walks. These one-on-one conversations helped educate fellow members about several candidates, from local county supervisors to U.S. congressmembers.

As I write this column, the outcomes of several significant races are still undetermined. In a few, the outcome is close only because of organized labor’s “ground” operation (e.g. phonebanking, precinct walking and jobsite visits). Without the efforts of Local 3 and other unions, many of these close races would have been decided in favor of anti-worker candidates.

As we move into the new year, there are still many issues to tackle at the local, state and federal levels. Priority No. 1 for Local 3 is jobs: How to keep them, how to create them and how to make them better. In the public sector, it will mean fighting unreasonable cuts aimed at unionized workers; in the private sector, it will mean pushing for infrastructure development, like high-speed rail, bridge and levee repairs, harbor dredging, etc. The big-picture items at the federal level will include pushing for an energy policy, infrastructure funding and projects and the Employee Free Choice Act, which improves the laws for workers to unionize.

Local 3 will push to improve and upgrade its technology to better serve the membership in this goal. We’ll try to communicate better. A growing area of modern communication is e-mail. If you haven’t signed up to receive our occasional but informative e-mails, please do so today. Simply go to our website (www.oe3.org) and click on the members-only page. When you sign up for access to the members-only site, you’ll automatically be entered into our e-mail distribution.

Thanks, and have safe and fun holidays.

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 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!
The Local 3 officers, Executive Board and the Scholarship Board of Directors understand that the workplace is rapidly changing, and many jobs require skills that can be attained only with a good education. Local 3 is dedicated to giving our young people the opportunity to succeed by providing them with the chance to further their education and training. For this reason, Local 3 awards annual scholarships to sons, daughters, stepchildren and foster children of Local 3 members.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Four academic scholarships will be awarded to children of Local 3 members. Two scholarships of $3,000 each will be awarded to the first-place female and male applicants. Two scholarships of $2,000 each will be awarded to the second-place female and male applicants. These scholarships must be used for study at an accredited U.S. college or university.

Winners also receive an additional $1,000 per year from the Scholarship Fund for the second, third and fourth years of college, provided they remain full-time students.

The academic scholarships do not impose restrictions of any kind on the course of study. Recipients may accept any other grants, awards or scholarship aid from other sources.

WHO MAY APPLY

Children of Local 3 members may apply for an academic scholarship. One parent of the applicant must be a Local 3 member for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the application.

Children of deceased Local 3 members are eligible to apply for the scholarships. The parent of the applicant must have been a Local 3 member in good standing for at least one year immediately preceding the date of death.

Applicants must be high school seniors who graduated or will graduate at the end of either the fall semester (beginning in 2010) or the spring semester (beginning in 2011) from a public, private or parochial school, plan to attend a college or university anywhere in the United States during the academic year and are able to meet the academic requirements for entrance in the university or college of their choice. Students selected for a scholarship must have achieved no less than a B cumulative average in their high school work.

Applications will be accepted between Jan. 1, 2011 and March 31, 2011.

AWARDING ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Upon receipt of the application and required forms, Local 3 will not exercise any choice among the various applicants or indicate in any way that one applicant should be favored over another. Based on factors normally used in awarding academic scholarships, the University of Berkeley Scholarship Selection Committee will submit recommendations for finalists to the Scholarship Foundation's Board of Directors. The list of potential winners and their qualifications will be reviewed by the Board, and the winners will be selected.

Academic scholarship winners will be announced at Local 3's June Executive Board meeting. Checks will be deposited in the winning students' names at the college or university they plan to attend.

Applicants who are not selected for an academic scholarship will automatically be eligible for OE3 Merit Scholarships, which are awarded through a raffle drawing; therefore, only one application is required. See below for more details on these scholarships.

INSTRUCTIONS

All the following items must be received by March 31, 2011:

1. The application and essay are to be filled out and returned by the applicant.

2. The report on the applicant and transcript is to be filled out by the high school principal or person he or she designates and returned directly to Local 3 by the official completing it.

3. One to three letters of recommendation giving information about the applicant's character and ability. These may be from teachers, community leaders, family friends or others who know the applicant. Please submit all letters of recommendation with the application.

4. A recent photograph, preferably two inches by three inches, with the applicant's name written on the back. The photo should be clear enough to reproduce in the Engineers News.

5. The name, address and phone number of the applicant's local newspaper for the purpose of sending a press release on behalf of each winner.

OE3 MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to the four academic scholarships, Local 3's Scholarship Foundation will award 20 $500 Merit Scholarships through a raffle drawing to be held at Local 3's July Executive Board meeting. Applicants need not be present to win.

OE3 Merit Scholarships are available only to the sons, daughters, stepchildren and foster children of Local 3 members. One parent of the applicant must be a Local 3 member for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the application.

Children of deceased Local 3 members are eligible to apply for the scholarships if the parent was a Local 3 member for at least one year immediately preceding the date of death.

Children of Local 3 members who plan to attend college or a trade school are eligible to apply. They will not be judged on academic qualifications. All applicants who apply for the Local 3 academic scholarships and do not win will automatically qualify for this drawing. A second application is not necessary.

Applications will be accepted from Jan. 1, 2011 to March 31, 2011. Previous winners are not eligible to apply.

The money will be funded when the college or trade school confirms the winner is a full-time student.

WHERE TO GET APPLICATIONS

OE3 Academic and Merit Scholarship applications are available at the local's district offices, Credit Union branches and online at www.oe3.org. It is the applicant's responsibility to submit the application to the address below, which must be received no later than March 31, 2011:

Jim Sullivan
Recording-Corresponding Secretary
c/o Lisa Ward
Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3
1620 South Loop Road
Alameda, CA 94502-7090

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The hills above Kahuku on the island of Oahu just got greener, and we don’t mean in vegetation. In October, Operating Engineers with Goodfellow Bros., Inc. and RMT added massive, whirring wind turbines to harness the famous trade winds of the island and conserve energy.

While the sight of these giant turbines may not add to the striking beauty of the island, “The drive to work is great,” said Crane Operator Derwin Hayashida. “I love being out in the country.”

Starting in July, operators constructed 12 460-foot-tall, 2.5-megawatt Clipper Liberty turbines and then lifted and set them across 575 acres of land near Hawaii’s training facility.

First on the job was Goodfellow Bros., the signatory assigned with putting in the roads for the equipment and the pads and foundations for the turbines. Then, RMT built a 7,000-square-foot operations building and assembled and erected the turbines with painstaking precision.

According to Oiler Bryson Burt, “It is something else to watch the blades go up,” and it is a complicated process. But first, the turbines must be built piece-by-piece. The Manitowoc triple-9 crane sets the first tower section and attaches the blades to the motor on the ground. Then, a second crew “walks” in the Manitowoc 18,000 to place the last two sections of the tower – the nacelle (engine room), the cap, and propeller.
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On average, the assembly process alone takes two days, since it takes about an hour just to raise the 200,000-pound nacelle 200 feet in the air, where it is then secured on top of the tower. The 140,000-pound rotor takes about the same amount of time to raise.

Manitowoc 18,000 Crane Operator Dominic Merloni took none of the experience for granted, as it was the first time he ran a crane of this size and style. “This crane is very cool,” he said. “We’re wearing the tracks out walking this crane around.” Merloni, like many of the locals, puts value in tradition. Therefore, he placed tī leaves in the cab for good luck.

Members also put tī leaves in the nacells before hoisting them. Tī leaves are sacred to the Hawaiian god Lono and to the goddess of the hula, Laka. Such leaves were often used to ward off negative spirits and call in good. Today, tī leaves are often used in cultural ceremonies and to bless new buildings and projects.

Has the Kahuku Wind Farm project been a blessing? The first of its kind on Oahu and one of the largest in Hawaii, by the new year, the wind farm will have the capacity to power more than 7,000 homes, thereby reducing Hawaii’s dependence on oil imports. So, yes.

Wind power is expected to grow in Hawaii, with possible wind farms on Lanai and Molokai, creating clean energy for the islands and more jobs for Operating Engineers. Maybe the answer really is blowing in the wind.
Company spotlight: ECCO Equipment Corporation

ECCO Equipment Corporation began in the heavy-construction-equipment-rental business in 1963. At that time, it was called Engineered Construction Company. Although very small then, the company continued successfully for several years and incorporated on Oct. 2, 1972.

The company headquarters is located in Santa Ana, Calif., where it has been a major supplier of rental equipment in Southern California. In 1985, the company expanded its rental operations to include central and Northern California, with offices located in Stockton, Visalia and later in Riverside. The company has even expanded nationwide to Nevada, Arizona, Utah and Idaho.

The main focus of the company is heavy-construction-equipment rental on a bare or operated and maintained basis. ECCO Equipment Corporation currently supplies 67 percent of its 510-piece-equipment fleet to contractors located throughout the western United States.

ECCO Equipment Corporation's Stockton branch maintains more than 100 pieces of the ECCO fleet. District 30 is proud to spotlight ECCO Equipment this month.

Some of the ongoing work in District 30 includes Sierra Mountain Construction's $1.2 million West Point Water Treatment Plant and the pipeline, road and grading project in Columbia. Mozingo Construction continues on the $3.9 million water-system-improvement project in Big Hill and the $1.2 million sewer-collection-system project at the Comanche Lake Mobile Home Park. Twain Harte Construction is working on the Valley Springs water-tank-replacement project, with grading and paving. Proven Management's $10.1 million job at Tulloch Tri-Dam Electric is ongoing.

Some upcoming work in the district includes the California Department of Corrections' new $1.2 billion prison and hospital project off Arch Road in Stockton and the $30 million Sonora Bypass extension project on Hwy. 108.

FAIRFIELD 2540 N. Watney Way, Fairfield, CA 94533 • (707) 429-5008

Crew does it all on Paradise Valley job

In Napa, District 04 has several ongoing projects. Suulutaaq and Kiewit continue with the Napa flood-control project, with O.C. Jones doing the paving. O.C. Jones is also moving forward on a street and sidewalk job on Main Street downtown. Proven Management started at the Napa Creek project. Argonaut is doing street, sidewalk and some underground work on East Avenue.

In Vallejo, Bay Cities Paving and Grading continues working on the Vallejo parking structure, with Malcolm Drilling working on its phase of the project.

Some upcoming work on Mare Island: World-famous movie director George Lucas may be opening a $2 billion, 180-acre studio. The Solano Transit Authority and Caltrans have three projects worth about $130 million going to bid in March. This work includes two Jameson Canyon widening projects and a truck-sacle relocation.

In Fairfield, Independent Construction has seven members working on a very large slide removal in Paradise Valley. The crew has been under the watchful eye of Foreman Andree Adams. Members onsite include gradecheckers Jaime Gonzalez and Eliseo Rodriguez, scraper operators Armando Magana and Dale Noonkester, Compactor Operator Josanni Goree Sr. and D-8 Dozer Operator Roger Anderson. This crew is also responsible for a lot of slope rebuild, moving more than 200,000 yards of dirt and performing a fair amount of sheet grading. This site may become residential property in the future.

Apprenticeship Spotlight

District 04 would like to congratulate the following apprentices who advanced to journey-level status in October: Crane Apprentice Beau Reding, who spent his entire apprenticeship with Bragg Crane and Rigging, Construction Equipment Operator (CEO) Apprentice Rafael Rodriguez, who spent his entire apprenticeship with O.C. Jones, and CEO Apprentice Ryan Butler, who is currently working for newly signed contractor Excavators, Inc.

The District 04 staff wishes you a merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year's.

See the slide-removal crew at work in Paradise Valley

From left: Heavy Duty Repair (HDR) Mechanic Kevin Kennedy, Foreman Scott Chadwick and HDR Mechanic Gregg Heim work for ECCO Equipment.
Passed state budget means public-works jobs ahead

The District 40 staff wishes everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year’s.

Wahlund Construction keeps members employed on an 88.1 million water-treatment plant in Ferndale. Mercer Fraser also keeps many members busy on several projects and in the rock quarries. Penhall started the demolition of the Mad River Bridge in McKinleyville. Silverado Construction is gearing up at the Humboldt PG&E Power Plant in Eureka for the decommissioning (second phase). Since California has finally passed a state budget, there will be many public-works jobs going to bid in 2011, so we hope our signatory companies keep their pencils sharp when bidding work.

We anticipate putting a few more members to work when material/person hoists are installed.

The District 80 staff reminds our members on the out-of-work list to renew their registrations. Registration on the A and B lists (for those who are classified as Class A or B hire status) is valid for only 84 days from the date of registration. Registration on list C (for those who are classified as Class C hire status) is valid for only one calendar month and will require contacting the district office on or after the first working day of each month to put your name back on the list. For more information on the requirements of A, B and C hire status, please refer to Section 04.07.01 through 04.07.14 in the California Job Placement Regulations (JPR).

SACRAMENTO 3920 Lennane Drive, Sacramento, CA 95834 • (916) 993-2055

Tower cranes rise again

The job to highlight this month is the new Sutter Hospital Women’s and Children’s Center. It will be eight stories tall, with the third and fourth floors connecting to Sutter General Hospital and the second floor connecting to the Cancer Center. The roof will have a helipad, and a skywalk on the east side of the building will connect to the parking garage. By the time you read this, the job should be in full swing, employing 130 to 150 craft employees, including Operating Engineers, Carpenters, Laborers, Electricians, Ironworkers and various mechanical and Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) technicians.

At the time of this writing, 10-year member Mike Reid, with Clipper International, is operating the south tower crane on the job. When the north tower crane fires up, it will be operated by six-year member Chris Whittle, also with Clipper International.

We thank all the volunteers who came out to phone bank and precinct walk and wish all our members and their families a merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year’s.

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

Cargill salt pond remediation

On July 19, the Dutra Group started a two-year, 85 million project to restore 1,000 acres of the old Cargill salt ponds (located between the San Mateo and Dumbarton bridges) known as Eden Landing. Dutra is working closely with the Department of Fish and Game and Ducks Unlimited, this is the first of many restoration projects.

Dutra will move 200,000 yards of material onsite with no import material. The restoration will include building temporary access roads, breaching external levees and building new levees to allow the natural tide-flow to fill the ponds and let endangered wildlife return.

There are many challenges to this project, such as the aquatic environment. Building roads and levees on marsh land that has no real bottom is truly a feat. The environment also presents the challenge of wildlife. While members dredge, excavate, grade, etc., they must be aware of the wildlife surrounding them — protecting these precious species is one of the main priorities on this job, and with help from the Department of Fish and Game and Ducks Unlimited, Dutra has been successful in doing so.

Dutra expects to employ 13 to 15 Operating Engineers at the project’s peak.

Jobs that started late in the season are still going, and bigger projects, like the Los Vacaros Dam and a 750-megawatt power plant in Antioch, are expected to start early in the year. The second phase of the Hwy. 4 widening and the e-BART project is just what we need to get our brothers and sisters back to work.

We still have room in our eight-hour Hazwoper refresher class on Saturday, Jan. 29. Call the Hall to sign up.

Apprenticeship Spotlight

Congratulations to Construction Equipment Operators (CEOs) Mario Anaya, Hugo Acosta Jr. and Luis Plascencia for completing the apprenticeship program in October.

Excavator Operator Craig Stevens works on the Eden Landing project for Dutra.
Ruby Pipeline ‘spreads’ its way across the north – finally!

This is the time of year when work in Northern Nevada is usually slow. In Truckee Meadows, this is more than likely the case, but it’s not further north and to the east. At the time of this writing, the Ruby Pipeline is finally getting spreads in full-swing across the northern part of the state.

Rockford and Precision Pipeline are working with spreads from the Oregon border to Winnemucca. Precision Pipeline is also on the eastern side of the state, working from Utah to Winnemucca with U.S. Pipeline.

As of this writing, District 11 has dispatched about 400 operators to the job, which is scheduled for completion in March 2011. Other winter projects expected to continue, weather permitting, includes work on I-395 North at the Spaghetti Bowl, the Geiger Grade round-about and Carson and Stead Airport work, all being done by Granite Construction.

Q&D Construction has work at the Mill City Dam and Gardnerville waterline project. Sierra Nevada Construction is working in Carson City at the water tank. The bulk of work should be wrapped up by the time you receive this.

In other news: Department of Labor (DOL) Secretary Hilda Solis recently met with District Rep. Steve Ingersoll to discuss membership safety and jobs. The DOL hired 710 extra enforcement personnel to restore worker protection. The DOL is also working with the Obama Administration to create more jobs by marshalling resources for communities, breaking bureaucratic log-jams and promoting the economy and efficiency in government – contracting with Project Labor Agreements (PLAs). Good news for our industry!

From Elko

Ames Construction is still working at Newtown and at the Cortez Mine for Barrick Gold. N.A. Degestrum, Inc. is increasing production at the Rossi and Queenstake mines. At the Queenstake Mine, the company is hauling ore.

Sierra Nevada Construction has a crew working in Eureka on a waterline project. On Iwy. 93, Fresherner Construction is finishing at Cherry Creek and Peek Construction is finishing the wildlife crossing. Canyon Construction is working at the power station and the railyard in Elko. MKD Construction is doing a waterline project on College Parkway in Elko and was the low bidder on a waterline project in Lamoille.

Happy holidays!

Reno’s District Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Hall. There will also be a Retirement Meeting that day at 2 p.m.

HAWAII I 1075 Opakapaka St., Kapolei, HI 96707 • For all branches, call (808) 845-7871

Picnics, politics, windmills … the Village People?

In Hilo, active members, retirees, staff and family members came together this fall to sign wave in support of gubernatorial candidate Neil Abercrombie and lieutenant governor candidate Brian Schatz. The event was important to our district’s political future but also served as a bonding experience. District 17 especially thanks Retiree Donald Medeiros for “rallying the troops” for this event. He, in turn, would like to thank all of those who committed their time for support and hopes to see you all again.

On Kauai, Business Agent Ana Tuiasosopo received lots of help with this year’s picnic from 18-year member Kekane Pa, 17-year member Dennis Wong, his wife, Cheryl, and three-year member Calvin Dole, who flew in from Honolulu.

Members enjoyed the great food and the raffle prizes – especially six-year member Jason “Moku” Blackstad, who won the grand-prize, a big-screen TV.

On Maui, picnic attendees were entertained by the Village People – or Business Agent Willie Greig and 24-year member Perry Artates, who impersonated the famous music group during the song “YMCA!”

There was also an entertaining contest for the Grand Poki chef. Member Keoki Brown was crowned this year’s Grand Poki King.

On Oahu, down the street from the Hall, Nordic PCL is building a warehouse for CVS Pharmacy. Other signatories on this job include Jayar and Bobby K Construction.

On the north shore high in Kahuku, signatory company RMT erected the first of 12 windmills. For more on this project, please see the story featured on pages 16 and 17. There may be 40 more windmills in Kawaiola in the future.

Mele Kalikimaka (merry Christmas) and Hauoli Makahiki Hou (happy new year)!

Member Tom Fried checks the ditch depth for a trencher in Winnemucca.
Out and about in District 50

Roadwork continues in District 50 with Glen Wells Construction on Avenue 384 and Hayden Construction on Avenue 12.

Despite the cooler season, members stay busy replacing equipment at Vulcan Materials’ “hot” plant.

In Lemon Cove, members Richard Brewer, Jared Dyer, Raymond Parris, David Ewing and Larry Merriott are also getting some hours.

The District 50 staff wishes you and yours a happy holiday.

From left: Larry McDonough with General Crane and Serge Bomhard with Vulcan Materials.

Upgrade training, certifications make you more marketable

As we look back on the work season, there were a lot of jobs that required Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cards. As we called for dispatches, many members didn’t know they needed these certifications to work. The training site will be offering these classes this winter, so check with the Hall, your business agent and the Engineers News for class dates. Take advantage of your time off to learn to run other equipment and upgrade your training. Most employers look for operators who can run multiple pieces of equipment. Journey-level-upgrade training is a way to make you more valuable when it comes time to negotiate contracts with employers, because they see that the union has the skilled people they need.

Speaking of contracts, many are up for negotiation in the new year. As you talk to each other on and off the job, think about what needs to be addressed in negotiations. Talk to your business agent about any concerns or suggestions.

As members, we need to explain to our friends, neighbors and family members how being a union member has made our lives better. We live with dignity knowing we have a Pension, health care for our families and protected working conditions. We must be united as one and look after our jobs and our fellow brothers and sisters. United we stand, divided we fall.

On to the work picture:

As members, we need to explain to our friends, neighbors and family members how being a union member has made our lives better. We live with dignity knowing we have a Pension, health care for our families and protected working conditions. We must be united as one and look after our jobs and our fellow brothers and sisters. United we stand, divided we fall.

On to the work picture:

Ames Construction is working on I-15 and Murdock Canal in Utah County, and Copper Hills Constructors is working on the Mountain View corridor on the west side of Salt Lake Valley.

The Ruby Pipeline is still going strong. Abercrombie is on the Apex Pipeline and will start up around April.

District 12 will be holding a food drive again this year to help those in need. Many union families in Utah are struggling and need our help. The food you donate will be delivered to the Union Labor Center.

Please bring non-perishable items to the Hall or give them to your business agent as soon as possible to help those families in need.

The District 12 staff wishes you and yours a happy holiday season!

Big money for fish screens in Red Bluff

Winter is here, and with the late start this year, District 70 hopes all of our members were able to get the hours they needed. Remember to keep your registration on the out-of-work list current. Register every 84 days to avoid falling off the list.

District 70 thanks the volunteers for their support in all the phone banking and precinct walking leading up to last month’s election. As usual, we received lots of help from our retirees; they are always there when we need them.

Regarding the work picture: Tullis, Inc. picked up about $6.7 million worth of work in October. J.F. Shea picked up about $18 million worth of work, is finishing the Oasis Road to the I-5 on-ramp and completed the Hwy. 44 project ahead of schedule. Steve Manning Construction is winding down from a good season, and Balfour Beatty is getting off to a good start on a $67 million project on the Red Bluff fish screens, with help from DeSilva Gates and Meyers Earthwork.

With the ratification of the Northern California Master Agreement and our Unit 12 contract signed, we look forward to the new year starting off well with a focus on improving the work picture and getting our members good hours. Remember: You are our eyes and ears out there; we need to make sure we have Operating Engineers on our covered work, since only work hours will solve our economic crisis. If you see other crafts on our equipment, call the Hall.

Redding District 70 wishes you and yours a great holiday season.
District 90 extends a big thank you to all the volunteers who came out to phone bank and precinct walk for the past election. Your efforts were greatly appreciated by Local 3 and the labor-friendly candidates we supported.

District 90 would also like to thank the committee members who worked diligently on all the contracts that hit our district this year. Without the help of our membership in these hard economic times, Local 3 couldn’t negotiate as efficiently as is necessary to get a contract that benefits both sides.

Please don’t forget to come to your Morgan Hill District meetings, as these are a great way to stay informed on what is going on in your union and speak on important issues. Remember: It is not the staff’s union or your union – it is our union, and together we will stay strong.

As the year ends, some projects are still underway: J.J. Albanese moved dirt on the $15 million Gilroy library, with Associated Engineering doing the surveying and Smith-Emery handling the testing and inspection. Sarott Construction is working on the $5.5 million influent pump station in Gilroy. Top Grade Construction has the final grading and paving on the Tenant Road overcrossing in Morgan Hill. Granite Construction is finishing the Hwy. 156 and Hwy. 25 asphalt-overlay projects in San Benito County and the $30 million Hwy. 101 asphalt overlay. Pacific Underground is replacing sewer lines, backfilling and paving on Water Street in Santa Cruz. Mountain Cascade is performing the same work on the storm and sewer drains in Aptos and Soquel. RWG is the apparent low bidder on the $30 million Hwy. 101 expansion between Tully Road and Capitol Expressway in San Jose, due to start soon. Galeb Paving is working on the Madrone Landfill closure, adding biking and hiking trails in the Coyote Creek Parkway alongside Hwy. 101 in South County. Appian Engineering is doing the site work on the new Safeway store in Los Gatos, along with a new concert hall at Valley Christian High School in San Jose. Don Tucker and Sons is doing the dirt excavation on new storage facilities in Los Gatos.

With the holidays here, we all need to be thankful for the important things in our lives, such as family, friends and continued good health. We should look forward to a prosperous new year ahead and stay focused on our goals. Merry Christmas and happy New Year’s from all of us at the District 90 Morgan Hill office.

Dutra gets go-ahead for asphalt plant

Work is in high gear on Hwy. 101 through Sonoma County. Ghilotti Brothers and R.M. Harris continue to work from Wilfred Avenue to the Rohnert Park Expressway. Part of the new overpass is complete with the goal of opening it soon.

Northbay; Ghilotti Construction and Gordon N. Ball continue working on Hwy. 101 from the Rohnert Park Expressway south to Pepper Road, just north of Petaluma. Caltrans should be ready to let bid the widening of Hwy. 101/Pepper Road to Petaluma Boulevard north sometime in the spring. O.C. Jones completed the Hwy. 101 widening from Steele Lane in Santa Rosa to the downtown Windsor exit. Caltrans should be ready to let bid the Airport Boulevard overcrossing off Hwy. 101 in the spring. The job will involve widening the freeway overpass and on/off-ramp improvements, which are about 25 years overdue.

Future work on Hwy. 101 also looks good. The Sonoma County Transit Authority (SCTA) continues to allocate Measure M tax monies toward future projects. In the design phase (including right-of-way purchasing) are the Hwy. 101 Sonoma narrows project and the Petaluma River Bridge project. Both will extend and widen Hwy. 101 from Petaluma Boulevard north to just south of the Petaluma River. These two projects are estimated at $190 million, which includes an estimated $12 million for right-of-way and pre-construction activities. Design work is 35 percent done on the highway-widening portion and 95 percent done on the Petaluma River Bridge. The SCTA is seeking federal-funding opportunities for these projects. President Barack Obama has proposed a $50 billion spending plan for transportation. If these projects were funded now, they could be ready for bid in 12 to 18 months.

Other work around District 10: Argonaut Construction is installing a reclaimed waste-water pipeline on Occidental Road in Santa Rosa and has a crew working off Sonoma Avenue performing sewer and water upgrades. Argonaut also continues to move along on Hwy. 116 between Petaluma and Sonoma. Ghilotti Construction is doing site work for the new Sutter Hospital off Mark West Springs Road in Santa Rosa. The company is currently building a surcharge pad (60,000 cubic yards of imported fill) to compact the building site. Ghilotti is also widening Hearns Avenue at the railroad tracks.

In Lake County, Granite Construction finished overlaying Hwy. 29 between Lakeport and Upper Lake, finished the Soda Bay road realignment near the casino in Kelseyville and is working at the Elem Indian Colony near Clear Lake Oaks.

Alta Gas wants to build an electrical-generation wind farm on Walker Ridge between Lake and Colusa counties near the Indian Valley Reservoir. If everything goes well, this job will be all-union with a Project Labor Agreement (PLA).

In Sonoma County, Dutra Materials received good news from the Board of Supervisors – the go-ahead on plans for a new asphalt plant south of Petaluma along the river. This has been five years in the planning and had major opposition from environmental groups in the county. District Rep. Chris Snyder was quoted in the Press Democrat, calling for what we all need: “Jobs. Jobs. Jobs.” The project passed with a 3-2 vote and hopefully will proceed soon.

This success is just another example of what happens when working people get together for the same cause. District 10 recently did just this, while precinct-walking for George Steffensen for school board and David Rabitt for supervisor. District staff and members also participated in the Rally for Jobs at the Petaluma City Council regarding North Bay’s Roblar Road project.

Happy holidays from District 10 to you.
Next year will begin with Nehemiah Construction working on the $30.5 million two-lane bridge in Sutter County. This project will provide four lanes to northbound traffic and overlay the existing bridge for the south-lane traffic near Nicolaus from Power Line Road to south of Laurel Avenue.

At the time of this writing, Teichert Construction is working on the new Yuba College project and will be a subcontractor for Magnus Pacific on the $7.5 million fourth phase of the Three Rivers/Yuba River south/upper Yuba levee-improvement job. Most of this project will begin in 2011.

Mountain Cascade's $818 million fish screen at the end of Sankey Road in Sutter County is going strong and should finish in 2013.

Knife River has various projects throughout the district. Be sure to check the job board in the Hall or call Dispatcher Danny Roles for more information.

### Burlingame

**828 Mahler Road, Suite B, Burlingame, CA 94010 • (650) 652-7969**

### Work on horizon for Marin County

The stream of multi-million-dollar and billion-dollar projects in San Francisco continues. Work is underway on the Transbay Terminal with Webcor and EBI, where a box will be constructed for the arrival of high-speed rail. At San Francisco General Hospital, Weiler, A&B Construction and Malcolm Drilling continue with mass excavation and shoring. Site work started at the new UCSF Medical Center at Mission with DPR, O.C. Jones and NTK. At Doyle Drive, C.C. Myers and R&L Brosamer are making progress on the elevated roadway cut and-out-cover tunnel, respectively.

At the new San Francisco Oakland Bay Bridge, C.C. Myers completed the foundation and columns for the elevated transition section that will carry traffic between the Yerba Buena Island tunnel and the self-anchoring-suspension section. MCM started driving pile at the transition-section abutment and will construct decks that will sit on top of the columns. On the self-anchoring-suspension section, Joint Venture (JV) American Bridge/Flour continue with the second of three lifts on the support tower and deck-section placement.

The next mega project to start will be excavations for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Central Subway project, which will extend the Third Street light-rail line from the existing Caltrain station on Fourth Street and go underground at Harrison, with new stations at Moscone, Union Square, Market Street and Chinatown (Washington at Stockton).

After clearing political hurdles, developments at Hunters Point Shipyard and Treasure Island will promise years of work for Operating Engineers.

Thank you to all who walked the picket line in Mission Bay to protest a non-union testing and inspection contractor on an otherwise union job. You kept San Francisco a union town. The line was respected by all crafts and their agents. By 3 p.m. on the day of the picket, the general contractor was negotiating with signatories. The company signed the contract a few days later.

The Yuba City District staff thanks everyone who volunteered to phone bank for the last election.

We want to remind all members to get on the out-of-work list as soon as you’re laid-off. For those interested in going to work on the Ruby Pipeline, be sure to get on Nevada’s and Utah’s out-of-work list. It’s important to update your registration before the 84th day, so you don’t fall off the list.

Take advantage of District 60’s training opportunities by signing up for the following classes:

- Signalperson and Rigger Certification
- Operator Qualification (OQ) Pipeline Certification
- Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) Part 48
- First Aid/CPR
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10 (required for all members to work in Nevada)

We hope everyone has a great holiday. Remember to work safely!
DISTRICT MEETINGS
All meetings convene at 7 p.m.

DECEMBER 2010

1st District 04: Suisun City
King Kamehameha
Kona Beach Hotel
75-5660 Palani Road

FEBRUARY 2011
No meetings scheduled.

JANUARY 2011

1st District 17: Kona
Maui Beach Hotel
170 Kaahumanu Ave.
Kahului

DECEMBER 2010

24th District 12: Salt Lake City
1290 Corporate Blvd.

1st District 40: Eureka
427 Main St.
Veterans’ Memorial Building

JANUARY 2011

7th District 11: Reno
Operating Engineers’ Building
1290 Corporate Blvd.

3rd District 60: Oroville
20308 Engineers Lane
Operating Engineers’ Building

8th District 12: Salt Lake City
IBEW Local 354
3400 W. 2100 S.

JANUARY 2011
No meetings scheduled.

FEBRUARY 2011

1st District 04: Suisun City
Veterans’ Memorial Building
427 Main St.

1st District 40: Eureka
427 Main St.
Veterans’ Memorial Building

IBEW Local 354
3400 W. 2100 S.

Election of Market and Geographic Area Committee Members

Business Manager Russ Burns has announced that the election of Market and Geographic Area Committee members will take place at each district’s regularly scheduled district meeting, except for Hawaii, during the first quarter of 2011, with eligibility rules as follows:

- Must be a member in good standing of the parent local
- Must be living in the committee’s geographic area
- Must be working/making a living in the industry in that area
- Must be an “A” journey-level operator
- Cannot be an owner-operator
- No member will be nominated unless she/he is present at the meeting and will accept the nomination and position, if elected
- No member is allowed to serve more than two consecutive terms on the Market and Geographic Area Committees

The schedule of the meetings at which these elections will be held appears on this page under “District Meetings.”

2011 Political Action and Grievance Committee Election

Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan has announced that in accordance with Article X, Section 10 of the Local Union Bylaws, the election of Political Action and Grievance Committees will take place at the first regular quarterly district meeting of 2011.

The schedule of meetings at which these elections will be held appears on this page under “District Meetings.”

Service pins

In honor and remembrance of years of service in Local 3, service pins are available to members with 25 or more years of membership in Local 3. These pins come in five-year increments from 25 through 70 years of service. Please contact your district office to receive your pins.

A gallery of some pin recipients is available online at www.oe3.org. Stay tuned for a pin spread of recently awarded recipients in an upcoming Engineers News.

Long-time member, staffer retires

On Oct. 1, a Local 3 legend retired, and if you ever had any interactions with him, you never forgot him.

A member since 1979, Retiree Bob Miller began his career as a heavy equipment operator. He was hired by former business manager Tom Stapleton as a business representative 10 years later in the Rohnert Park District. Three years later, he became the district representative there. He then served as a special representative in charge of the union’s Construction Organizing Membership Education Training (COMET) program beginning in 1995. He was promoted to organizing director in August 1996.

Miller served as Local 3’s treasurer from January 2000 until Nov. 5, 2001 when he was sworn in as Local 3’s vice president. In November 2003, he was sworn in as president and served in that capacity until 2006, when he became the director of special operations for Local 3 until his retirement.

He will be missed, not so much for the titles he held (there were many) but for the tenacity and grit he brought to every one of them. Whether walking a picket line, negotiating a tough contract, organizing a company or building a ballpark, Miller gave his all and expected those around him to do the same. Many remember his presence during the more-than-year-long Valley Power strike in San Leandro. Others remember his successful organizing campaigns.

Regardless of what capacity, he touched the lives of Local 3 members and staff, and he will continue to do so, since $3,454 was donated to the Local 3 Scholarship Fund on Miller’s behalf.

He was honored at a recent retirement ceremony in Fairfield, Calif.

Correction:

Apprentice Craig Swan is from the Oakland District.

Unit 12 member Wesley Lewis spoke at the recent Safety Stand Down about Caltrans’ SAIN program.
Dear brothers and sisters:

As you all know, our local union is large and encompasses four large states. All official union business, including the nomination and election for union-wide officers, bylaws, elections and Political Action Committee (PAC) delegates, will be conducted at locations close to the main district office in your specific home area. As a result of the large geographic jurisdiction of Local 3, the business manager can, at his discretion, establish subcommittees. Business Manager Russ Burns has currently authorized four subcommittees to be located in Elko, Nev., Hilo, Hawaii, Kauai, Hawaii and Maui, Hawaii. These subcommittees will have their own PAC to deal with local concerns. Please note: The payment of dues for subcommittee PAC members will be at the discretion of the business manager. If you are interested in becoming a PAC member, the business manager strongly encourages you to attend your first-quarter district or subcommittee meeting (these meetings are listed on page 24) so that you may be nominated and then elected.

Fraternally yours,

Jim Sullivan,
Recording- Corresponding Secretary

Honorary Membership

The following retirees have 35 or more years of membership in Local 3 as of October and have been determined eligible for Honorary Membership effective Jan. 1, 2011, unless otherwise noted.

Patrick Adolph 1624129 District 17: Hawaii
Alfred A. Anderson 1133376 District 17: Hawaii
Paulino Batangan 1523961 District 20: Oakland
Randy Branaugh* 1634743 District 30: Stockton
Thomas R. Brown 1584166 District 30: Stockton
Glenn Buckner 1164788 District 30: Stockton
Rolando Ceon 1924878 District 30: Stockton
Grant D.K. Davidson 1578409 District 30: Stockton
Jesse S. Enos Jr. 1137747 District 30: Stockton
Norman Forgey 16584166 District 30: Stockton
Leonard C. Hannemann 1609828 District 30: Stockton
David Hendrix 1666101 District 30: Stockton
Pamela E. Lawrence 1629525 District 30: Stockton
Charles Loftis 1087549 District 30: Stockton
Albert D. McConnell 1637811 District 30: Stockton
Garrey L. Moser 1372950 District 30: Stockton
Thomas B. Mullaley 1456371 District 30: Stockton
George Schmidt 2005577 District 30: Stockton
Clyde R. Schnoor 1277923 District 30: Stockton
Wayne E. Terbell 1219713 District 30: Stockton

* Effective April 1, 2010

DEPARTED MEMBERS

Amann, Patrick Salinas, CA District 90 09-26-10
Anders, Don Spokane, WA District 99 09-19-10
Borrelli, Charles Pinole, CA District 80 09-27-10
Brown, Paul Salt Lake City, UT District 12 09-25-10
Bruce, Wilbur Carmichael, CA District 80 09-27-10
Comella, Dante Vallejo, CA District 04 09-06-10
Danner, Fred Fort Bragg, CA District 10 09-18-10
Dilloughery, Kevin Santa Cruz, CA District 90 09-11-10
Donahue, Edwin Cottonwood, CA District 70 09-23-10
Earnshaw, William Santa Rosa, CA District 10 09-09-10
Fann, Gerald Manteca, CA District 30 09-19-10
Ford, Cecil Stockton, CA District 30 08-31-10
Hanawahine, Joseph Waimanalo, HI District 17 09-14-10
Hancock, Dick Ferron, UT District 12 08-20-10
Johnson, Dennis San Jose, CA District 90 08-07-10
Kekahuna, Isaac Waikoloa, HI District 17 10-03-10
Kekona, Peter Sr. Wailuku, HI District 17 08-31-10
Kinne, Larry Stirling City, CA District 60 09-05-10
Koma, Jacob Hanalei, HI District 17 09-13-10
Massone, Guido Concord, CA District 20 08-29-10
McCaleb, Ashley Redding, CA District 70 08-30-10
McMaster, William Sparks, NV District 11 10-05-10
McQuillan, Harold Sacramento, CA District 80 09-27-10
Mertz, Jack Reno, NV District 11 09-25-10
Middleton, Lee Riverbank, CA District 30 09-18-10
O’Connor, Michael Palmdale, CA District 99 09-03-10
Parker, Basil Bay Springs, MS District 99 06-25-10
Portlock, Douglas Redwood Valley, CA District 10 09-17-10
Rasmussen, Lee Sebastopol, CA District 10 09-02-10
Ruell, Jonathan Madera, CA District 50 08-28-10
Solis, Dan Springville, UT District 12 08-31-10
Titeca, Leon Lebanon, OR District 99 08-25-10
Trudeau, Lee Cottage Grove, OR District 99 09-14-10
Turner, Joseph Danville, CA District 20 10-02-10
Waters, Ron Santa Rosa, CA District 10 09-17-10
Whipkey, Gary Coos Bay, OR District 99 08-19-10
Whitmire, Allen Fremont, CA District 20 09-01-10
Wimmer, Steve Orland, CA District 60 09-21-10

DECEASED DEPENDENTS

Britton, Helen. Wife of Britton, Harry (dec) 08-24-10
Giusti, Eda. Wife of Giusti, Paul (dec) 09-06-10
Heaps, Edith. Wife of Heaps, Van A. (dec) 09-15-10
Mendez, Jean. Wife of Mendez, Philip 09-24-10
Pedro, Charlotte. Wife of Pedro, Lindberg Jr. (dec) 09-18-10
Perrymen, Betty. Wife of Perrymen, Dan (dec) 09-24-10
Pusch, Mary. Wife of Pusch, William (dec) 08-31-10
Shinsato, Masako. Wife of Shinsato, Richard (dec) 08-12-10
Telford, Alice. Wife of Telford, Fred 09-14-10
Thompson, Celia. Wife of Thompson, Willard (dec) 09-22-10
Tipton, Mary. Wife of Tipton, Bert 07-31-10
Wallevand, Delores. Wife of Wallevand, Glen (dec) 09-10-10
Welton, Alice. Ex-wife of Welton, Michael P 09-05-10

Meeting & Announcements

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Honoring membership service

Business Manager Russ Burns, the Officers and Executive Board congratulate the following members with 51 years and more of membership. Local 3 also has 3,559 35-year Honorary Members with gold cards and about 238 members who will receive a 50-year timepiece next year. Our 50-year members will be announced in the July 2011 Engineers News. Operating Engineers Local 3 wishes all of its members and their families a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

51 YEARS

Charles Alexander
Claude V. Alston
Scott Allen
Cleo Almond
Gary G. Anderson
Lark D. Anderson
Odell B. Anderson
Prentice Andrews
John J. Anthony
Don W. Armstrong
Jack Arnold
Eddie L. Ashcraft
James Audrain
Rafael Avila
Jean P. Barbier
Boyid L. Barney
Vernon Baumbach
Richard Belden
John Bengston
Vic Berriochoa
Kelly Blevins
Phillip Bortolussi
William Bossert
Gerald Boyle Jr.
Larry E. Brown
Bill Brewer
Manuel De Freitas
Maurice Darrigrand
Adolf Cruz
John Cripe
Tony Coyle
Walter Gellen
Thomas E. Gilbert
Lawrence Giraudo
John Gomes
Adam Gonzalez
Lester Gunn
J. T. Haines
Bill Hanks
Orin B. Hatch
Dan Hawkins
Russ Hayes
Howard L. Herrington
Harry Hillen
Alva Holford
Paul Holt
Edward Hookano
Cy Houghton
Thomas W. Huntington
Edward H. Husmann
Herman Iaeda
Roy F. Ithoi
Theodore Jamison
John A. Jaquysh
George Jenkins
William D. Johns
G. Duane Johnson
Harold L. Jones
Ken Jones
Toshio Kajura
James N. Kanaano
Paul Knappenger
Wendell Kochis
Melvin W. Kruisheke
Don Lankford
George A. Lema
Max Lennon
J. Don Long
Candelario Lopez
Charles R. Lundgren
Richard Manske
Ysidro Mariscal Sr.
Ralph Martinez
Richard T. Martinez
Virgil McAlexander
Joe McCrory
Robert McDonald
Manuel R. Mejia
Jim Meyers
Ronald C. Miller
Rudy Minjares
Robert Mongolo
Raymond Morin
Emilio Navarita
Esmenio Nelmda
A. Carlyle Nelson
Clyde Nielson
Jack K. Ogden
Stewart Orchard
David Osborne
Bryce H. Owen
Gordon L. Pace
John F. Parker
Guilio F. Pasquetti
Don Patters
Bill Porter
Donald L. Pruett
Larry L. Reddy
Orville Reitz
Robert F. Renfro
Jesse D. Ringer
Alvin R. Rita
Vincent Rodrigues Jr.
Daniel Sandoval
Ernest H. Schoenfeld
Dwain S. Scott
Robert Sheppard
Ronald Sickler
Robert Alan Slater
Harold D. Smith
Jerry R. Smith
Norman O. Smith
Elbern Sorensen
Mark D. Sorenson
George A. Sturm
Dick Taylor
Ron A. Terry
Johnny W. Tiner
Ken Tronstad
Harold I. Veerkamp
Jim Vega
Clifford G. Wadsworth
Luther Walker
William Waters
Garin E. Watson
Myron Weber
Uluis Whiflen
Aubrey J. White
Harold H. White
Ray Whitle
Russ Wilson
Paul B. Wise
Richard A. Wise
Joe Woodard
Bob L. Wright
Salvato Bommarito
Richard Boune
Bob Bowden
Grover L. Bowman
Jerry Brazil
Francis Bristow
Boyd L. Brown
Curtis Brown
Ron M. Bryan
Paul Bunten
Lynn Checketts
Don Colburn
Norman Cossairt
Anthony Costa
Charlie W. Crane
Kenneth Cumming
Elzie Cyphert
James Dale
Bill L. Dalton
Donald M. Davis
Nick Demianew
Edd Dempsay
Edward Derby
William J. Derrick
Frank J. Dipuma
Frank Dorr
Virgil Dryden
Kenneth Duran
Carl R. Edmondson
Marvin Edwards
Samuel Eidson
James W. Every
Victor Eyheralde
Joe Frank
Alfred Free
Harry C. Freeman
Patrick A. Furnish
Herman Gaither
Paul Garcia
Stephen Gilbert
Frank F. Gomes
Alton J. Gordon
Frank H. Goullete
David E. Gray
Kenneth Green
Allen R. Greenhow
Gilmor Griffith
Eugene Hall
Keith Hamilton
Kenneth G. Hamnes
Robert Harvey
Wesley Hay
Thomas Hite
Holman Jacobson
Duane Hope
James C. Houston
Floyd G. Houx
Thomas G. Hubbard
Felix Iturraan
Bob Jackson
Milton Jackson
Harry Johnson
John E. Jones
Steve C. Jones
John S. Kerr
Louis Kinca
Allan L. Kotre
Edward R. Kozacek
David Kuykendall
Mederic Lachapelle
James Lafond
Gary Lanterman
Alfred Larsen
Elmer E. Lathrop
Harris Lawler
William J. Leach
John C. Lesher
Cecil E. Lewelling
Antonio Luevanoastil
Clifford C. Luzier
Wayne Marvin
Roy McEntire
Richard McDougald
F. Layne McNally Jr.
Robert Miles
Glendon Mills
Frank Milovina
Ray A. Mokiao
Charles M. Moller
James R. Montelbetti
Peter Musachia
Esmenio Nelmda
Lowry Olsen
Harlan Olson
William D. Oren
Andy Paisley
Charles Pennington
Leonard Pereira
Le Roy Pereira
Charles O. Phillips
Wayne D. Poole
Bill Post
William L. Preston
Royce Propp
Daniel Quadros
Gino Quilici
Tom Raftrey
Robert E. Ranney
Robert L. Richards
Rudolph Rivas
Ronald Rocha
Anthony Rodrigues
Chester Rudisill
Eldon A. Rummel
Mel J. Sackett
Margari Sanchez
Gene Scarberry
Paul Schissler
Gary Schmidt
Carlos Serpa
Guy Slack Jr.
Larry J. Smith
Emil Soljack
Jonathan Southwick
Frank Souza
Richard Streek

52 YEARS

Sam Aguirre
Gordon Akuna
John B. Amuechastegui
Fred W. Anderson
G. Robert Anderson
L.D. Anderson
James J. Andrede
F.B. Archer Jr.
Martin K. Archuleta Jr.
S. Atkinson
Russell Babcock
William Bachman
Earl E. Banta
John L. Barnard
Leon Barnett
Martin Baston
Jim Bean
Elwood Beckman
Herman Bertolini
Norman G. Blair
Andrew Bodine

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MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
Robert P. Gallow
Frank A. Genoni
Clyde J. German
Marvin J. Grana
Richard R. Hallett
T. Hawkins
Yual L. Harmon
Paul Jimmie C. Hilton
Russell H. Hutchinson
Edward Jones
Arthur Junqueiro
J.C. Kelly
Dick Lake
Bill Lauderdale
Harold K. Lewis
Samuel Lucero
Lawrence Marsili
Blanko M. Markovich
Stanley C. Mattice
Jack R. Mauser
Robert McDonald
John R. McFadden
Arthur W. McPherson
Earl H. Moore
Bill D. Morgan
Norman L. Mueller
Jim C. Nugent
Marion Olsen
Clyde L. Olson
Pete Pearse
Patrick Peters
Jimmie W. Posey
Kenneth M. Pruett
Olen L. Ragdale
Natale Repetto
Ray Robbins
Edward J. Roberts
William N. Rogers
Eugene Ross
Bruno Scatena
William E. Smets
James Sobrero
William N. Stanley
Howard P. Thomas
Wilford Tueller
George M. Vandenberg
Paul Vansteenbergh
Jessy Vincent
James H. Wallace
Chuck Walsh
Robert M. Warman
Harold “Jack” White
Marvin L. White
Billy Williams
Donald E. Wycoff

59 YEARS
Alfred Alviso
Le Arnett
Oliver Ashworth
Billy J. Austin
Everett Beckwith
Milton Birkhahn
Raymond Bond
Harold Brackett
Ronald Burns
Tom Butterfield
Silvester H. Cervantes Jr.
Randall Chisholm
Don T. Christensen
George O. Clough
Tom Butterfield
Manuel Contreras
Arnold Cook
Donald Cooper
Eddie Cox
Travis Crain
W.M. Crum
Charles B. Cunningham
Don Cushman
M.L. Darrough
Loyd A. Davidson
Byron Deleeuw
Fred Freitas
Robert P. Gallow
Frank Genoni
Philipp Hanson
Herbert Hooper
Harold Humphers
Roy A. Ickes
George Jacobs
E.C. Jarvis
Claude C. Jordan
Frank Knemoller
Henry Little
Charles Lucchetti
Elmo V. Maggiora
Edwin H. Matlock
Floyd McMclmone Jr.
Leslie Mears
Mike Mccoa
Donald A. Medford
Robert L. Miller
Donald Mitchell
Attilio Molinari
Roy Moore
Derl Olsen
Milton Pearce
Charles Pedro
Edward Petschauer
Clyde W. Pitts
Clement Sala
Gene H. Scott
John Small
James M. Smallin
Jay C. Sulser
Robert P. Theron
George Varozza
Jessy Vincent
Carl Wellman

60 YEARS
Dyle Adams
James Aldax Jr.
George Azevedo
Ernest Bean
Fred Beneaekte
Arnold Boehm
Griff Boneayes Jr.
Ernest Brooks
Clifford Campbell
Joe Correia
William Daugherty
Don E. Davis
John Dorton
Boyd Dresser
Eugene Foster
Julian Fraser
Eric Glasgow
Glenn Hardy
L.W. Haaymond
M.D. Jeffries
James F. Johnson
C.A. Kissie
Donald Lebon
Charles Luke
Isaac Manley
Junior McKinney
Paul Menefee
Keith Milliron
Raymond Montevedi
Medford Montgomery
Roy D. Moore
Suddath Moore
Jack W. Morrison
Charles Page
Kenneth Palmer
Salvato Papetti
Alfred Perry
Henry Petersen Jr.
Frank Rees
Richard Rego
William Slagle
William G. Squibb
Layton Stephens
Eugene Vierra
Effraio Wall
Floyd Webb
Oliver Wilson
Don Wood
Ray Wymore

61 YEARS
Ronald D. Buchholz
Charles H. Carlton
Richard L. Davidson
William Evans
Tone D. Fife
Romeo Grasseschi
Clinton Green
Calvin Jolley
Leo J. King
Rex W. Matthews
James J. McNickle
Bud Nye
Eugene Peters
Duane Peterson
Raymond Piombo
Jack Powell
James H. Reynolds
Rex Roggisch
Jack Simmons
Fred Spaulding
Frank Stimac
Edward Swan
John Tabacco
Clay Thompson
William Tullis
Ernest Walker
Kenneth Williams

62 YEARS
Herbert Bailey
Dele Barney
Thomas Carter
William S. Conner
Vincent Delaney
Henry Gwynn
John Huiting
Harold Lane
Manuel Martinez
Henry Matoza Jr.
Keith D. Mayne
Robert S. Miller
Alvin B. Petrie
Pat F. Rice
Herb Sales
Joseph Sausedo
Troy Scharberry
Cly Shepard
Robert Skigdel
Leo Terry
John Thornton
Chester Turley
Rodolph Walters Jr.
Wayne E. Williams

63 YEARS
William Adams
Joseph Athenour
Robert Backingham
Pat Campbell
Charles Casarotti
Bert Charley
Anthony Costa
Wayne Desnoyer
M.J. Dunham
Albert Erickson
Ralph Farnham
T.L. Huff
Dean Hyder
Eugene Keeley
Peter B. Madrid
Edward McPherson
Vernon Mourer
Robert Romiti
Jack Silva
Richard Snow
Robert L. Spittler
Carl Straub
Frances Stubbs
Charles Vansiekle
Edward Vismara
Harry Welch
Nicholas Zaccagnino

64 YEARS
Robert Bothun
Arthur Cereda
Norris Casey
William Derby
Logan C. Elston
QuinCY Faunt
Frank Ferguson
Edward W. Gndig
James D. Grant
Edward Heame
Ben E. Hutcheson
Joe Isonio
James Johnson
Louis Kato
Lambert R. Kremsreiter
Roy Ledbetter
Storlin Lima
Martin Lovrin
Gilbert Machado
Dino J. Mencarini
Frank J. Miller
Russ W. Phillips
James P. Redd
Calvin Scolari
Robert Shields
Elbert Spalding
Dan S. Street
Albert N. Walker
Daniel Waters
R.L. Whitfield

65 YEARS
B.J. Elston
Celci Fritter
John Goulart
Sam C. Haley
Robert Montgomery
Robert Nichols
Lomme Pike
Harold Puckeylow
Alex Radke
Donald Stretitz

66 YEARS
John Bullock
Glenn Copher
Freeman Haas
Vern Lambert
Leroy E. Ruffin
Philip Speck

67 YEARS
Oscar Barnes
Wendell H. Crossland
Arthur Gilstrap
Leo Harrison
Harold Huston
Sidney Jones
Harold Malcolm
Woodrow Newton
Virgil Smoot
Edward Springer
Ivan Woodford

68 YEARS
Charles Aldredge
Edward Bettencourt
Harold Darewiti
Max Getz
Carrol Madsen
L.G. Mathews
Lloyd Northup
Merle Parker
Ishmael Sheets
J.M. Speyer

69 YEARS
Henry P. Gondola
Harry D. Smith

70 YEARS
Edwin Conner
Russell Swanson
John White

71 YEARS
Arnold Zehlne

74 YEARS
David V. Dickinson
Best Practices Committee helps trim the ‘fat’ from Health and Welfare Fund

By Jamie Johnston, associate editor

Local 3’s Health and Welfare Fund is taking its own advice and getting in better (financial) shape for the new year. But just like any good workout plan, the Fund is looking for ways to shed the weight (of heavy drug costs and hefty doctor bills) without skimping on the good stuff (like low co-pays, free prescription drugs and an array of doctors to choose from).

The Fund has enlisted help from the Best Practices Committee, a group of Local 3 labor leaders and employers committed to saving the Fund money. Members include Business Manager Russ Burns and President Fred Herschbach (the committee chair).

Here are a few ideas from the committee to tighten the California Health and Welfare Fund. Of course all ideas will be thoroughly researched before any change is adopted.

Detailed diagnostic imaging management services

Often times, when patients visit the doctor, they’re not exactly sure what they need – an X-ray or an MRI? A program that suggests certain procedures are done before others could help patients and save the Fund money, because members would receive a less-invasive, less-expensive procedure first, and a more in-depth, more-costly procedure only if necessary.

Possible savings: $424,000 to $715,000 per year

Step-therapy drug program

Similar to the program explained above, a step-therapy program suggests certain medications be taken before others, making treatment safer for the patient and more cost-effective for the Plan.

For example, if a member requests a name-brand drug seen on TV, the program would suggest a generic, milder version of it first. Of course, if the first-step medication does not work, a Plan participant would be able to request the next level until he or she finds one that works.

Please note: Patients already taking a name-brand drug would be grandfathered into the plan.

Possible savings: $760,000 per year

Prescription drug standards

Prescription drugs cost the Fund a lot of money every year, which is fine if they’re used, but wasteful if they’re not, and according to statistics, 50 percent to 80 percent of prescriptions aren’t. Two factors that cause this are the quantity prescribed and the date that a patient can refill a prescription.

For example, a member may receive a 90-day supply of a specific drug, but after 30 days, decides to change medications, leaving 60 days’ worth of an old prescription that was paid for but will not be used. If less drugs were initially prescribed, the waste would be lessened.

In another scenario, a member who has a 90-day supply can refill his or her order after only 45 days. If this continues, the supply outweighs the need. Prolonging the reorder date would prevent this from happening. This is especially important for higher-priced, specialty drugs.

Possible savings: 8900,000 to $1.2 million per year

Rewards for healthy living

Many health conditions can be prevented, and the committee has been looking at ways to reward Plan participants who have healthy lifestyle habits, like not smoking, exercising regularly or refraining from alcohol.

Possible savings: Unknown until it goes into effect, as it depends on the number of people who take advantage of the program.

We want you to weigh in!

How do you think we can trim down our health-care costs? E-mail us at jjohnston@oe3.org and let us know what you think.

From left: Employer trustees Kevin Albanese and John Humber, President Fred Herschbach, Vice President Carl Goff, Business Manager Russ Burns, Financial Secretary Dan Reding, Union Trustee Justin Distan, Employer Trustee Austris Rungis and Union Trustee Ken Oku attend the Best Practices Committee’s last meeting.

FOR SALE: Clean, well-kept, 2 bed/1 1/2 bath mobile home in Mobile Valley. Fenced yard, shed, covered parking, RV parking. Close to stores and hospital. $40,000. (928) 704-5199. Reg# 0796005.

FOR SALE: 1989 Prowler for sale or trade of personal items and/or real estate. Please notify the office immediately if your item has been sold. Business-related offerings are not eligible for inclusion in Swap Shop. Engineers News reserves the right to edit ads. Deadline 1st of the month. Limit two ads per issue.


FOR SALE: Clean, well-kept, 2 bed/1 1/2 bath mobile home in Mobile Valley. Fenced yard, shed, covered parking, RV parking. Close to stores and hospital. $40,000. (928) 704-5199. Reg# 0796005.


FOR SALE: 2001 TTH Yamaha 125. Has between 60 and 90 hours on motor. $1,000 OBO. (559) 291-6110. Reg# 0815041.


When 15-year member Gordon Clegg called *Engineers News*, it seemed he just wanted to discuss a shirt he really liked: A one-of-a-kind, American-made, "hickory-striped shirt" that's "amply cut," "heavy-duty," "like the kind railroad engineers wore," “perfect for members.”

We weren't sure of his point. Would we write an article on a shirt? As we talked more with Clegg and later interviewed him at the fall Semi-Annual, we learned that his point ran much deeper than fashion.

For Clegg, the shirt symbolizes loyalty to middle-class America and everything it stands for, or at least used to stand for. Today, Clegg believes we have gotten complacent and forgotten what "American made" actually means.

Clegg was born in the Bay Area, but as a surveyor and a "wander-lust kid," he traveled wherever the work was, living in Virginia, Michigan, Colorado and New Hampshire. His great-grandfather was also a traveler, sailing into the Bay from Norway as a tugboat captain.

When Clegg's son was born in 1995, he returned to the Bay Area, still following the work and living by his father's union values – "If you worked, you were union." Clegg joined Local 3 in 1996.

But for Clegg, being union is more than a title, more than an aspect of one's profession. Union is a philosophy deeply woven within him like the heavy stitching of the hickory-striped shirt he is so fond of. And yet, Clegg fears that many have lost sight of what “American made” actually means.

Clegg also recalls what the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) did to our wages and our jobs in 1994. A year later, with the birth of his son, buying American-made products became all that more important to him.

"Now, you almost can't find American-made stuff. I'll pay double the price for it, knowing that I'm benefiting myself as a union worker and other Americans. … As union workers, we should want to support one another. … We have to take back America for working people – it's not too late. If we care enough, we can change our thinking. Otherwise, this country will continue outsourcing. How can we ever compete?"

Clegg is clearly not shy about his stance. When he first joined the union, he made a stink about the ballcaps being sold at the district offices – not all were union-made. Today, they are.

According to Clegg, who has not bought a new shirt in five years besides the hickory-striped one, “We need to demand politicians make laws to favor the American worker; we need to make a statement with our behavior.”

For Clegg, the statement begins with the shirt he found at Rivendell Bicycle Works in Walnut Creek, Calif.: "If you worked, you were union. … If you worked, you were union." Clegg joined Local 3 in 1996.

But for Clegg, being union is more than a title, more than an aspect of one's profession. Union is a philosophy deeply woven within him like the heavy stitching of the hickory-striped shirt he is so fond of. And yet, Clegg fears that many have lost sight of what union means. He contributes much of this to the decline in the middle-class economy, which he largely blames on the passage of Prop. 13, the initiative that limited property taxes and required a two-thirds majority vote on future tax increases.

"The state, the country's on a downside. … Our roads have gone from being the best to the worst. Why? Our tax base has eroded. Our middle class is extinct, eroded away with outsourcing.”

Clegg recalls a time when there was pride in American-made clothing. Products with the Made in the USA (MUSA) label were prevalent and affordable.

"Now, some kid in China is making the clothes everyone buys here, and we don’t think twice about it [buying them]," he said. “We buy from Wal-Mart, thinking we're saving money, but is it really cheaper?”

Clegg asks that we think about the “total cost” of this behavior and what it’s doing to our economy: “U.S. jobs lost, unemployment claims, public-assistance claims, lost tax revenue, etc. – all leading to our (shared) lower standard of living. … Twenty, 30 years ago, China was undeveloped. Today, it owns us.”

Clegg also recalls what the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) did to our wages and our jobs in 1994. A year later, with the birth of his son, buying American-made products became all that more important to him.

“Now, you almost can't find American-made stuff. I'll pay double the price for it, knowing that I'm benefiting myself as a union worker and other Americans. … As union workers, we should want to support one another. … We have to take back America for working people – it's not too late. If we care enough, we can change our thinking. Otherwise, this country will continue outsourcing. How can we ever compete?”

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For Clegg, the statement begins with the shirt he found at Rivendell Bicycle Works in Walnut Creek, Calif., but it can begin for you, right now.

To purchase a shirt like Clegg’s, visit rivbike.com and search for “railroad shirt.” For other union-made products, try your district office, visit Local 3’s website at www.oe3.org or view this month’s On the Lighter Side.

To change this country’s dynamics, buy American made. (These products also make great Christmas gifts!)