

ENGINEERS

NEWS

Vol. 70, #9

September 2012

Under Ophir

Pipeline project takes operators under I-80





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For The Good & Welfare

By Russ Burns, business manager

Let's get ready

I want to thank you all for the chance to serve a third term as your business manager. (The current group of officers and Trustees were unchallenged in this past internal election.) Leading this organization is an honor that none of us have ever taken lightly. When the Gold Ticket took over in 2006, we had to do some major house-cleaning, and we strived to become as transparent, accountable and accessible as possible. We continued to do that in the second term and pledge to maintain those policies in this term. (Note that the union's financial reports continue to be printed quarterly and are available this month on pages 4 and 5.)

I would be lying if I said it has been an easy run. We have faced one of the worst recessions in this country's history, and we are still dealing with the aftershock of the economic blow to our industry. But there has been improvement (you can see signs in this month's District Reports – dispatches are reportedly stronger than this time last year), and with Gov. Brown recently signing California's High-Speed Rail into action, at long last, we have a project we can really hang our hats and our hopes on.

As this project moves forward, I am proud of the time I spent serving on the High-Speed Rail Authority Board because this project is so important to our members. As I embark on a third term as your leader, I felt it was in the best interest of the membership of this great local that I step down from the board and direct my full attention on servicing the very members who will make this train a reality.

I can't help but think about the operators I worked with over the years while in the field as a crane operator (check out the story on one of our veteran crane operators on page 7) and others I helped when I was a business agent and district rep. As business manager, I am very involved in the actual

business of how this union is run, but don't think for a minute that I have forgotten the jobsites I worked on and the friendships I made when I sat in the seat. I always have our members' best interests in mind, as I did while serving on the board. I am proud to have played a part in this historical project. High-Speed Rail is going to change things for all of us.

Let's make sure we're ready for it. Keep your registration current on the out-of-work list and get as many credentials and take as many training courses as you can. For instance, there is a new Hazwoper refresher course available. The schedule can be found on the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTTC) page.

Another way to get ready is to ensure that pro-union politicians get elected to keep High-Speed Rail and other projects like it moving forward. The big General Election is in a few months (Nov. 6), so do your due diligence and vote union. Our union-wide endorsements will be available here and online at www.oe3.org in the months ahead. Besides the local races and the presidential election, the biggest item on the ballot is California's Proposition 32. If passed, this anti-union measure will literally handicap us all. Read about it on the back page and then *Vote NO on Prop. 32*.

As we head into fall, think about saving, if possible, for the slower season. Our Credit Union offers some great programs to help you along with reasonable loan rates and union-member benefits (see page 10).

Finally, please join me and the other officers as we get sworn-in at this month's Semi-Annual Event on Sept. 16. It will be held at Lake Clementia Park in Rancho Murieta. We'll also be welcoming International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) General President James T. Callahan as the meeting's keynote speaker. Hope to see you there.

Local 3 receives top labor honor

Less than a week after California Gov. Jerry Brown signed the historic bill approving initial construction of High-Speed Rail, Local 3 was recognized with the “Furthering the Vision of High-Speed Rail Award” at the recent California Labor Federation Solidarity Awards ceremony.

Political officials in attendance included Brown, U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis and Assemblymember Mary Hayashi.

“Secretary Solis gave an inspiring keynote speech, reminding us how important unions are in this country and to the people who are struggling day-to-day to survive,” Hayashi commented. “California’s decision to invest in our transportation system was the result of diverse advocates uniting under the goal to put people back to work.”

Other labor groups honored include the State Building and Construction Trades, the California-Nevada Conference of Operating Engineers and Operating Engineers Local 12.

Unemployment rate improves

According to the California Employment Development Department (EDD), statewide unemployment fell to 10.7 percent in June. This may be just a slight improvement, but any move in the right direction is a good sign, and with High-Speed Rail on track to get started, we hope this trend continues.

The *Mercury News* reported in late July that Santa Cruz County’s unemployment rate fell below 10 percent for the first time in four years. The *Sacramento Bee* reported that “even Sacramento’s lagging economy enjoyed its biggest jolt of hiring last month [June] since before the recession.” The *Lake County News* announced that the county has the lowest unemployment rate it’s seen in nearly three years.

Though not all counties saw their unemployment rates drop, the fact that California is improving as a whole is a good sign. (For an update on Hawaii’s, Nevada’s and Utah’s rates, see this month’s Financial Reports on pages 4-5.)



From left: Excavator Operator John Escobar removes a trench shield with help from Loader Operator Kawika TaVares.

Talking Points

By Fred Herschbach, president



You don’t know what you have until it’s gone

Aloha, brothers and sisters. At the time of this writing, Financial Secretary Dan Reding and I are in Hawaii negotiating the Hawaii Master Construction Agreement. We have a very good negotiating committee that includes Michael Brandt, Kalani Mahoe, Dan Luke and Kevin Costa from Oahu; Neil Azevedo from the Big Island; Buddy Victorino from Kauai; and Dwight Burns from Maui. Thanks to them all for their input.

Like most negotiations these days, this one has been difficult, but the employers are open and the members are strong, so hopefully we can come to a fair contract for both sides and move forward.

The Supreme Court upheld the health-care act, meaning the country can look forward to some positive changes in our expensive health-care system. I’m sure it will take a few years to shake things out, but we finally have a direction to go. Now, hopefully we can work with the government to make our Health and Welfare Plan more affordable for our members, so we can stop putting your wage allocation, or at least the majority of it, toward Health and Welfare.

As we all know, insurance companies have truly taken advantage of us along with drug providers, hospitals, doctors and just about any entity that has anything to do with health care. We officers are very diligent about how our Health and Welfare dollars are spent. For instance, all of our providers have been put on notice that we aren’t married to any of them, and they need to sharpen their pencils if they want to continue doing business with Local 3. The employer Trustees are all in agreement that with the money our members pay for health care, we should expect and demand top-shelf service. As Trustees, we spend a lot of time assessing the

Trust Funds to make the entire health-care process easier for everybody. We get ideas from the members quite often and research them to see if they can work. Some do, so please keep sending in your thoughts. Yours may be the one!

Also, please get involved in politics this year. We have a huge election on Nov. 6. I know that it seems like politics never stop, and that’s because it doesn’t for a construction union, especially for one that is our size, stretching across four states. Don’t be a stranger to your district office, because they need your name on the volunteer list during the next few months. Also, get us your e-mail address by e-mailing subscribe@oe3.org, so we can keep you informed on what is going on in the organization. We must come together to beat back the union-busting that is going on.

Other ways to stay current on politics and what’s ahead include reading your *Engineers News* and visiting our website at www.oe3.org. When you do visit our website, check out the link with the Local 3 logo that will take you to an online petition in support of our brothers and sisters who work for Graniterock. This company has forced its position on the membership by implementing its last, best and final offer that takes away their Pensioned Health and Welfare, union security and other conditions of employment. These members would certainly appreciate your support. You don’t know what you have until it’s gone.

A dear friend of mine and of labor, former senior business rep. and current Retiree Bruce Brumaghim from the Big Island, told me that the word “aloha” means hello and also goodbye. So, aloha from the great state of Hawaii, and see you in the field.

OEB FINANCIAL REPORTS

Second Quarter 2012 Financial Results

Our nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rose 1.5 percent during the second quarter of 2012, slightly lower than the revised first-quarter GDP growth rate of 2.0 percent. Financial difficulties in Europe's southern economies and moderating growth in China led to uncertainty in U.S. markets and a slowdown in business investment and consumer spending. Decreases in military spending and the winding down of most Federal Stimulus programs enacted in 2008 and 2009 further exasperated an already weak economic recovery. Despite these headwinds, both abroad and domestically, the U.S. economy continued to grow modestly. Most economists continue to expect similar restrained growth throughout the remainder of 2012.

As the economy slowed in the second quarter of 2012, so did job growth. Whereas first-quarter 2012 job growth registered a gain of 677,000 new jobs, only one-third of this total, or 225,000 new jobs, were generated during the second quarter of 2012. Of these jobs, 274,000 were created in the private sector, while the government sector lost 49,000. Job losses in the construction sector totaled 40,000. As a result of such anemic job growth, our nation's second-quarter 2012 unemployment rate remained unchanged from the first quarter of 2012 at 8.2 percent. On a year-over-year basis, the unemployment rate is down one full percentage point from June 2011's 9.2 percent rate. Within Local 3's jurisdiction, Nevada showed the most improvement in its unemployment rate, falling from 12.3 percent at the end of March 2012 to 11.6 percent at the end of June 2012. California's rate dipped slightly during the second quarter of 2012, from 10.9 percent to 10.7 percent, while Hawaii's and Utah's rates were unchanged during the quarter at 6.4 percent and 6.0 percent, respectively.

During the second quarter of 2012, Local 3's membership decreased by 315 members, resulting in a Year-To-Date (YTD) membership loss through June 2012 of 296 members or 0.85 percent. Total membership as of June 2012 stood at 34,486.

Financially, second-quarter 2012 results showed a loss of \$906,158 for the local. Revenues came in at \$9.2 million – a 0.4 percent increase over the same period in 2011. Expenses were \$10.1 million – up 5.6 percent from the second quarter of 2011. YTD through June 2012, revenues came in at \$18.4 million – \$421,000 (2.3 percent) above the same period in 2011. YTD expenditures through June 2012 came in at \$20.0 million – a \$345,000 (1.7 percent) increase versus 2011. Overall, Local 3's net loss was \$1,678,636 during the first six months of 2012. Revenues continued to benefit from increased supplemental-dues receipts (up 15.3 percent), though service-fee income fell (down 54.3 percent) due to the 2011 completion of pipeline work in Nevada and Utah. Expenses rose primarily due to increased employee-benefit costs and higher legal fees. Overall, second-quarter 2012 financial results were 10.5 percent ahead of budgeted expectations.

As the construction season hits full stride going into the third quarter, work hours across Local 3's jurisdiction are mixed. YTD through June 2012, California construction hours are 8 percent higher than in the same period for 2011, while construction hours for Hawaii, Nevada and Utah all show declines of varying degree. Nevertheless, on an overall YTD basis, Local 3's construction hours are up 3 percent, rock, sand and gravel hours are up 6 percent and surveyor hours are up 32 percent. As work hours continue to gain momentum, 2012 is shaping up to be a decent year for Local 3 and its membership.

Fund Balances (\$ in millions)		
	06/30/12	06/30/11
General	\$35.6	\$35.9
Hardship, Strike, Lockout	\$4.7	\$4.3
Emergency	\$13.7	\$12.8
Defense	\$6.3	\$5.7
Capital Maintenance	\$0.4	\$0.2

Second Quarter 2012 Financial Update

(Unaudited, in thousands)

Profit and Loss Statement

(June 30, 2012; year-to-date)

Membership Revenue	\$16,309
Other Revenue	\$2,048
Total Receipts	\$18,357
Salaries, Benefits & Taxes	\$12,087
Per Capita Taxes	\$2,769
Office & Operations	\$1,665
Depreciation	\$781
Professional Services	\$527
PACs & Fund Allocations	\$549
Admin & Public Relations	\$1,658
Total Expenses	\$20,036
Net Income/(Loss)	(\$1,679)

Balance Sheet

(As of June 30, 2012)

Cash, Investments & Deposits	\$29,063
Employee Funded 457 Plan	\$1,532
Automobiles	\$3,611
Office Furniture & Equipment	\$1,640
Computers & Software	\$9,412
Communications Equipment	\$885
Print Shop Equipment	\$1,006
Less Accum. Depreciation	(\$10,011)
Total Assets	\$37,138
Liabilities	(\$3)
Employee Funded 457 Plan	\$1,532
General Fund Balance	\$35,609
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	\$37,138

Pension Trust Fund for Operating Engineers

6/30/12

Plan Assets

(1) Total Investments	\$ 2,853,844,293
Domestic Stocks	1,029,603,614
International Stocks	204,037,327
Fixed Income	607,608,562
Hedge Fund of Funds	205,392,919
Real Estate	483,323,301
GTAA	87,989,137
Other Investments	235,889,433



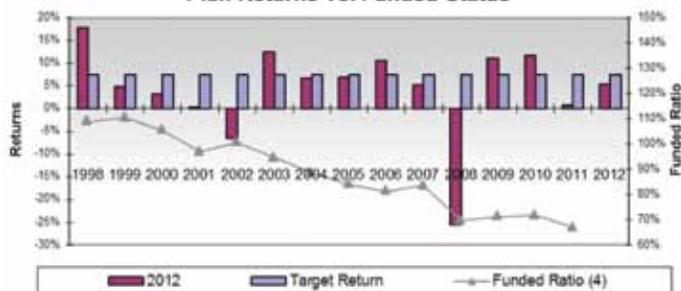
Notes:

- 1) Asset figures and returns are preliminary, unaudited and gross-of-fees. The 2012 return is six months ending June 30, 2012.
- 2) Other investments include insurance contracts with New York Life and operational cash.
- 3) Returns through Dec. 31, 2007 were not calculated by IPS.
- 4) The Funded Ratio is the value of assets used for the annual Pension-Plan valuation divided by the present value of accumulated Plan benefits, as provided by the actuary.

Plan Returns / Funded Status

	Investment Return (3)	Target Return	Funded Ratio (4)
1998	17.8%	7.5%	108.9%
1999	4.8%	7.5%	110.4%
2000	3.2%	7.5%	105.4%
2001	0.4%	7.5%	96.9%
2002	-6.6%	7.5%	100.6%
2003	12.5%	7.5%	94.5%
2004	6.7%	7.5%	88.7%
2005	6.9%	7.5%	84.0%
2006	10.5%	7.5%	81.3%
2007	5.2%	7.5%	83.5%
2008	-25.6%	7.5%	69.7%
2009	11.1%	7.5%	71.2%
2010	11.7%	7.5%	71.7%
2011	0.8%	7.5%	67.0%
(1) 2012	5.3%	7.5%	N/A

Plan Returns vs. Funded Status



Commentary (Second Quarter 2012)

The phrase "risk on/risk off" is the new overworked buzzword in the financial markets. Equities have had a series of run-ups ("risk on") only to be crushed at the first hint of bad news. The "risk off" results in a flight to quality and safety, which had driven down U.S. Treasury rates as well as those of other healthy, sovereign rates globally. U.S. equity indices were up double digits in the first quarter, only to be followed by a dismal May, with the S&P 500 down 6.0 percent for the month. In June, the S&P 500 staged a jagged rally to end up about 4.1 percent for the month but down 2.8 percent for the second quarter. Year-to-date, the S&P 500 is still up a respectable 9.5 percent. Like last year, the rest of the world has not fared as well as the U.S. equity markets. The MSCI EAFE index was down 7.1 percent for the quarter and only up 3.0 percent year-to-date. The repeated flights to quality in the "risk off" cycles have driven short-term rates, like the three-month Treasury bill (at 0.1 percent) and the 10-year Treasury rates (at 1.5 percent), to their lowest level since Alexander Hamilton issued the first U.S. Treasury security. This has provided bond investors with modest gains, and the Barclays Aggregate Index was up 2.1 percent for the quarter and 2.4 percent year-to-date, but the current yield is down to 1.79 percent. Commercial real estate continues to recover from 2009, and Core (ODCE) funds produced a 2.5 percent return on average for the quarter and are up about 5.4 percent so far this year. Global, tactical asset allocation and hedge fund of funds have been whipsawed by the market volatility and reversals and posted -2.9 percent and -2.3 percent returns respectively for the second quarter. Year-to-date, both are slightly positive, with the HFRI HFOF up 1.0 percent and the GTAA benchmark up 4.1 percent.



Looking at Labor

By Pete Figueiredo, treasurer

The eight-hour workday should not be taken for granted

On the night of May 4, 1886, more than 3,000 working men and women attended a rally in Chicago's Haymarket Square. This rally represented the culmination of a 20-year-long battle to win the eight-hour workday, a battle that had seen the murders of hundreds of working people who had championed the fight for what most of us take for granted today.

On that infamous night, as 500 or so remained at the peaceful rally that had begun 2-½ hours earlier, 176 patrolmen marched into the center of the crowd, pistols drawn, and ordered that the rally disperse. After minor protests from the podium, leaders agreed to end the rally. In that moment, as the crowd watched in horror, a light arched through the air from the outskirts of the assembly. A bomb landed and detonated in the middle of the police formation, and police began firing their weapons indiscriminately into the crowd. Many police were shot by their companions.

After the dust settled, workers' advocates and union leaders were blamed, charged, convicted and executed as if they had lit the fuse, though no evidence proved this. Five men were sentenced to death – one was killed while in custody, and the other four were publicly hanged to death. Several other leaders were convicted and sentenced to jail. In June 1893, the governor of Illinois granted full pardons to all those convicted and declared that the hanged men were victims of "hysteria, packed juries and a biased judge."

It would be a long time before this battle would bear real fruit. The eight-hour day wasn't won by the San Francisco Building Trades Council until 1900. The first federal law, the Adamson Act, was passed in 1916 and established an eight-hour day for railroad workers. It wasn't until the New Deal in 1937, some 51 years after that fateful night in the Haymarket, that a great number of U.S. workers were granted the eight-hour day.

Sadly, the battle continues. In 2010, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed what would have been the first eight-hour law in the nation for agricultural workers, and today, many others still suffer through longer workdays with no protections.

In the years after the Haymarket tragedy, workers mobilized on May 1 every year in honor of the ralliers and their leader, Albert Parson, one of the executed who marched through Chicago on May 1, 1886 and encouraged 350,000 workers across the country to strike for the eight-hour day. Today, 80 countries around the world continue to celebrate that day, now known as International Workers Day. In the United States, the Knights of Labor and the Central Labor Council promoted the September date we all know now, Labor Day, to avoid celebrating the violence that took place in May 1886.

The full story of the Haymarket incident and the first labor movement can be found in James Green's book, "Death in the Haymarket."

Stay tuned next month for another story about significant turning points in U.S. labor history.



Report & Review

By Carl Goff, vice president

The buck stops here

Brothers and sisters, please don't believe everything you see in the media.

As the Nov. 6 General Election approaches, the mudslinging intensifies, and many of the "facts" being thrown out there are anything but. When it comes to politics, it's always important to do your own research and decide for yourself who the best candidates are and what ballot initiatives will truly help us.

Local 3 is not interested in playing the mudslinging game. Our whole purpose is to help protect *you* and fight for *your* working rights. *That's a fact!* With that in mind, we have researched the important issues for you and wanted to share some of the information we found. We encourage you to check these facts for yourselves, and if you have any questions, give us a call.

Vote NO on Proposition 32

Just by looking at the description of Prop. 32 (found on the California Secretary of State's website, www.sos.ca.gov), you can see that it's targeting unions: "[Prop. 32] restricts *union* political fundraising by prohibiting use of payroll-deducted funds for political purposes." The description further states that the same use-restriction "would apply to payroll deductions, *if any*, by corporations or government contractors," but here's the kicker: Corporations don't collect political money through payroll deductions. They collect money from wealthy donors, so if Prop. 32 passes, corporations can continue to do what they always have – outspend unions on political campaigns – but the unions will no longer be able to fight back. Prop. 32 is just the newest way corporations are trying to *silence the union voice*. If Prop. 32 passes, the next time there's an attempt to lower workers' wages or eliminate your pensions, corporations can collect money to push the campaign forward, but unions won't have any money to fight back, and we stand to lose everything.

The measure's summary says it all: "Other political expenditures remain

unrestricted, including corporate expenditures ... not limited by payroll deductions ..."

It's right there in black-and-white, folks. We must vote NO on Prop. 32!

A vote for Romney is a vote against your union

On his own website (www.mittromney.com), presidential candidate Mitt Romney is clear on how he feels about unions: "Too often, unions drive up costs and introduce rigidities that harm competitiveness and frustrate innovation." He believes that "... labor unions reduce investment and slow job growth," and that "right-to-work states," which, remember, means a right-to-work-for-less, "have added millions of jobs over the past decade while states with pro-union policies have shed nearly a million jobs." But if you look at statistics, that's simply *not the case*.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (see www.bls.gov), California has the highest number of union members in the United States at 2.4 million, but this state also received the most work funded by the Federal Stimulus Bill (see www.recovery.gov) and has some of the biggest projects in the country going on.

President Barack Obama, who gave us the Stimulus money for construction jobs, actually knows what he's talking about when it comes to labor unions and wants to continue to create more jobs: "We've added back more than 4.5 million private-sector jobs and seen 29 straight months of job growth – but there's more work to do." (www.barackobama.com)

Voting NO on Prop. 32 and voting FOR President Obama are two of the most important things you can do in this November's election, but there are many other races to pay attention to. Your Political Action Committee (PAC) members – rank-and-file members just like you – have interviewed candidates throughout Local 3's jurisdiction to find out who *really* has your best interests at heart, and we'll print these endorsements, by state and then by district, in next month's *Engineers News* and post them on our website at www.oe3.org. Please watch for these lists, and vote union on Nov. 6!



News & Notes

By Dan Reding, financial secretary

Testing and Inspection Master Agreement ratified

At the time of this writing, Organizing Director Bruce Noel, senior Survey, Testing and Inspection business reps. Michael Strunk and John Rector, rank-and-file committee members Mike Johnson, Steve McConnell and Jerry Lutheran and I have ratified the new Testing and Inspection Master Agreement. I would like to thank the staff and the committee members for all their hard work. After many long hours and days of negotiating, we were able to secure one of the better agreements we have seen at Local 3 for some time. We were able to address money for fringes and make some very positive language changes.

One of the biggest issues we wanted to address was getting this industry back under one agreement. In the last negotiations, the association that represents the employers split and formed two associations that ended up negotiating two separate agreements. There were differences in the agreements that caused some major issues between the two associations and their members. This time around, it took a lot of work, but the members stood strong, each association gave in a little and now we have one Testing and Inspection Master Agreement. We ratified on Saturday, July 14.

I flew to Hawaii the next day and started negotiating the Hawaii Master Agreement. Members there are coming off a five-year agreement that was negotiated back in 2007, back when Hawaii had the most work hours members had ever seen. Today, their work hours are a little more than half of what they were then.

Like a lot of you have heard us report at the District Meetings, Hawaii has been struggling with the economy for the past three years. The work picture does look like it's picking up, but employers are still very cautious. In 2007, when the work picture was the best ever, the bottom fell out of the economy and a lot of the big upcoming projects that helped get the good contracts never materialized. The employers have been very straight-forward at the bargaining table by reminding us of that.

Anybody who has been around for awhile knows that it's a lot easier to negotiate good agreements when your members are all working and the economy is booming. President Fred Herschbach, the Hawaii staff, a very good rank-and-file committee and I will get the best agreement we can in these tough times. Hopefully by the time this article comes out, we will have an agreement. We will keep you posted.



A HIGH, HIGH-PROFILE JOB



Member works on 26-story skyscraper

By Jamie Johnston, associate editor

Luffing Tower Crane Operator Richard Murchie appears to be hanging off the edge of the old Pacific Telephone Building in San Francisco, as he works to seismically upgrade the historical building for Clipper International.

About 500 feet in the air, working on what was once the tallest building in San Francisco, longtime member Richard Murchie calmly above the old Pacific Telephone Building.

“From this height, humans look like ants,” he said from the cab of his Liebherr 355 L-series luffing tower crane. “They’re very small.”

Yet, he’s not the slightest bit nervous. In fact, stabilized in a “homemade” base and “tied in” to the side of the building with steel brackets, Murchie actually feels safer in his crane than he does on the ground.

“I’m afraid of two things in life: Being on the ground and women,” he said. “I’ve spent most of my life in the air. [On the ground] it’s frightening – all those cars and people. On the ground, I feel like I’m going to be run over. ... Once I’m a few hundred feet in the air, I start to feel comfortable.”

So does the company he works for.

With almost 30 years of experience, Murchie, a senior tower-crane operator for Clipper International, brings a confidence to the job that makes those around him feel safe. And that’s important, as he and other members on Plant Construction’s job seismically upgrade the historical Pacific Telephone Building.

“Safety is a big deal,” he said. “You’re always thinking of safety.”

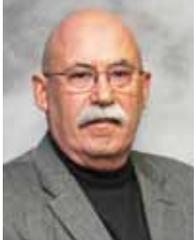
The Pacific Telephone Building (or 140 New Montgomery Street) in San Francisco’s South of Market District was originally completed in 1925, and with 26 floors, it was considered the city’s first significant skyscraper. It was also the tallest building in the city until the Russ Building matched its height two years later.

Major renovations to the building began in February, and it’s expected to re-open after construction is completed next summer.

“More and more of these [luffing tower cranes] are being used in the city,” said Murchie. “It’s not for the weak of heart.”

A bird’s eye view

Visit www.oe3.org for photos of Murchie’s views at work and to see how his crane is safely “tied in” to the old Pacific Telephone Building. It’s really something to see!



Public Employee News

By Carl Carey, director

The importance of internal organizing

As the assault on public employees worsens, why would anyone want to stand up against the onslaught alone? Believe it or not, many of your co-workers actually choose to. By not belonging to a labor association, they are left to fend for themselves in times of need.

There are many reasons given not to join a union. Some are legitimate, but then there are reasons that make one wonder where certain information comes from. Regardless, we should all make sure correct information is given out so an informed decision can be made. That is where we come in.

This union belongs to its members, not to the business agents or officers. The members make up the backbone of any union. Therefore, if the members are weak, the union will be weak. "The union is only as strong as its members." That saying still applies.

Many of the units that OE3 represents have what is called Agency Shop. In these units, members have voted in the security clause that requires anyone who works for that employer to be a member of the union. In other units, this clause does not exist, and those who work in the classifications represented by the union can choose whether or not to join. This is particularly true with management units that affiliate with a union. As managers, there is no requirement to join. It is in these organizations that internal organizing becomes very important.

An excellent example of this is the Santa Clara County Employees' Management Association (CEMA). This organization has become very active in the internal workings of the county and been instrumental in solving issues that benefit both the county and the members. Through the tireless efforts of the CEMA governing board, the membership and the business agents, the membership has grown enormously.

Another organization that is growing is the Alameda County Management Employees' Association (ACMEA). Business Agent Susan Rosenthal has met with the membership and accepted applications from 86 new members in the past six months. ACMEA members are realizing that their strength lies in participation. Therefore, the organization continues to grow.

We need these organizations to combat the assaults against us. The latest assault on public employees is the ability for cities to file for Chapter 9 bankruptcy. The decision to go this route is made by some as a way to get out from under the bargaining agreements that employees have with their employers. Over the past several months, half a dozen municipalities have filed for bankruptcy. This could wipe out everything some have worked their whole lives for – not the most comforting thought.

During these difficult times, we all have to come together and defend what we have fought so long and hard to have. If you come across a fellow employee who is not a union member, talk with him or her about the advantages of standing together in this crisis. Remember, "United we bargain, divided we beg." In these times, nothing is more true.

Turning the corner

By Mike Minton, business representative

It appears that the negative atmosphere the public employees (at least those in District 60) have been subjected to for the past four to five years is starting to improve. We are seeing some light at the end of the tunnel. Employers are not quite as quick to want to take salary and benefits away from their employees. I don't know if they're just catching their breath before the next onslaught, or if they actually see the same light!

Housing Authority of the County of Butte employers recently found an additional 3 percent in their budget. In a gesture of appreciation, they opted to give their employees a 3 percent salary increase. I have not seen this act of goodwill in a long time, even prior to the economic collapse and recession that we have all been suffering through. We will open negotiations soon on another successor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with this employer. As of this writing, I was told that the employers' opening proposal is to get the employees to pay an additional 3.5 percent toward their pension contributions, but the employer is willing to give a matching 3.5 percent salary increase to cover this burden. Why can't all negotiations go this way?

We opened negotiations with the Linda County Water District for a successor MOU, and I am anticipating no issues, as this is another employer that has always done the right thing for its employees.

The city of Ukiah is another story. During the last series of budget hearings, the city manager recommended that 13 of the employees I represent be laid-off due to budgetary problems. We were successful in getting that number reduced to just two. We should have already opened negotiations for a successor MOU by now, but the city manager advised us that city officials will not be ready until fall, at the earliest. Stay tuned, as I'm pretty sure this will be a difficult one.

The article I wrote in June, "School board boasts clueless clowns, comedians," had a better response than I had ever intended. It was dedicated to the Marysville Joint Unified School District (MJUSD). I criticized five of the MJUSD Trustees for not having a clue, and I commended the other two for understanding the issues and really wanting to do the right thing for the school district, the students they serve and the employees. The funny thing is that I did not mention any names. I labeled the Trustees I criticized as "A," "B," "C," etc. and commended "the other two." Three of the five Trustees I criticized were very upset, and one in particular, Bernard P. Rechs, wrote a negative response and stuffed the mailboxes of the employees I represent with letters criticizing me for my article. Why would the three, including Rechs, be so upset, since I never mentioned any names, until now? Why would they assume they were one of the five being criticized? Isn't this admitting wrongdoing? Regardless, I received nothing but "thank you" and "it's about time someone said something" from employees, supervisory personnel and MJUSD management as well as citizens who have been watching what has been going on within the district. Thank you, Mr. Rechs, for giving my article additional credibility.

Regardless, I do believe MJUSD officials are doing what they believe is in the best interest of the district and its employees. They are doing all they can to stay afloat. Our politicians should be held accountable for what is happening to our school districts. They should be thrown out of office for the damage they are inflicting on our children, who will someday be the leaders of our communities, our state and federal government, our military and corporate America. God help us all if we don't change direction.

What do you stand for?

By Gregory C. Ramirez,
business representative

In late July, we were able to come to an agreement on a new, two-year contract with the El Dorado County Transit Authority, where we represent the drivers. In spite of the current economic and political climate, we held the line and protected Pension benefits and health-care costs. Now, our members will not have to participate in the cost of either for the next two years. We also made some positive language changes in the contract that will help our members in the future regarding personnel files, seniority bidding for vacation and union access. The contract was unanimously ratified. I would like to thank Shop Steward Jayson Ravens for his assistance in the negotiations and his liaison role between the drivers and just about everybody!

Bargaining continues in Plumas and Sierra counties. In Plumas, the union's attempts to provide all of the health-care options available through OE3 have been met with strong resistance from county officials. They are opposed, because employees who currently opt out of the plan offered (because it is too expensive) might opt back in and cost the county money! Yes, you read that right: The county doesn't want to provide lower-cost health insurance to its employees, because they might actually sign up for it. I am very proud of our bargaining team for continuing to move this proposal forward.

In Sierra County, we are in the thick of passing proposals back and forth. We will have to wait and see the tentative agreement. The final agreement will be about the overall package and how all of the parts fit together. Our members must determine what they and their union stand for, as well as their responsibilities to their families, colleagues and the public.

I have been focused on the places I am bargaining in, but keep in mind that I also represent members in El Dorado and Alpine counties and in the cities of Galt, Loyalton and Stockton. If you have a contract question or work issue that comes up, send me an e-mail (gramirez@oe3.org).

REMINDER: I would like to collect as many of your personal e-mail addresses as possible to keep you informed about what's happening in your jurisdiction. Please send me an e-mail from *your personal e-mail address* with the following information: Your full name, job title, agency/employer name, worksite location (name and address), cell-phone number and home-phone number. This information will only be used by me to keep you informed on what's happening with your unit or if I need to contact you for information or support.

'Top Guns' of Local 3

By Dave Gossman, business representative

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the "Top Guns" of the units I represent in our union. You may ask, "Who are these Top Guns?" They are your hard-working and dedicated union stewards!

Your city- or county-unit stewards work for their fellow employees in protecting and preserving their rights, benefits, wages and Pension benefits. Stewards are selected by the union based on their desire to help, their knowledge of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and city and county rules and regulations and their passion to do what is right by fellow union members in times of need. Stewards have vast experience in day-to-day operations, which is invaluable and indispensable in resolving issues. Stewards are the first line of defense against grievances, discipline and malicious and malfeasant acts by employers.

Despite their efforts in protecting their co-workers, stewards' actions can have a negative impact. Sometimes employers treat stewards with contempt. Sometimes stewards have targets on their backs for doing their job. Stewards lead by good example but can be subject to quick retaliation by employers. Yet, even with the cost of being a good steward, ours really are the best.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to all my stewards who have done an outstanding job for the fiscal year 2011-2012. In particular, I have selected stewards from each of my units for displaying exemplary leadership in the past year in discipline

cases, meet-and-confer discussions and contract negotiations, our Top Guns!

- Golden Gate Bridge Patrol Unit officers Miguel Galdamez and Robert Smith and service operators Fred Caudle, Mike Amarillas and Mario Territo
- San Francisco city operators Michael O'Driscall and Willie Sparks and probation supervisors Gary Levene and Hector Ballesteros
- Santa Rosa Unit 3 Senior Operator Scott Endicott and Automotive Mechanic Carl Hauck
- Santa Rosa Unit 16 utilities operators Richard Scheblik and Ed Cook
- Alameda County Employees' Association (ACEA) President Linda Justus, City Meter Reader Terry Flippo, welfare-fraud investigators Robin Suarez and Kelli Green, operators Mark Campbell and Fred Real, Water District Utility Operator Steve Gonsalves and Senior Water Treatment Operator Laurie Balcerzak
- Las Gallinas Water Treatment Operator Gary Wettstein

Join me in thanking all your Top Guns in every jurisdiction in Northern California and Nevada for a job well done in the past year. Their hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated by Operating Engineers Local 3!



From left: ACEA members Terry Flippo, Mike Meyer, Linda Justus and Mike Leahy.



From left: Alameda County Water District employees Steve Gonsalves and Laurie Balcerzak.



Credit Union

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

New look; same roots

In August, Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union (OEFCU) launched a new brand to better reflect our union roots and tell our story. We are very excited about our new look and welcome your feedback as we always do. While we may have a whole new style, it is business-as-usual when it comes to how we treat our members. Our No. 1 priority has always been and will continue to be our members. We are dedicated to treating each member with respect, providing superior service and meeting the unique needs of our union members. That focus will stay the same, even as our products, services and brand evolve.

As we look forward to completing the roll-out of our new brand, we also want to reflect on our past and how we have been able to stay such a strong and thriving financial institution. It is because of our loyal membership that we have been able to grow and succeed over our 48 years. We are proud that our organization continues to honor its roots by serving the needs of union employees and their families. Our membership, as well as our full-time Credit Union staff, is comprised of union members. We consider it an honor that our staff and members are part of the same union family, and we appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve our members with all their financial needs.

If you are not already a member, we encourage you to see what OEFCU offers. We think you will find that our member service has no equal. We are *your* Credit Union; we understand your needs better than any other financial institution. While your current financial institution might treat you like just another number, OEFCU considers our members like family and treats them accordingly. Not only will you receive superior service, but our convenience rivals that of any big bank. We have more than 28,000 surcharge-free ATMs in our network – more than any big bank – plus we offer free online banking, bill pay, mobile banking and mobile apps.

Switching from your current financial institution to OEFCU may seem like a hassle, but you'll be surprised at how easy it really is. We have convenient and easy switch-kits on our website and at every one of our 22 branches. Our friendly member-service representatives are always happy to answer your questions, whether you are at the branch or calling our service line. To make the switch, visit www.oefcu.org, stop by your nearest branch or call (800) 877-4444.



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Fringe Benefits

By Charlie Warren, director

Medicare preventive services

Now is the time to get the most out of Medicare. Members covered under the Pensioned Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Plan and on Medicare are eligible for a host of preventive services through Medicare. Preventive services can find health problems early, when treatment works best, and can keep you from getting certain diseases. The services include exams, shots, lab tests and screenings. They may also include programs for health monitoring, counseling and education to help you take care of your own health.

For more information regarding Medicare's preventive services, visit www.medicare.gov or call (800) MEDICARE [(800) 633-4227].

If you are covered under one of our Medicare Advantage plans (Kaiser Senior Advantage, United Health Care, PacifiCare Secure Horizons or Health Net Seniority Plus), you are not eligible for Medicare's preventive services. Check with your provider for details about the preventive services they offer.

Pension-processing timetable

If you're thinking about retiring soon, keep the following timeline in mind when submitting your Pension application. Applications should be submitted to the Trust Fund Office at least 90 days prior to your retirement date. Your application will be valid for one year.



- Application is received at Trust Fund Office
- Receipt of application is acknowledged within a week to 10 days
- Trust Fund Office mails an award packet to a member when he or she reaches or is within 90 days of retirement, provided all the necessary information is made available to the Trust Fund Office
- Member stops working in the industry; completes and returns the award packet
- Trust Fund Office sends first check to member within one to two weeks of retirement date or confirmation of last day worked and final hours (whichever is later)

If you have any questions or would like to request an application, contact the Trust Fund Office at (800) 251-5014 or the Fringe Benefits Service Center at (800) 532-2105.

Important notice about Medicare

Members and spouses covered under the Pensioned Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Trust Fund and eligible for Medicare benefits who fail to enroll in both parts A and B of the Medicare program will have to pay more for their health costs. Therefore, it is strongly advised that these members enroll in BOTH PARTS.

Retiree Post

The USS Iowa then and now

Though the operators responsible for fully restoring "the world's greatest naval ship," the USS Iowa, were proud of their work, no one was more proud than 33-year member and Retiree Chuck Ramires. More than 60 years ago, he re-commissioned the ship from Hunters Point in 1951 and served on her for three years during his time in the Navy.



Retiree Chuck Ramires served on the USS Iowa from 1951 to 1953 during the Korean War.

During the Fourth of July holiday, Ramires boarded the fully restored ship in San Pedro at Long Beach Harbor as part of its grand-opening ceremony as a museum, a ceremony Ramires was invited to attend. The honor was reserved for the veteran crews who served on her, and attendees included former president

Roosevelt's granddaughter. After the ceremony, attendees toured the "new" ship, and Ramires ran into a former crewmember.

"There were about 2,500 guys from the same division [on the ship]," he said. "There's no way you could meet everybody," so it was a pleasure for Ramires to see someone he knew during the Korean War.

Ramires remembers that they shot from the ship during the war.

"Well, it was a battleship," he said.

During the tour, Ramires noted, "the ship was much different – better bunks and air-conditioned."

He would probably say the same things about the equipment operators use today!

Ramires has attended seven USS Iowa reunions so far, including one in Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Tina, rented a motor home and visited nearly every state in the union during that trip.

Ramires retired in 1988 and spends his time traveling and fishing with his wife.



Before departing for its permanent berth in San Pedro, the USS Iowa gets a major facelift from operators with Bragg Crane.

Crews take on busy airport renovation

Story and photos by Mandy McMillen, managing editor

At the Fresno Yosemite International Airport, there's never a dull day. For one, six crews – paving, grading, gradesetting, grinding, underground and electric – work together to provide the airport with runway reconstruction and ramp construction work that includes connecting taxiways, extending the existing runway and sealing cracks. Then there's the airport's regular flight schedule, which is busy (last year, more than 1.3 million passengers flew through). Add to that the Air Force activity, with fighter jets crossing the taxiways and taking off in blistering and beautiful displays of speed, and you've got a formula for plenty of activity.

But that's the way crews with main contractor Teichert and sub JMAC like it. They also like the incredible work hours they're logging on the more than \$20 million second phase of the project that began last September and should finish next month.

"Never in my career have I had the hours I've had right now," said Grading Foreman Steve Miller, who has 37 years in the union and 23 of them with Teichert. Miller's father, Larry Miller, is also an Operating Engineer.

Family is one word that comes to mind when you're among the many crews on the jobsite, as members joke and laugh with each other like siblings, and for Operator

Ed Fournier and Utility Hand Brian Fournier, their friendly rivalry really is genetic.

"Yes, I'm the little brother out here," laughed Brian.

But there's nothing funny about the precision the crews must have on the high-security site.

"Out here, we do whatever it takes. ... We must be exact and patient and follow the rules," said Miller. "You don't want to get hit by a(n) [airplane] wing." And he wasn't joking. Crews must follow complex rules and signals to cross runways and taxiways, ensuring that no planes are departing or landing. Per Transportation Security Administration (TSA) rules, all the construction equipment must display orange flags that are highly visible from the air.

Besides high-alert safety precautions, crews are performing difficult work, such as demo-ing old runways by digging 25 feet deep, adding new storm drains, providing 20-inch processed subgrade and exporting about 130,000 yards of material.

About 30 to 45 Operating Engineers are currently onsite. And yes, they are a happy bunch.

"This is a good crew to work with and a good job," said Paving Operator Bob Aguilar.



Loader Operator Edgar Medrano helps export about 130,000 yards of dirt.



Gradesetter Walter Hill is one of three crewmembers who "keep everything in check."



From left: Gabriel Ungorean and Ed Fournier are part of Teichert's grading crew on the project.





Paving Crew Foreman Larry Coleman.



Teichert Shop Foreman Todd Knight keeps the equipment in good working shape for the Fresno Yosemite International Airport job.

From left: Paving crewmembers Bob Aguilar and Manuel Carreon.



From left: Roller Operator Dan Zubieta and Foreman Steve Miller ensure the flags on the equipment are highly visible from the air.



Teichert's underground crew includes, from left: Jason Lawrence, Scott Bispo, Eddie Perez and John Cabral.



Compactor Operator Paul Reis.

Crewmembers watch Air Force jets take off.



See more photos online at www.oe3.org.



Political Perspective

By Mark Kyle, director of government affairs and public relations

Don't be duped: VOTE NO ON PROP. 32

In the United States, this is the month we celebrate Labor Day and the hard-working men and women who built this great country. Unfortunately, what we've built up is threatened to be torn down. The assault on our basic way of life is constant. Part of our job as the union is to push back against these assaults and defend your rights and your lifestyle. In California's General Election this fall, we are looking at one of the most horrific attacks on working people that I've ever seen – Proposition 32.

Make no mistake: Prop. 32 is not about “clean elections.” It's about billionaire CEOs wanting to put a muzzle on organized labor by stripping us of our wages, health benefits, pensions and collective-bargaining rights. Ultimately, they want to end Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) and make California a right-to-work state (a phony name for “anti-union” state).

According to a recent study by the AFL-CIO Government Affairs Department, in 2011:

- Seventeen states introduced legislation to eliminate prevailing wage. Five states passed it.
- Thirty-one states introduced legislation to weaken or eliminate collective bargaining for public-sector workers. Eleven states passed it.
- Seventeen states introduced legislation to restrict or eliminate PLAs. Seven states passed or enacted it.
- Twenty-eight states introduced legislation to shift pension costs in whole or part onto the workers in the public sector. Seventeen states passed it.

These are just some of the legislative attacks around the country. There were also attempts – and some successes – in passing legislation to weaken teachers' unions; restrict union political monies and health care; limit Cost-of-Living Assessments (COLAs) on pensions; farm-out work to non-union operations; and make states “right-to-work.” (There's that phony title again.)

One can also look at this past spring's primary elections for more examples of attacks on labor unions. In California, San Jose and San Diego passed ballot initiatives to modify pensions for public-sector unions. (“Modify” really means limit or gut pensions and shift remaining costs to the workers.) San Diego also passed a ban on PLAs. Despite these losses, we successfully fought an initiative that would have allowed the city of Auburn to avoid paying prevailing wage.

So it's clear: The folks behind these initiatives want to restrict our ability to participate in the political and legislative arenas and, in turn, want to lower our wages and gut or eliminate our pensions, our health care and our ability to act collectively. They are the billionaires and corporate CEOs who brought us the financial crisis and collapse of 2008, the same folks who put us in our current economic mess. They are the Wall Street tycoons who have second homes costing \$15 million, get \$3 million bonuses and own \$100,000 dressage show horses. They're the same folks who backed Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker (he eliminated collective-bargaining rights for the public sector in that state) and helped make Indiana the first right-to-work state in more than two decades. These greedy billionaires want to operate without restrictions. No pesky labor laws, no bothersome environmental restrictions and, most of all, no public scrutiny or federal regulations.

Wall Street is terrified of restrictions and public scrutiny. According to research done by the national e-newspaper *Politico*, as of mid-summer, “Mitt Romney's presidential campaign and the super PAC supporting it are outraising Obama among financial-sector donors \$37.1 million to \$4.8 million.” The top 19 financial-sector donors gave Obama \$213,700 in 2008, but the same donors gave Romney \$4.8 million in the first four months of this year! Why? Because Obama supported and ultimately signed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which Wall Street hated and worked hard to oppose.

Think I'm exaggerating? On the front page of a recent *New York Times* article, the 200 top-paid CEOs in America were listed with their salaries. Last year, the median pay for this group was \$14.5 million. (That's *per person, per year!*) And they all got a median pay raise of 5 percent. How many of you got a 5 percent pay raise last year? Things get worse if you look at the *average* rather than the *median* – the average compensation package for this group was \$19.8 million; the average pay raise from the year before was 20 percent! Forget about a 5 percent pay raise. How many of you got a 20 percent pay raise? What world are these people living in?

The supporters behind Prop. 32 want to stay on the course they're on and keep making as much money as they can, while the middle class suffers. They see you as an obstacle to these aims. Prop. 32 doesn't level the playing field. It slaps down our ability to participate in politics, and that's what these rich, fat-cats want: To keep us quiet and lower their costs by cutting our wages and benefits, so they can go watch their fancy horses dance in the Olympics.

Don't be duped – VOTE NO on Prop. 32!

Make sure you're registered to vote!

It's extremely important that we all vote in the Nov. 6 General Election. There is too much at stake to sit this one out, so please make sure you register to vote. Don't miss your opportunity to make a difference!

For the 2012 General Election:

- ☞ In California, your mail-in registration must be postmarked no later than Oct. 22.
- ☞ In Nevada, the deadline to register to vote is Oct. 6.
- ☞ In Utah, you must register to vote via mail by Oct. 9 and in person or online by Oct. 22.
- ☞ In Hawaii, you must register to vote by Oct. 8.

For a list of Local 3's endorsed candidates by state and then district, visit us online at www.oe3.org and keep reading your *Engineers News*.



Rancho Murieta Training Center for apprentice to journey-level operators

By Tammy Castillo, director of apprenticeship

POP classes a success

What's new at the Operating Engineers Local 3 Apprenticeship Training Center? Training – and lots of it.

On April 16, the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC) launched its first, five-week Probation Orientation Period (POP) class with 42 apprentices in attendance. Additional classes took place on May 21 (with 42 apprentices), June 25 (with 30 apprentices) and July 30 (with 30 apprentices), for a total of 144 apprentices.

It's always fun to watch the new apprentices on their first day, as they put on their new, bright-green safety vests for the first time and place the inserts into their hard hats. They walk around with their eyes as big as golf balls, not knowing what to expect when they get on that huge piece of yellow iron for the first time. By the end of the fifth week, the look of fear is gone and replaced with confidence and excitement.

Apprentices go through five weeks of training for gradesetter, pavers, loaders, compactors and scrapers. Hands-on training is 80 percent of their curriculum, as they learn the basic safety functions of the equipment. Classroom instruction makes up the other 20 percent, including *Rules, Regulations and Procedures*, safety, First Aid, labor history, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10, First Aid/CPR, substance abuse, harassment, political awareness, organizing, Master Agreement and dispatch procedures. Once they complete their five weeks of training, they proceed to various dispatch offices/job-placement centers.

Apprentices receive an all-day exit orientation. This last orientation included a presentation by Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) Rep. Steve Gutierrez. He explained the relationship between the DAS and the apprenticeship program and discussed what the apprentices should expect once they've been indentured, including how to dress appropriately for work. He advised the apprentices to strive to be better than average, create a good reputation, be positive and focused, always be early and follow the *Rules, Regulations and Procedures*. He reminded them that they were all in the probationary period for 1,000 hours, and if for some reason the Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) administrator canceled their apprenticeship agreement, they'd have no appeal rights. In closing, he expressed how fortunate they were to be entering into a state-of-the-art apprenticeship program.

I'd like to give a big shout-out to the apprenticeship coordinators, subcommittees and RMTC staff for all the hard work they put into making this a smooth transition for such a great occasion.

Eight-hour Hazwoper-refresher classes offered soon

To sign up for classes, call the district office where the class is being held. The schedule is listed below. All classes start at 7:30 a.m.

Yuba City District 60	Tuesday, Nov. 13
Morgan Hill District 90	Thursday, Nov. 15
Stockton District 30	Saturday, Nov. 17
Fairfield District 04	Saturday, Dec. 1
Alameda District 20 (Oakland)	Saturday, Dec. 1
Burlingame District 01	Saturday, Dec. 8
Sacramento District 80	Saturday, Dec. 15
Redding District 70	Thursday, Jan. 10
Rohnert Park District 10	Saturday, Jan. 12
Sacramento District 80	Saturday, Jan. 19
Alameda District 20 (Oakland)	Tuesday, Jan. 22
Morgan Hill District 90	Thursday, Jan. 24
Stockton District 30	Saturday, Jan. 26
Rohnert Park District 10	Saturday, Feb. 9
Eureka District 40	Friday, Feb. 15
Sacramento District 80	Saturday, Feb. 23
Fresno District 50	Saturday, March 2
Alameda District 20 (Oakland)	Saturday, March 9
Stockton District 30	Saturday, March 16
Morgan Hill District 90	Saturday, March 23

Mechanics Corner

By Dave Bibby, Heavy Duty Repair (HDR) instructor

Oxy-fuel cutting

My last article explained how two pieces of metal are joined together with the arc-welding process. Prior to this process, the metal must be cut to size or beveled at the joint. The oxy-fuel process is most widely used because it can cut thicknesses from less than ¼-inch to 12 inches. Oxy-fuel equipment is low in cost and can be mechanically or manually operated.

The equipment consists of two cylinders (one fuel gas and one oxygen), two pressure regulators/gauges, a hose and a cutting torch. The regulators are attached to the cylinders, which maintain a consistent flow of gas/oxygen to the cutting torch. Two pressure gauges are attached to each regulator – one to indicate cylinder pressure and one to indicate the working pressure delivered to the torch.

The oxygen cylinder is drawn from high-strength steel plates with common sizes being 244, 122 and 80 cubic feet. Oxygen is stored in the cylinder at a pressure of 2200 psi when filled at 70 degrees Fahrenheit. The suggested purity of the oxygen is 99.5 percent, as a 1 percent decrease in purity will result in a 25 percent reduction in cutting speed. Oxygen cylinders are identified by their green color.

The five most common fuel gases are acetylene, propane, MAPP (a mixture of various hydrocarbons, such as methylacetylene and propadiene), propylene and natural gas. The performance characteristic of the fuel gas (pierce time, cutting speed and cutting-edge quality) is determined by the flame temperature and heat distribution between the inner and outer flame cones.

Acetylene is the most common fuel gas. The acetylene cylinder is also drawn from high-strength steel. (The common sizes are 300, 120 and 75 cubic feet with a typical pressure of 250 psi.) Acetylene produces the highest flame temperature (5720 degrees Fahrenheit) compared to other fuel gases. Higher flame temperature results in faster material-piercing. Acetylene cylinders are identified by their maroon color.

The cutting torch has a tip consisting of outer pre-heat jets and a central oxygen jet. A mixture of oxygen and fuel gas passes through the jets to preheat the metal to an ignition temperature. For steel, this temperature is 1292 to 1625 degrees Fahrenheit, resulting in a bright red appearance. When the oxygen cutting lever on the torch is depressed, pure oxygen flows from the center jet to the preheated area. This starts a vigorous exothermic chemical reaction between the oxygen and the iron in ferrous metals to form iron oxide or slag. The oxygen jet blows away the slag, enabling the jet to pierce through the metal and continue the cutting process.

When the cut is started correctly, a shower of sparks will be seen from the opposite side of the work, indicating that the flame has pierced the metal. Movement of the torch along the cut line at the proper speed allows the flame to penetrate the material completely. A good cut is made by a saw with very little slag. Cutting too rapidly prevents the metal at the bottom of the cut from receiving sufficient heat to oxidize, and the cutting process stops. The pre-heated metal is burnt away by the oxygen jet, causing a large amount of slag.

Oxy-fuel cutting is an efficient method of cutting metal through the use of heat, oxygen and a chemical reaction. As with all tasks you perform, keep safety in mind, maintain your equipment (inspecting cylinders, regulators, hoses and cutting torches), follow recommended procedures and always wear the proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Under Ophir

Pipeline project takes operators under I-80



Loader Operator Mark Nowak works for Ranger Pipelines.



Excavator Operator Ron Lorance removes cement from a bore pit.

Story and photos by Jamie Johnston, associate editor

I-80 is one of the Sacramento area's busiest highways. It's a major thoroughfare for commuters, an important haul route for truckers and a dream-come-true for road-trippers, as it crosses 11 states from San Francisco to the East Coast.

Needless to say, it sees hundreds of thousands of travelers every day. And to think: Our operators are working *underneath* it all.

Drilling under the highway is just one of the ways Ranger Pipelines and subcontractor Walter C. Smith are making it possible to transport irrigated and treated water from the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) on one side of the road to customers on the other. This includes several businesses that, for years, have had to rely on wells.

The \$12.9 million project involves installing three key pipelines below the Ophir Road corridor between Newcastle and Auburn, and all three are being done at the same time to minimize traffic disruption. Operators will place about 5,000 feet of 60-inch pipe, about 5,000 feet of 45-inch pipe and 15,200 feet of 12- and 18-inch pipe. But it's the section of cast-in-place, steel-casing pipes going under the interstate that is particularly fascinating.

Working about 25 feet below grade, Walter C. Smith operators Marc Eckman and Rey Noriega must accompany a Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) as it drills *under* the highway, filling up a trolley bucket with dirt as it goes. The entire run is 260 feet, but when the bucket reaches capacity, the machine must return to the open air for the dirt to be dumped. With help from Apprentice Andrew Payne Jr., Crane Operator Chris Hansen hoists the



Apprentice Andrew Payne Jr. waits for the trolley bucket to return.



Foreman Ryan Eaves oversees the drilling operation for Walter C. Smith.

From left: Excavator operators Nottnagel and Richard Dermoo remove 60-inch pipe off Ophir Road.

bucket up and over to empty it, before it's returned to the pit and the process starts again. Members seemingly disappear into the dirt, like gophers burrowing underground. Cars driving above don't even know they are there.

With two pipes going in side-by-side, the TBM will make the trip under the freeway twice. Crews are boring about 15 feet per day, said Foreman Ryan Eaves, keeping the project ahead of schedule.

Across the freeway at Ophir Road, pipe is already being put into place. Excavator operators Matt Nottngel and Richard Dermody are working together to gently lower the 60-inch pipe into trenches they dug earlier. With help from Loader Operator Mark Nowak and Gradesetter Neil Garten, the Ranger Pipelines crew is averaging about 300 feet per day.

Excavator Operator Ron Lorance is at another location, removing cement from a bore pit where pipe has also been installed. Like the section at I-80, the pipeline here went under the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. Though it's a shorter section to bore, the same process was required. Lorance feels especially lucky to be working on the project, since he lives in Newcastle, just miles from the jobsite.

Work on the project began in February. Construction was initially expected to continue through summer 2013, but crews are working quickly, so the job could end sooner, said District 80 Business Rep. Steve Laird. In the meantime, operators are logging in good hours on a jobsite that offers some impressive challenges.



On the cover: Crane Operator Chris Hansen hoists a trolley bucket full of dirt collected while drilling underneath I-80.



Gradesetter Neil Garten works off Ophir Road.



From left: TBM Operator Marc Eckman and Operator Rey Noriega work on the drilling crew for Walter C. Smith.



Matt
ly set

In tip-top shape

DWR keeps levees in check

Engineers News caught up with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) working on the levees outside Colusa in preparation for winter and flood season. Member Richard Grove was working on a 19-mile section along the Sacramento River.

To find unsafe irregularities and cause the oat seeds to drop, the levee is burned. Then Grove goes over each section, while pulling a drag behind a rubber-tire tractor, to reshape the levee slopes and spread the oat seeds for erosion control.

But weather is not the only force that compromises levee safety. Ground squirrels also create problems, because they burrow into the sides of the levee and weaken it. Once the levee is burned back, the squirrels have nowhere to hide, and bait traps can be set.

Throughout California, DWR performs regular maintenance on our levees to ensure they are kept in tip-top condition and function properly.

“We are trying to keep them in shape,” said Grove.



Rubber-Tire Tractor Operator Richard Grove spreads oat seeds and reshapes the levee slope.



Sign on the dotted line

By Gary Rocha,
business representative

When you start out in life, one of the first things that happens to you is you get foot-printed. That’s your first signature; your mark in life. Then, when you go to school, you learn how to sign your name or print it, so some of those great paintings kids make can be identified years later. Your mark! As years go by, your mark becomes a signature; a statement of who you are, like bell bottoms and flat-top haircuts. In years to come, you will be asked to sign your name on the dotted line for a car, a new home, at work and for so many other things. Sometimes, the forms you sign are so long that you don’t take the time to read them before signing them, but you should. When you sign something, you are binding a contract and/or agreement, and that puts you as a responsible party.

A signature is proof of identity and intent. For example, the role of a signature in many consumer contracts is not solely to provide evidence of the identity of a contracting party but also to provide evidence of deliberation and informed consent.

One of the most prominent signatures on the United States Declaration of Independence belongs to John Hancock. I am glad he read over the document before he made his mark on the history of America.

When you put your signature on a document, whether it’s at a safety meeting or for a director’s policy, read it before you sign it.

Momma said, “Look before you leap!”

UNIT 12 Meet the Members



Chad Leal, Caltrans heavy equipment mechanic



Ken Wedderburn, Caltrans equipment operator II



ATPA Angle

By Bob Miller, ATPA senior account executive

Medicare parts A and B: Sign up for BOTH

As retired members reach the Medicare age of 65, they will go through the Medicare application process with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This means choosing options that will supplement their Operating Engineers Pensioned Health and Welfare. Medicare will become the primary insurance and pay the first 80 percent of covered charges; Operating Engineers Health and Welfare will become the secondary insurance and pay 80 percent of the remaining 20 percent.

Each month, the Associated Third Party Administrators (ATPA) gets calls from members regarding unwelcome medical charges, because they failed to apply for Medicare Part B. Remember, Part A covers hospital charges, Part B covers doctor charges and the Plan requires enrollment in both.

It is important to apply for BOTH Medicare Part A and Part B when you become eligible at age 65 or due to a

disability. If Medicare Part B is declined, the Plan will estimate the charges Medicare WOULD have paid, since you did not sign up, and make this amount the participant's responsibility. These charges, due to a failure to properly enroll, may result in appeals, but they are usually denied pursuant to Plan rules.

As an example, for a \$100 charge, the Fund would estimate that Medicare paid 80 percent, or \$80. The Plan would then pay 80 percent of the remaining \$20, or \$16. Your cost would be \$4 with Medicare Part B but \$84 without it. Can you imagine a \$1,000 charge with no Medicare Part B? You can see why it is so important to enroll in both parts.

Business Manager Russ Burns, the officers and Trustees constantly strive to maximize health-care benefits and minimize costs to the membership. Be sure to do your part and sign up for BOTH Medicare Part A and Part B.

Staff Spotlight: Analeseanoa "Ana" Tuiasosopo

For District 17 Business Agent Analeseanoa "Ana" Tuiasosopo, the best part about his job is that he doesn't consider it one.

"Being on staff is not a job at all," the 21-year member said. "It's about making a difference out there. It's serving our fellow man (the members) and bringing non-unions into the union companies."

Tuiasosopo didn't always have this philosophy or understand the value of Local 3.

"I didn't come to the meetings and didn't really know what the union was doing for me," he said.

But as he got more involved, he began to see how crucial the union is in gaining and protecting the livelihood of its members. "It [the union] is about protecting our families, our hours and our benefits. The union is the best thing for families."

In knowing the union's value, Tuiasosopo joined the Local 3 staff in 2007 and now works tirelessly on multiple organizing and political campaigns. He recently signed about 10 trucking companies, testified on Local 3's behalf regarding the value of multiple projects, waved signs for pro-union candidates and attended board meetings throughout the island of Kauai. He also covers Oahu from School Street to Sandy Beach.

"He always checks up on us, at least once or twice a week," said 21-year member and Grace Pacific Foreman Louis Santiago, who considers Tuiasosopo a very good agent and friend.

"He is easy to work with, and any questions or problems we have, he always helps us. He calls and keeps in contact. He is very easy to talk to."

There's no question Tuiasosopo is a busy man. He takes what he does to heart, wondering how people can afford the high cost of living in Hawaii without belonging to a union. Therefore, his "work" continues.

"I love what I do," he said.



Business Agent Analeseanoa "Ana" Tuiasosopo, right, participates in sign waving to get the Honolulu Rail project passed.

FIELD PERSPECTIVE: What the members are saying

Why is Hazmat training so important?



"It gives you more opportunities, if a job comes up."

– Curt Seely, two-year member



"You never know what's been covered up."

– Steve Warnow, 12-year member



"Because it helps with job selections. It just opens up more avenues."

– Don McGarvie, seven-year member



"It's good to have the certs. It's not that often you have to use it, but it could be the difference between missing a job and going to work."

– Glen Goar, 16-year member



"The more you know, the more valuable you are. Hazmat especially ... because of how our environment is now."

– Richard Patters, 35-year member

Bay Cities has a lot of work

We are nearing the end of our work season, and it has been a good year in District 30. The Hall has been much busier this year than in recent years, with members getting dispatched to several jobs in our jurisdiction.

Bay Cities has been getting a lot of work lately. The company has two projects underway on Hwy. 99 between Manteca and Stockton that consist of adding a lane in the median. Combined, they are worth about \$50 million. **Bay Cities** also continues work on the \$30 million Sperry Road expansion project with **C.C. Myers** in Stockton and is the apparent low bidder on the Hwy. 219 extension in Modesto, which should be starting soon. With all that work, the company should be able to keep quite a few of our members busy for the next couple of years.

Interstate and **Conco Pumping** are also working on the Sperry Road job.

Some of the other projects going on in the district include the \$23 million Sonora/Hwy. 108 bypass with **Teichert** and **MCM Joint Venture (JV)** and the I-5 widening in Stockton with **R&L Brosamer**, **Case Pacific** and **West Coast Welders**.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) San Joaquin Pipeline System-Eastern Segment is also up and running with the construction of 6.7 miles of 78-inch pipe and valve facilities. **Contri Construction** has the \$45 million project and is employing lots of our members to complete the bulk of the work this year.

Myers and Sons is working on a \$78 million project with **Granite Construction** in Stanislaus County that consists of the rehabilitation of Hwy. 99 from the Merced County line to the San Joaquin County line.



Interstate Pump Operator Bobby Camp and Conco Pump Operator Bryan Smith pour a bridge on the Sperry Road job.

George Reed is hard at work on a \$10 million project on Hwy. 88 just east of Clements.

Please remember that the General Election is Nov. 6, and we are always looking for help with phone banking and precinct walking. Come join us one day. You may run into a friend you worked with a long time ago or make some new ones.

Keep working, stay safe and remember that if you have any questions about the work picture, you can always call the Hall or your business agent.

REDDING | 20308 Engineers Lane, Redding, CA 96002 ▪ (530) 222-6093 District Rep. Bob Vanderpol

Welcome, Outback

As the summer comes to an end, District 70's work picture remains steady. Many projects have been completed for the 2012 calendar year, including a windmill job done by **Bragg Crane** and the TransCanada Pipeline work done by **Pilchuck Contractors**, but a good amount are still going.

Mercer-Fraser continues work on several projects in the area. The Buckhorn Summit/Hwy. 299 west and I-5/Lakehead jobs are providing many hands with much-needed hours this season. **Shasta Constructors** has the Twin View Bridge in Redding and the Bowman Road Bridge in Cottonwood. **Syblon-Reid** is working on the \$1.75 million Anderson/Cottonwood irrigation-modification project. **Knife River** is paving Hwy. 99 in Los Molinos (Tehama County) with **Cox & Cox** subbing the underground work. **Meyers Earthwork** is finishing the Red Bluff fish channel on the opposite side of the Sacramento River where **Balfour Beatty** recently installed fish screens. **Myers Construction** and **American Civil Constructors** have been working on several bridge decks north of Redding, with reconstruction and polyester/concrete overlays. **S.T. Rhoades** and **Darren Taylor Construction** have had many paving, grinding and sweeping jobs throughout the district. **Custom Crushing Inc.** has worked for quite a few months in Siskiyou County. **T&S Construction** is working on a project in Fort Bidwell in Modoc County. **Ford Construction** completed a good portion of the Benton Airpark job in Redding, with underground work and runway extensions. **Tyrrell Resources** stayed busy grubbing and clearing throughout the local's jurisdiction. **Apex Fence** has guardrail work on multiple projects.

We welcome **Outback DVBE** to District 70. The company signed the Master Agreement in July and hopes to perform some

of the Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) hydro-testing work as well as general construction contracting.

Please make sure your registration is current on the out-of-work list, if you are not currently employed. We also have some sign-up sheets for Hazwoper classes, the Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program and other opportunities for good union members. Come by and sign up when you have a chance.

We hope to see you at this month's District Meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 26 at the Hall.



From left: Members Justin Flud, Scott Fiscus, Kenny Strathman and John Lighthill with Pilchuck Contractors work on the TransCanada Pipeline in Newell.



From left: Members Randy Fall, Beau Reding and Matt Dillon with Bragg Crane install a windmill in Red Bluff.

Building new barracks for our soldiers

Thank you to everyone who voted in the Primary Election. A special thanks to those who spent their weekends canvassing communities in a joint effort with the Laborers, Carpenters and Masons to get the vote out. It was a big success. We may be doing the same for the Nov. 6 General Election.

Remember our Fifth Annual Empowering Operating Engineers events throughout the state. We start with Kauai on Saturday, Sept. 22 at the Hanamaulu Beach Park Pavilion, then move to Oahu on Saturday, Sept. 29 at our Kapolei office. Both events run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be lots of fun, food and prizes.

Work continues to move forward, with **Nordic PCL** picking up the \$59 million Warriors in Transition job in Schofield Barracks. Crews will be building new barracks for our soldiers. **Goodfellow Brothers, Inc.** picked up the more than \$5.9 million Kawela Bridge replacement on Molokai.

The training schedule for September is as follows:

Driver Improvement Program (DIP)	Maui	Sept. 1
DIP	Oahu	Sept. 8
Eight-hour refresher	Maui	Sept. 8

Call the Kahuku Training Facility at (808) 232-2001 for more information.

UTAH | 1958 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84116 ■ (801) 596-2677 District Rep. Justin Diston

Pipeline job will put 25-50 members to work



From left: Dee Anderson, Dan Caylor, Mike Young and David Black work for Geneva Rock.

Opportunities in Utah have been so good through this recession that we have been able to help many of our brothers and sisters from other areas of Local 3. Unfortunately, most of that big work is coming to an end.

The Utah Transit Authority (UTA) has done an incredible job over the last decade to improve transit in the state. The commuter-rail and light-rail work has kept many of our members busy. However, most of the work, along with the UTA's money, is drying up. **Stacy and Witbeck** recently started the Sugar House Street Car project, but on the North Temple and commuter-rail projects, there is only punch-list work and train-testing left in preparation for the general public.

The Mountain View Corridor, the Utah Data Center (UDC) and the I-15 Core project have also kept many of our members working, but these projects are winding down as well. The Utah Department of Transportation has many good projects ready but, unfortunately, most of its bonding is in the Mountain View Corridor and I-15 Core project. (It seems like Utah is in the perfect storm, meaning most of our work is coming to an end at the same time.)

We do have a few ongoing jobs. **Rio Tinto** is expanding the Kennecott Utah Copper Mine with the Corner Stone project. The expansion of the mine has provided us quite a few projects. By the time you read this, **Snelson Pipeline** should have started a 16-inch pipeline between Vernal and Meeker, Colo. Thanks to the low addendum of the National Pipeline Agreement, this job should put between 25 and 50 Local 3 members to work. Members are also working for **Copper Hills Constructors** and **Geneva Rock**.

Keeping and creating jobs is where politics come into play. It is very important that we get out and vote. Over the last few

years, it has become evident how the political climate can make or break our industry and thus our wallets. If we do not vote for the candidates who will support unions and our industry, we could very easily lose what we have worked so hard for over the years. In upcoming issues of *Engineers News*, you will see the candidates that your Political Action Committee (PAC) – rank-and-file members just like you – has interviewed and endorsed. We encourage you to research these candidates and see how they can benefit our industry, which in turn will benefit you and your family.

*From Utah Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC)
Administrator **Jeff Anderson***

Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) stepped up and knocked another one out of the park for apprentices in Utah! WCF's **Ray Pickup, Dennis Lloyd** and company teamed up with Utah's directors of apprenticeship to honor our Helmets to Hardhats (H2H) apprentices. On June 30, a ceremony was held at Taylorsville City Hall to do just that. A long-awaited veterans' memorial, which the crafts' Joint Apprenticeship Training Centers (JATCs) helped build, kicked off the ceremony. Many local, state and national dignitaries took part in the program, including Utah Congressional Rep. **Jim Matheson**, H2H Director **Darrel Roberts**, Utah State Sen. **Karen Mayne** and Taylorsville Mayor **Russ Wall**, along with many others. Ten H2H apprentices were honored not only for their valiant efforts and service in their respective military branches but also for their dedication and commitment to their apprenticeship programs. Operating Engineers was well represented. OE3 Construction Equipment Operator (CEO) Apprentice **Steven Lloyd** was among several who received a \$500 WCF Scholarship Award to assist in furthering their education. A BIG congratulations to Lloyd, and a BIG thank you to WCF for its support of apprenticeships and safety in Utah.



From left: H2H Director **Darrel Roberts**, WCF's **Dennis Lloyd** and OE3 Apprentice **Steven Lloyd**.

Second phase of Doyle Drive project begins

In San Francisco, we have a great influx of new tower-crane work, with **Webcor**, **Sheedy Crane and Rigging** (**Allen Barker Jr.** and **Dan Allen**), **Cahill Contractors**, **Clipper International**, **Roberts/Obayashi** and others working on many projects.



Don Card works for Berkel.

Dutra started the Brannan Street Pier with **Steven Pryor**. We are also proud to announce that after many delays, **Flatiron** has started the next phase of the Doyle Drive project. The Central Subway project is going well, with **Barnard/Impregilo/Healy Joint Venture (JV)** and **Condon Johnson/Nicholson JV**. **Hayward Baker** is at the Transbay Terminal, with **Ken Bryant** and **Michael Baker**, along with **Balfour Beatty Infrastructure**. This is no longer the only High-Speed Rail project in the country that is construction-funded

after Gov. **Jerry Brown** signed the High-Speed Rail bill that means work will start on the project next year.

Palo Alto Medical Foundation (PAMF) is building a new medical facility in San Carlos (San Mateo County). **McGuire and Hester** is grading the site with help from operators **Trey Trencher** and **Victor Gonzales Sr.** **Berkel** operators **Don Card** and **Gary Spencer** are drilling and pumping hundreds of displacement piers with support from father-son team **Chris Reinhold Jr.** and **Chris Reinhold Sr.**

Ferma has demolition work at the San Francisco International Airport (SFO) to make room for the new, 221-foot-tall airport control-tower. **Jose Cisneros** and **Alan Garcia** are on the job, making it look easy. There is a new Safeway being built in Millbrae, and the old one is coming down thanks to **Mike Sharp** and **Rich Jalilie** with **Interstate Grading and Paving**. This company can demo, separate and process materials for recycle and can grind up and load out with efficiency. General engineering contractor **Rudolph and Sletten** continues work on Kaiser's new hospital in Redwood City.



Jose Cisneros works for Ferma.

The District 01 staff would like to offer a special thanks to all the volunteers who helped with our District Picnic this year. It was a huge success.

FAIRFIELD | 2540 N. Watney Way, Fairfield, CA 94533 ■ (707) 429-5008 District Rep. Mark Burton

Great year for Dixon Marine

In Fairfield, the eastbound I-80 scale-relocation project is moving along with **O.C. Jones** and is expected to continue into the spring. The Hwy. 12 Jameson Canyon widening is starting to take shape with **Ghilotti Construction** and **Ghilotti Bros.** The Napa County segment is scheduled for completion in August 2013, and the Solano County segment is scheduled to be completed by June 2015.

The Claybank Adult Detention Facility in Fairfield is expanding – a \$64 million project.

O.C. Jones will be doing site work and paving with **Carone & Company** performing the site utilities. This project started in August.

At the Shiloh IV wind project in Rio Vista, **Mortenson** is erecting the turbines and **Duran & Venables** is taking care of the roads and site work. Work has been going on since June, and we hope the remaining 25 turbines will arrive soon so there won't be any break in the action.

As for dredging news, unfortunately, all is quiet on the Local 3 front. It looked like 2012 would be a busy year for our dredging contractors, but that may not be the case. The Port of Richmond (maintenance) is bidding with a small job set aside for the second year, and the Port of Oakland will have its usual workload. One bright spot is **Dixon Marine**. Historically a small contractor in the dredge industry, the company is growing thanks to the help of Local 3 members **Kalloch Fox**, **Kirk Stubblefield** and many others. Prior to 2012, **Dixon** typically employed four to six members on a tiny fleet of equipment. Now the company has dispatched 22 members on six different projects and acquired



New member Rebecca Hernandez is sworn in at the June 13 District Meeting.

three new pieces of equipment, including the Derrick Barge (DB) Columbia. The acquisition of the DB Columbia is a double bonus, as this dredge has usually been operated by a non-union crew. This means one more rig in the Local 3 dredge fleet.

Local 3's Safety Department is busy working with Cal-OSHA and the Cal-OSHA Standards Board, advocating for workplace health and safety and developing standards to protect our members while on the job. Additionally, we finalized this year's

Hazwoper-refresher schedule, which can be seen in this month's Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTTC) article.

The November General Election is almost upon us. There are many important issues on this year's ballot, but most importantly, be sure to vote NO ON PROP. 32! Please call the Hall to get more information.

Bragg Crane and Rigging's fourth annual blood drive in honor

of **George Bragg** is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 6 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 457 Parr Blvd. in Richmond. There will be a wellness booth that will check blood pressure, blood sugar and pulse and give free flu shots for anyone who donates blood. There will also be a prize wheel, a bounce house for the kids and man-basket rides for everyone in attendance. For lunch, there will be hamburgers, hot dogs and all the fixin's, along with Perry and Patrick's famous slow-cooked barbecue ribs and chicken. For more information and to sign up, contact **Perry Churchill** at (510) 685-8348 or **Jonelle Johnson** at (510) 316-2399.

Crescent City Harbor reconstruction: A landmark project

Wahlund Construction is working on the Stewart Street Reservoir, on Old Hwy. 101 near Confusion Hill and on the Rio Dell Water Treatment Plant. The company has kept its core members working through the summer and into the fall.

Dutra Construction is continuing the Crescent City Harbor reconstruction, with **Case Pacific** driving pile. This project has generated a lot of work and will be a landmark in our area.

Mercer-Fraser is keeping hands busy in the quarry and shop, paving Hwy. 101 and working at Martin Slough. The company is also working on the \$1.2 million fourth phase of the Mad River Pipeline project, paving throughout Humboldt County, finishing the Mad River Bridge approaches to McKinleyville and gearing up for gravel harvest.

Powell Concrete Pumping is providing service on many of our jobs throughout District 40.

Peterson is continuing to keep our members busy and has maintained a solid work schedule, despite the difficult last few years.

Fluor continues decommissioning the Humboldt Bay Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Power Plant. It's an extensive and difficult project, but our members are rising to the task.

District 40 would like to remind everyone that we will be phone banking for the upcoming presidential election through our Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program. There's a lot at stake this year, so please volunteer.

We'd also like to remind our members to Slow for the Cone Zone and our brothers and sisters working for Caltrans.

Our condolences and deepest sympathies to the families of **John Knott, Robert Nelson and Claude Alfson**, who all recently passed away, and especially the **Wilkins** family.

The next quarterly District Meeting will be on Thursday, Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Best Western Bayshore Inn in Eureka. We will not have a Retiree Meeting this quarter.

Please remember that your out-of-work registration is valid for 84 days, and you must call the Hall to renew it.

SACRAMENTO | 3920 Lennane Drive, Sacramento, CA 95834 ■ (916) 993-2055 District Rep. Rob Carrion

Connector project no longer a dream

Congratulations to **DeSilva Gates Construction**. The company was awarded the \$8.5 million White Rock Road improvement project between Grant Line Road in Sacramento County and Prairie City Road in El Dorado County. It will be part of the new connector's realignment and is seen as the first step toward creating a 35-mile, four-lane route from Hwy. 50 in El Dorado County along the south side of Folsom through Rancho Cordova and south/west to Elk Grove, where it will cross over Hwy. 99 and link to I-5.

The project began in June with the relocation of the Aero-Jets parameter fencing, removal of the old fencing and clearing of trees and shrubs that are in the right-of-way. Construction improvements include realigning two severe curves in the road, widening the road, paving the shoulders and adding new turning lanes and traffic signals at the Grant Line Road



From left: Members Edward Stirling, Lewis Malotte and Mike Renzi work for Cal Fire.

and Prairie City Road intersections. The project will keep plenty of our brothers and sisters busy well into the spring of 2014.

At the time of this writing, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) Unit 12 heavy equipment mechanics are still on the front line of the July 11 Robbers fire in Placer County. It's their large responsibility to make sure that more than 200 fire engines, 75 crew buses, 75 water tenders and heavy equipment are inspected, repaired and available 24/7 in order to keep fire crews safe and give them the upper hand to win the battle.

Depending on how large the fire is, Unit 12 heavy equipment mechanics can be called from throughout California. They come from Half Moon Bay, Shasta, El Dorado, Pine Grove, Davis and Auburn to make sure everything is ready. We thank them for their dedication to this profession and for putting themselves in danger so others can remain safe.

Apprenticeship Spotlight

District 80 Crane Apprentice **Shane Riemersma** currently operates an 18-ton boom truck for **American Crane Rental**. Superintendent **James Samson** said



he has a winner with Apprentice **Shane Riemersma**, because he is not afraid to get his hands dirty or work as long as it takes to get a job done. Riemersma is hoping to move to a larger crane soon. Training is very important to the future of the company, and Riemersma is learning it all, from making small repairs to operating equipment. Riemersma is expecting his first child this fall. Congratulations!

Apprentice Shane Riemersma.

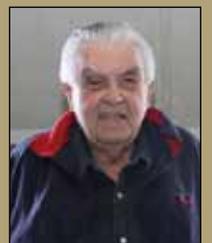


From left: Members Jason Norden and Mark Leonard work for Cal Fire.

Harry Horn

July 26, 1927-April 29, 2012

We are sad to inform you that longtime member **Harry Horn** has passed away. Shortly before his death, Horn stopped by the Hall to receive his 60-year pin. We thank him for his years of service and offer our condolences to his friends and family.



Many operators on Hwy. 101 job

School has started, so everyone should be careful around school zones. Another round of meetings also begins this month. Our District Meeting will be held on Sept. 12, and we will have Retiree Meetings in

Freedom that morning and in Morgan Hill that afternoon.

Work has been good this season in District 90. The 49ers stadium is progressing, with lots of subs in and out. Work in Stanford is still going strong, with the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital expansion keeping **Top Grade**, **Malcolm Drilling** and **Preston Pipelines** busy in a small area. **Preston** is also busy on the new hot-water system throughout

the Stanford campus, and **McGuire and Hester** has projects in and around town. **DeSilva Gates** is currently working on a K&B Homes project behind the Santana Row shopping center.

Farther south on the Hwy. 101 Caltrans project, **O.C. Jones** is well underway on the \$38 million, two-year widening from Shoreline to Oregon Expressway. The company is adding High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes and new drainage and expanding the shoulders. **Sanco Pipelines** is doing the underground improvements, while **R.M. Harris** is taking care of the box culverts. **O.C. Jones** will employ about 10 Operating Engineers, with the subs adding another 10 at the job's peak. New barrier rail will be installed, and rubberized asphalt will be used to improve road noise.

Dozer Operator George Benson and Compactor Operator Apprentice Andrea Sandoval work on O.C. Jones' Hwy. 101 job in Palo Alto.



Excavator Operator Martin Lentini and Gradesetter Tomas Garza work on Hwy. 101 in Palo Alto.



YUBA CITY | 468 Century Park Drive, Yuba City, CA 95991 ▪ (530) 743-7321 District Rep. Ed Ritchie

Down with the old; up with the new

C.C. Myers' Spanish Creek Bridge replacement on Hwy. 70 is coming to an end. Subcontractor **W.C. Maloney** is demo-ing the 1932 Spanish Creek Bridge and should be completed by the end of the month, while C.C. Myers should be finished by the end of October. **American Crane Rental** is also onsite.

Knife River Construction is putting the final touches on the Downieville River Bridge in Sierra County. Work has also begun on the third phase of the Forest Hwy. 171/Skyway widening project, and work on the Hwy. 32 project should be starting around Sept. 15, provided the funding is available.

DeSilva Gates is going strong on the Hwy. 70 and East Gridley Road passing-lane and paving project. **Mountain Cascade** is doing a fish ladder and weir replacement in the Sutter Bypass at the end of McAllister Road and is still working on the American Basin fish screen on the Sacramento River at the end of Sankey Road. **Teichert Construction** has Asphalt Concrete (AC) pavement cold-in-place recycling, placing Rubberized Hot Mix Asphalt (RHMA) from the Nevada County line to state Route 49 in Sierra County, and the \$25.5 million Hwy. 20/ Hwy. 70 Marysville rehab project. **Viking Construction** is still working on the state Route 32 undercrossing in Chico and

has another project in Sutter County at the Pleasant Grove Creek Bridge. **Sierra Nevada Construction** is working on the Hwy. 70 Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) overlay in Portola.

Some decent jobs have been awarded and some are still going out to bid. Stop by the Hall and check out the job board that Dispatcher **Danny Roles** keeps updated.

We want to recognize our signatory material-producers in District 60: **DeSilva Gates** (hot plant); **Knife River** (Hallwood, Chico and Orland plants); **Teichert** (Hallwood); **Kino Aggregates**; **Silica Resources**; and **Patterson Sand and Gravel** (Cemex).

Do you have the right certification for the job? There will be two refresher courses held at the Yuba City Hall: A Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) refresher will be held on Nov. 12, and a Hazwoper refresher will be held on Nov. 13. Please call the Hall and get signed up now, before the classes are full.

Also, please remember to stay current on the out-of-work list and re-register before the 84th day. The staff would like to thank all of you for calling in when you see non-bargaining employees doing our covered work. Keep it up!

As always, feel free to call the Hall with questions or stop by in person. Thanks, and be safe.



Member Michael Root works for W.C. Maloney.

Dispatches are up

As the year progresses, the work picture is looking better than the past few years. Members are going back to work, and the jobs keep coming in. It is evident by the number of dispatches this year that we are pulling out of the recession. Now may be a good time to take advantage of the training offered at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTTC). Whether it is to brush up on a piece of equipment or learn something new, it will help expand your opportunities for employment.

As far as work goes, **Teichert** is picking up several jobs in our district. **Evans Brothers** is working on the Downtown Fresno revitalization project. **Emmetts** has several road-improvement jobs, and **R&L Brosamer** picked up a \$41 million job, doing the Hwy. 180 braided ramps in Fresno. **Agee Construction** has overlays around Fresno and road construction on Road 200 in Madera.

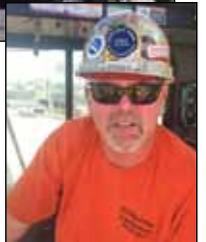
Granite has jobs in Fresno, Madera, Mendota and Kerman. **American Crane** is also staying busy, and so is **American Paving**, with \$4.1 million worth of work around Fresno. **Floyd Johnston**, **West Valley**, **W Jaxon Baker**, **Tri County**, **Mass X** and **Penhall** all have a list of work in the Fresno area.

We would like to remind you that this is an election year, and we are in desperate need of volunteers. If you would like to help out with phone banking or precinct walking, please contact the Hall. On the ballot this November is probably the most damaging bill brought before us in years. It is Proposition



Operator Mark Lograsso, Foreman Bill Sparks and Operator Robert Sparks work for Evans Brothers.

32, the Special Exemptions Act. If passed, this measure would literally be the beginning of the end for unions. Never before have we needed our members to get out and vote more than this November.



Link Belt Operator Garrison Landes works for American Crane.

NEVADA

1290 Corporate Blvd., Reno, NV 89502 ■ For all branches, call (775) 857-4440
District Rep. Steve Ingersoll

MSHA required to work in mines

As the summer comes to a close, so do many of the projects in the area. There are a few projects that will continue through the winter, weather permitting, such as **Q&D Construction's** project on Moana Lane and **Granite Construction's** project on the Moana Interchange.

With the workload slowing down, it is an ideal time to stay involved in *your* union. Contact the Hall for information on political walks, organizing campaigns and upcoming training classes. Operators are still in high demand at several mine locations, but remember: Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is a requirement to work in the mines. For your convenience, the Hall is open every Wednesday night until 8 p.m., so please stop by and look into these opportunities or just say hello.

The Northern Nevada Joint Apprenticeship Training Center would like to thank **Q&D Construction** for its generous tire donation for our Volvo articulated truck.

Our next District Meeting at the Reno Hall is on Wednesday, Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. We hope to see you there. We thank everyone who attended our District Picnic on June 30. A good time was had by all.

From Elko

Greetings from the Elko office! We hope you all took a little time to enjoy the summer sun.

As fall begins, OE3 will be gearing up for contract negotiations with **Newmont Mining Corporation**. Jan. 31, 2013 marks the end of our current agreement, and negotiations will begin this December. Negotiation Committee members have been chosen and are working on the 2013-2016 agreement. The "wants and needs" list has been collected, and we have set up target dates to meet with the membership and **Newmont**. General-membership meetings will be arranged so members can meet the negotiation team and share ideas or concerns. Dates and meeting times will

be posted on the union board at work. You may also contact your union steward with any questions. Remember, only the votes from your union brothers and sisters will count on the upcoming contract.

Monthly membership meetings are held at the Hall on the first Wednesday of every month from 6 to 8 p.m. We are also open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. every Wednesday to meet the scheduling needs of our members. Wednesday night is also a good time to stop in and get to know your union representatives.

Help us grow our membership! If you know anyone who is interested in becoming a member, please encourage them to call the Hall and get more information or an application. The Elko Office number is (775) 753-8761.



Apprentice Chris Brown's daughter, Kristen, tests her skills on the mini excavator.



Retiree Aldo Teglia and his wife, Allene, enjoy themselves at the Nevada District Picnic.



Apprentice Jeremiah Bakman and his family have fun at Nevada's District Picnic.

Participating in our VOTE program is very important

The District 20 staff hopes you all had a great Labor Day weekend, and we'd like to congratulate our elected officers and E-Board members!

Election Day (Nov. 6) is fast approaching, so hopefully you've been paying attention to our officers' columns and other articles in this magazine for important political information.

There is no question that every election requires a fight on our part, but this year's isn't just any fight. It will be a battle of epic proportions. An onslaught to labor and the middle class has already begun across our great nation. It does not matter whether you are in a public- or private-sector union; all are being targeted. Why? Good question. Union membership only represents 11.8 percent of workers in the United States, and California has the highest number at 2.4 million union members. Yet we have a population of 37.6 million. Obviously, Big Business and special interests want more – more money and more power! So, how do they intend to get more? With deception.

That deception comes to our state in the form of Proposition 32. The real truth about Prop. 32 is that it is designed to weaken unions and give even more power to corporate special interests. This ballot measure is sponsored by anti-union billionaires who want to take away working people's ability to have a voice in the political process and then come back after our basic rights, like overtime pay, meal breaks, pensions, health-care coverage, prevailing wage, job security and other benefits working people have won by standing together as one. See this edition for more information.

It's time for us all to unite once again! We urge you to call the Hall and ask how you can help in our Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program. Your involvement is crucial. We will be phone banking (calling other brothers and sisters to get the word out about Local 3's endorsed candidates) and precinct walking (walking door-to-door talking to union households about protecting what's ours). Don't let someone take away what's rightfully yours!



Members Roy Petrini, foreground, and Lisa Vossen, in hat, call other members to talk about the upcoming election.

And don't forget: District 20's third quarterly meeting is on Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Sheet Metal Workers Hall (1720 Marina Blvd.) in San Leandro. See you there!

ROHNERT PARK | 6225 State Farm Drive, Suite 100, Rohnert Park, CA 94928 ■ (707) 585-2487 District Rep. Chris Snyder

Willits Bypass awarded to DeSilva Gates/Flatiron

Work in District 10 remains strong. The Hwy. 101 corridor from Wilfred Avenue in Rohnert Park to Washington Street in Petaluma continues to be busy, with **Ghilotti Construction** and **Ghilotti Brothers** beginning the final paving on different sections of the highway with help from subcontractor **R.E. Serrano, Inc.** **Ghilotti Brothers** opened the Golf Course Drive/Wilfred Avenue undercrossing to the public, which has been a huge relief for traffic-congestion at the north end of Rohnert Park. **Ghilotti Construction** continues work at Washington Street in Petaluma, widening the southbound on-ramp. The new northbound on-ramp will be an elevated structure. The pile-driving is complete, and the foundation is being formed now.

Team Ghilotti is finishing the Alta Avenue sewer and water-line upgrade in Rohnert Park, and **Terracon Construction** is working on a similar project near Slater Middle School in Santa Rosa. **O.C. Jones** continues work at the Green Music Center at Sonoma State University and picked up a parking-lot reconstruction on campus. **Argonaut Construction** should be ready to start the Nordyke Avenue/Victor Drive water/sewer-line project in Santa Rosa, and the city of Santa Rosa has the Fourth Street storm-drain project ready to bid.

In Lake County, **Granite Construction** finished the Hwy. 175 overlay and continues work in Nice on the Hwy. 20 roundabout.

Argonaut Construction is still at Mendocino College in Lakeport. **Teichert Construction** is gearing up for the Hwy. 53/Hwy. 20 paving project, and **Preston Pipelines** is currently on a new sewer-main job in Clearlake.

In Mendocino County, **Argonaut Construction** has a \$2.8 million Caltrans paving project in Fort Bragg and a \$1.47 million job on Hwy. 128 in Boonville. Mendocino County has a couple of street-rehab jobs ready to bid: Sunset Drive near Ukiah and Central Street in Willits.

The big, big, big news for Mendocino County is that the Willits Bypass has been awarded to **DeSilva Gates/Flatiron** for \$108 million.

Team Ghilotti is the low bidder on the Healdsburg North Street/Center Street utility-replacement project at \$997,000. **Ghilotti Brothers** is the low bidder on

the Copeland Creek bike path. **Valentine Corporation** will be working for the water district in Guerneville. **Ghilotti Construction** has the Sonoma Mountain Parkway repair project and River Trail in Petaluma, the Arlen Avenue and East Cotati overlay for the city of Rohnert Park and the Airport Boulevard/Fulton Road signal upgrade in Santa Rosa.

Finally, in Rohnert Park, Graton Rancheria is ready to break ground on a casino. This job will be done all-union under a Project Labor Agreement (PLA). **Ghilotti Construction** should be moving dirt by the time you read this.



Members work for R.E. Serrano, Inc., a subcontractor for Ghilotti Brothers, on Hwy. 101 in Rohnert Park.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

All meetings convene at 7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 2012

- 5th District 60: Marysville
Veterans Memorial Center
211 17th St.
- 10th District 30: Stockton
Operating Engineers' Building
1916 North Broadway Ave.
- 10th District 80: Sacramento
Operating Engineers' Building
3920 Lennane Drive
- 11th District 20: San Leandro
Sheet Metal Workers
1720 Marina Blvd.
- 11th District 50: Clovis
Clovis Memorial District
808 Fourth St.
- 12th District 01: Burlingame
Machinists Union
1511 Rollins Road
- 12th District 90: Morgan Hill
Operating Engineers' Building
325 Digital Drive
- 13th District 04: Fairfield
Cordelia Fire House
2155 Cordelia Road
- 13th District 10: Rohnert Park
Operating Engineers' Building
6225 State Farm Drive
- 19th District 11: Reno
Operating Engineers' Building
1290 Corporate Blvd.
- 20th District 12: Salt Lake City
IBEW Local 354
3400 W. 2100 S.
- 24th District 17: Honolulu
Ala Moana Hotel
410 Atkinson Drive
- 26th District 70: Redding
Operating Engineers' Building
20308 Engineers Lane
- 27th District 40: Eureka
Best Western Bayshore Inn
3500 Broadway

OCTOBER 2012

No meetings scheduled.

NOVEMBER 2012

- 26th District 30: Stockton
Operating Engineers' Building
1916 North Broadway Ave.
- 26th District 80: Sacramento
Operating Engineers' Building
3920 Lennane Drive
- 27th District 20: Martinez
Plumbers 159
1304 Roman Way

- 27th District 50: Clovis
Clovis Memorial District
808 Fourth St.

- 28th District 01: Novato
Unity In Marin
600 Palm Drive

- 28th District 90: Morgan Hill
Operating Engineers' Building
325 Digital Drive

- 29th District 04: Fairfield
Suisun Masonic Building
412 Travis Blvd.

- 29th District 10: Rohnert Park
Operating Engineers' Building
6225 State Farm Drive

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

September 2012

- 5th District 11: Elko
Newmont Mine Meeting: 6 p.m.
Operating Engineers' Building
1094 Lamoille Highway, Elko
- 12th District 11: Elko
Construction Meeting: 6 p.m.
Operating Engineers' Building
1094 Lamoille Highway, Elko
- 22nd District 17: Kauai
Meeting and Picnic: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Hanamaulu Beach Park
Kapule Highway, Lihue
- 25th District 17: Maui
Meeting: 7 p.m.
Maui Arts and Cultural Center
One Cameron Way, Kahului
- 26th District 17: Hilo
Meeting: 7 p.m.
Hilo Hawaiian Hotel
71 Banyan Drive, Hilo
- 27th District 17: Kona
Meeting: 7 p.m.
King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel
75-5660 Palani Road, Kona
- 10th District 11: Elko
Construction Meeting: 6 p.m.
Operating Engineers' Building
1094 Lamoille Highway, Elko

October 2012

- 3rd District 11: Elko
Newmont Mine Meeting: 6 p.m.
Operating Engineers' Building
1094 Lamoille Highway, Elko

- 10th District 11: Elko
Construction Meeting: 6 p.m.
Operating Engineers' Building
1094 Lamoille Highway, Elko

November 2012

- 7th District 11: Elko
Newmont Mine Meeting: 6 p.m.
Operating Engineers' Building
1094 Lamoille Highway, Elko

- 14th District 11: Elko
Construction Meeting: 6 p.m.
Operating Engineers' Building
1094 Lamoille Highway, Elko

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan has announced that the next Semi-Annual Meeting of the membership will be held on Sunday, Sept. 16, 2012 at 1 p.m. at the following location:

Rancho Murieta Association
Lake Clementia Park
Rancho Murieta, Calif.
(off Murieta Parkway)

Important reminder regarding your registration

Please remember to renew your registration on the out-of-work list before it expires! Registration for individuals with A-hire or B-hire status is good for only 84 days. After the 84th day, your registration expires, and you will lose your place on the out-of-work list, if you don't renew it. We will do everything we can to notify you in advance, but it is your responsibility to contact the district office to renew your registration prior to the 84th day.

Honorary Membership for Retirees

Retirees with 35 or more years of service in Local 3 are eligible for Honorary Membership. Eligible Retirees will receive their Gold Membership Card and a reduction in dues. To find out if you are eligible or to apply for Honorary Membership, please contact your district office or the Recording-Corresponding Secretary (RCS) office at (510) 748-7400.

This month's Honorary Members can be found below.

Honorary Membership

The following Retirees have 35 or more years of membership in Local 3 as of July 2012 and have been determined eligible for Honorary Membership effective Oct. 1, 2012.

John Aguilera District 30: Stockton	1651974
Tommie Colan District 50: Fresno	1504640
Bert Dayton District 99: Out Of Area	0947420
Jack A. Fusari District 50: Fresno	1725453
Donald R. Keir District 30: Stockton	1590580
Kevin C. Reynolds District 40: Eureka	1532397
Darryl Wooldridge District 30: Stockton	1697333

Service pins

In honor and remembrance of years of service in Local 3, service pins are available to members with 25 or more years of membership. These pins come in five-year increments from 25 through 75 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.

Hawaii District Picnic Details

District 17: *Hawaii (Kauai) District Picnic and Town Hall Meeting Details*

Saturday, Sept. 22, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Hanamaulu Beach Park, Kapule Highway, Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii

Menu: Barbecue chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, drinks, desserts

Cost: Free

Other information: Games, entertainment, raffle tickets and prizes for all members and their families.

District 17: *Hawaii (Oahu) District Picnic Details*

Saturday, Sept. 29, 10 a.m.

Operating Engineers' Building, 1075 Opakapaka St., Kapolei, Hawaii

Menu: Barbecue chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, drinks, desserts, shaved ice

Cost: Free

Other information: Raffle tickets, games for the kids and prizes for the entire family.

District 17: *Hawaii (Maui) District Picnic Details*

Saturday, Dec. 8 – details to be announced

Cruise participants: Thank you!

The Operating Engineers Scholarship Foundation would like to thank the following participants of the February 2012 Western Caribbean Cruise who made a \$50 tax-deductible donation to the Scholarship Fund.

Steven and Stephanie Bishop
Robert and Shirley Brown
Bran and Renee Eubanks
Derryl Futrell and Anita Mangrum
Larry and Evelyn Gapuz
Bob and Patricia Helton
Lou Nisich and Oanh Dam
Ralph and Marie Perez
Ken and Robin Tail
Bob and Teri Vanderpol

Free children's health clinic available next month

Retiree George Slack is at it again, helping children through his role as the screening-clinic chairman for the Pomo Shrine Club in Rohnert Park. His leadership and the support he receives from the Operating Engineers make the Annual Shriners Hospital Children's Screening Clinic a success every year.

The clinic and health fair is free to all children ages 16 and under and will be held Oct. 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club Alex Rorabaugh Center (1640 South State St.) in Ukiah. Doctors and nurses will be available to provide check-ups, screenings and medical care.

The clinic will also be offering free child-identification cards again, since more than 150 children received them last year. Other activities include crowd-pleasing clowns, a

speech-therapy booth and, with the help of Local 3 donations, hundreds of free bicycle helmets (last year, more than 400 were given out).

For more information, contact Slack at (707) 485-0274.

Congratulations 2012 Local 3 \$1,000 Merit Scholarship Winners

Quinn Benally
Salt Lake City, UT 84104
Parent: Wilfred Benally
Reg# 1948707

Wayde Bentley
Twain Harte, CA 95383
Parent: Denise Brockett
Reg# 4027939

Brandon Bordessa
Honoka'a, HI 96727
Parent: Joseph Bordessa
Reg# 2112820

Makena Brown
Napa, CA 94558
Parent: Larry Brown Jr.
Reg# 1839919

Jenna Bryant
Galt, CA 95632
Parent: Terrence Bryant
Reg# 2307437

Gabrielle Coomes
Yuba City, CA 95993
Parent: Gabriel Coomes
Reg# 4054425

Parker Crouse
Woody, CA 93287
Parent: Marion Crouse
Reg# 1305586

Corey Doran
Fairfield, CA 94533
Parent: Michael Doran
Reg# 2132595

Cassie Freitas
Pearl City, HI 96782
Parent: Allen Freitas
Reg# 2093079

Michael Gallo
San Jose, CA 95125
Parent: John Gallo
Reg# 2579302

Veronica Gomez
Rohnert Park, CA 94928
Parent: Beth Cervantes
Reg# 2291141

Kristine Harbin
Stockton, CA 95215
Parent: Shawn Harbin
Reg# 2279243

Kalyssa King
Arcata, CA 95521
Parent: Danny King
Reg# 2118376

Jessie Lewis
Williamsburg, MA 01096
Parent: Kevin Lewis
Reg# 2287584

Adrian Munoz-Sanchez
Concord, CA 94519
Parent: Amador Munoz
Reg# 2369576

Lindsey Myrick
Clovis, CA 93611
Parent: Danny Myrick
Reg# 2123307

Ryan Nillo
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Parent: Rene Nillo
Reg# 2199774

Alyssa Ortega
Hercules, CA 94547
Parent: Charles Ortega
Reg# 1875296

Colin Ridgley
Napa, CA 94559
Parent: James Ridgley
Reg# 1923134

Ronnie Robinson
Suisun City, CA 94585
Parent: Ronnie Robinson
Reg# 2412471

Trevor Sawyer
Sonora, CA 95370
Parent: Daniel Underwood
Reg# 2567802

Catherine Smith
Sacramento, CA 95831
Parent: Paul Smith
Reg# 1745165

Lillian Tsosie-Jensen
Riverton, UT 84065
Parent: James Larson
Reg# 1265071

Joan Urquidi
Elko, NV 89801
Parent: Javier Urquidi
Reg# 2489218

Alesha Williams
Oak Run, CA 96069
Parent: David Williams
Reg# 2354850

Note: Winners were randomly drawn at the July 29, 2012 Executive Board Meeting.

Correction: In August's pin spread, members Chuck Giles and Wendell Pentz were misidentified. In the same edition, in Utah's District Report, Retirees Murray Stevens and Don Strate were also misidentified.

Election of Bylaws Committee members

Per Article XXX, Section 2 (a) of the Local 3 Bylaws, the following eligibility requirements have been established for the Bylaws Committee member nomination and election to be held at the regular fourth-quarter District Meetings immediately following the election of Officers and Executive Board members by secret-ballot vote of those members present:

1. Must be a registered voter (with proof of current voter registration) in the District in which he or she is seeking nomination.
2. Must have been a member of the Parent Local of Operating Engineers Local 3 for five (5) years next preceding his or her nomination and election.
3. Must be a member in continuous good standing.
4. Cannot be an Employer or on the payroll of the Local Union or a related entity.
5. No Member shall be nominated unless he or she is present at the meeting, or unless he or she has filed prior to the meeting with the Recording-Corresponding Secretary or to the District Meeting Secretary on the day of the meeting before the meeting commences, a statement in writing, signed by him or her, to the effect that he or she is eligible to serve on the Bylaws Committee and will accept the nomination if nominated.

Election of Geographical Market Area Committee members

The election of Geographical Market Area Committee members will take place at each district's regularly scheduled District Meeting, except for Hawaii, during the fourth quarter of 2012. In accordance with Article XXXI of the Local 3 Bylaws, elections shall be held at the fourth quarter District Meeting in each district after the election and Installation of Officers. Eligibility rules are as follows:

- (a) Must be dispatched and working under a Local 3 Construction Agreement or registered at the Operating Engineers Job Placement Center seeking a dispatch to work under a construction agreement in his or her District.
- (b) Must be a Member in good standing of the Parent Local for the five (5) year period prior to the election.
- (c) Must be living in the Committee's district geographical area.
- (d) Must be an "A" list Journey Operator.
- (e) Cannot be an Owner-Operator.
- (f) Cannot be a Retired Member, an Officer of the Local Union, or on the payroll of the Local Union or a related entity.
- (g) No Member shall be nominated unless he or she is present at the meeting, or unless he or she has filed prior to the meeting with the Recording-Corresponding Secretary or to the District Meeting Secretary on the day of the meeting before the meeting commences, a statement in writing, signed by him or her, to the effect that he or she is eligible to serve on the Geographical Market Area Committee and will accept the nomination if nominated.

DEPARTED MEMBERS

Allen, Lawrence
Reno, NV
District 11
06-09-12

Aoki, Kiyoto
Captain Cook, HI
District 17
05-18-12

Behrend, Vernon
Oroville, CA
District 60
06-04-12

Bone, Walter
West Sacramento, CA
District 80
05-25-12

Carrola, Richard
Sacramento, CA
District 80
06-04-12

Davidson, Loyd
North Highlands, CA
District 80
05-12-12

Douglas, Carl
Queen Creek, AZ
District 99
06-01-12

Gonzalez, Adam
Oroville, CA
District 60
06-12-12

Gray, Floyd
Irrigon, OR
District 99
05-25-12

Hawkins, Dan
Roseville, CA
District 80
05-19-12

Jones, Steve
Lincoln, CA
District 80
06-13-12

Kaaukai, Paul
Papaikou, HI
District 17
05-05-12

Kam, Samuel
Hauula, HI
District 17
06-14-12

Lait, John
Pleasant Hill, CA
District 20
06-05-12

Lencioni, Anthony
Valley Springs, CA
District 30
06-04-12

Maguire, Michael
Elko, NV
District 11
05-13-12

Martinez, Frank Jr.
Calexico, CA
District 99
06-03-12

McDede, Walter
Ione, CA
District 30
05-30-12

Mc Isaac, Donald Jr.
Sparks, NV
District 11
05-11-12

Ochoa, Eduardo Jr.
Clovis, CA
District 50
06-19-12

Ondayog, George
Kailua, HI
District 17
06-15-12

Pini, David
Watsonville, CA
District 90
05-07-12

Redmond, Wayne
Stonyford, CA
District 60
06-02-12

Rist, Jack
Healdsburg, CA
District 10
06-04-12

Stavros, Charles
Bountiful, UT
District 12
06-17-12

Tonozzi, John
Fresno, CA
District 50
06-14-12

Waters, Daniel
Cupertino, CA
District 90
05-30-12

Wey, Douglas
Modesto, CA
District 30
06-15-12

Woods, Donald
Pahrump, NV
District 99
05-19-12

Yamashiro, Koshun
Kaneohe, HI
District 17
05-29-12

DECEASED DEPENDENTS

Askin, Eleanor.
Wife of Askin,
Arthur (dec)
06-15-12

Basquez, Elizabeth.
Wife of Basquez,
Mike (dec)
06-18-12

Bevan, Grace.
Wife of Bevan, Bill
(dec)
06-01-12

Bronson, Kathryn.
Wife of Bronson,
Tom (dec)
05-18-12

Carpenter, Jeannie.
Wife of Carpenter,
Dan E. (dec)
05-13-12

Christenson,
Bunpan.
Wife of
Christenson, Roger
06-05-12

Clark, Willie.
Wife of Clark,
William (dec)
02-22-12

Collell, Martha.
Wife of Collell, Joe
06-08-12

Ford, Jane.
Wife of Ford, Lin W.
(dec)
06-17-12

Gonzalez, Lucila.
Wife of Gonzalez,
Fernando
05-03-12

Hallows, Gwen.
Wife of Hallows,
Karl (dec)
06-02-12

Heaps, Marlene.
Wife of Heaps, Earl
05-14-12

Henriques, Lucille.
Wife of Henriques,
Rollin (dec)
06-01-12

Henry, Viola.
Wife of Henry,
Curtis
06-21-12

Jensen, Oma.
Wife of Jensen,
Lionel (dec)
06-04-12

Jergentz, Mary.
Wife of Jergentz,
Dennis
03-11-12

Johnson, Margie.
Wife of Johnson,
Frederick (dec)
11-18-11

McCrory, Lois.
Wife of McCrory,
Paul (dec)
06-01-12

Miller, Jean.
Wife of Miller,
Howard (dec)
05-20-12

Munar, Ladonna.
Wife of Munar,
Frank
06-01-12

Palakiko, Nancy.
Wife of Palakiko,
Daniel (dec)
06-04-12

Ramey, Dolly.
Wife of Ramey,
Franklin (dec)
06-07-12

Seal, Ruby.
Wife of Seal,
Coleman (dec)
06-10-12

Thorn, Lydia.
Wife of Thorn,
Clifford
06-22-12

Turner, Gwendolyn.
Wife of Turner,
Robert (dec)
05-28-12

Viguera, Olga.
Wife of Viguera,
Alex (dec)
06-06-12

Webster,
Connemoira.
Wife of Webster,
Ford
06-22-12

Wood, Norma Sue.
Wife of Wood, B.E.
(dec)
05-24-12



Stress and you: How's your mental health?

Fall approaches. Another summer gone. Yet the things that cause us stress every day appear in our lives regardless of the season.

The Trustees are focused and committed to helping you become aware and proactive in seeking proper medical and wellness advice. When it comes to stress, your first step may be to look in the mirror. What do you do to cope with stress? How do you assess your mental health and well-being?

The habits below may temporarily reduce stress, but they will cause more long-term damage. Do any of these describe how you cope with stress?

- Smoking
- Drinking too much
- Over- or under-eating
- Zoning out for hours in front of the TV or computer
- Withdrawing from friends, family and activities
- Using pills or drugs
- Sleeping too much
- Procrastinating
- Filling up every minute of the day to avoid facing problems
- Taking out your stress on others (lashing out, angry outbursts, physical violence)

You can increase your resistance to stress by strengthening your physical health. Follow some of the strategies below:

- ✓ Exercise regularly. Physical activity plays a key role in reducing and preventing the effects of stress. Make time for at least 30 minutes of exercise, three times per week. Nothing beats aerobic exercise for releasing pent-up stress and tension.
- ✓ Eat a healthy diet. Well-nourished bodies are better prepared to cope with stress, so be mindful of what you eat. Start your day right with breakfast, and keep your energy up and your mind clear with balanced, nutritious meals throughout the day.
- ✓ Reduce caffeine and sugar. The temporary “highs” caffeine and sugar provide often end with a crash in mood and energy. By reducing the amount of coffee, soft drinks, chocolate and sugary snacks in your diet, you'll feel more relaxed and sleep better.
- ✓ Avoid alcohol, cigarettes and drugs. Self-medicating with substances may provide an easy escape from stress, but the relief is only temporary. Don't avoid or mask the issue at hand; deal with problems head-on and with a clear mind.
- ✓ Get enough sleep. Adequate sleep fuels your mind, as well as your body. Feeling tired will increase your stress because it may cause you to think irrationally.

It's up to you. Help yourself if you can. And remember, your health benefits include professional, quality mental-health care.

Make sure your children get their recommended immunizations

Summer is over, and there's no better time than the present to get your kids their recommended immunizations. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Childhood Immunization Support Program (CISP) urges parents and guardians to have children immunized as early as 2 months of age to protect them against a variety of diseases. It is also recommended that before children enter kindergarten and/or first grade, they get their booster shots to help prevent hepatitis A, tetanus, polio, influenza, measles, mumps and chickenpox. To learn more about childhood immunizations, visit www.cispimmunize.org. The AAP provides schedules for parents and guardians to stay on track with their children's immunizations.



The Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Plan covers 100 percent of the cost of a routine immunization, regardless of whether it is performed by an in-network or out-of-network provider.

Need information about your benefits? Check the Trust Fund's website

The Trust Fund's website, www.oe3trustfunds.org, is a valuable resource for information about your health and Pension benefits. This is your gateway to important information. It is a means to access commonly used forms/documents, review FAQs, learn about the Fund and, with our secure login, check your employers' Pension contributions, estimate your Pension and much more.



Has something changed?

If you've experienced changes in your life, let the Trust Fund Office know. Have you moved, want to change your beneficiary or had a change in your family status by reason of marriage, birth, adoption, placement of a child for adoption, loss of other coverage, death, divorce or legal separation? Tell us. If you have any questions, call (800) 251-5014.

Check us out! Visit the Trust Fund's website for information about health and Pension benefits. Visit www.oe3.org to get online copies of Engineers News you might have missed.

Swap Shop ads are offered free of charge to members in good standing for the sale or trade of personal items and/or real estate. Please notify the office 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. Ads received by the 1st of the month will run the following month. Limit two ads per issue.

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

Operating Engineers
Local Union No. 3
3920 Lennane Dr.
Sacramento, CA 95834
ATTN: Swap Shop*

Or call:
(916) 993-2047, ext. 2506

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

Or e-mail to:
johnston@oe3.org

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

drag scraper and disc. \$6,000. (916) 487-4846. Reg# 0486295.

FOR RENT: Timeshare in Puerto Vallarta. Right on the ocean. 49th week in December (Saturday, Dec. 8 to Saturday, Dec. 15). One bedroom. Kitchen. Second room sleeps two. Views of pool. Ocean access – chairs/lounges. Lots of activities/shopping. \$555. Timeshare also for sale or swap. Call for details. (925) 484-4987. Reg# 0569555.

FOR SALE: Lake Shastina, Calif. 3 bd/2 ba, approximately 1,450 square feet. Good location, between two golf courses, close to summer and winter activities, boating, skiing, fishing, hiking, nice view of Mt. Shasta. F/A heat, A/C, garden area auto sprinkler system. Low maintenance yard, great neighbors. Freestanding wood stove. Below replacement cost at \$195,000. (530) 938-9947 or (530) 859-2912. Serious inquiries only. Reg# 2503816.

FOR SALE: 25 acres, great for horses. Fantastic view. 3 bd/2 ba home with sunroom, closed-in deck, full daylight basement, dishwasher, smooth-top stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer. 3,200 square feet, 78 gl, minute in well, 30-by-40 shop and 18-foot side 40 feet long, ¼-acre pond. More. In Worley, Idaho. Owner will finance with a good down. (208) 686-0223, (208) 659-5092 or jendavleon@aol.com. Reg# 0883658.

FOR SALE: Three acres on Big Island of Hawaii in Hawaiian Acres Road 2. Two-story house heavily framed. Built in 2012. 16-by-20 greenhouse to grow year-round. Views of both mountains and ocean. \$79,000. (808) 635-1216. Reg# 2690917.

FOR SALE: 1988 Seaswirl Sierra Cuddy 18 feet. 4.3 Liter Chevy V6 engine. Stern drive, GPS/fish finder, AM/FM/cassette, Bimini top, porta potty, bed-in-cabin, two custom canvas covers, galvanized trailer, surge brakes, Buddy bearings. New tires, battery, wheel cylinders and brakes. Boat and engine have 176 original hours. Upholstery excellent. Boat has no issues. \$5,750. (707) 998-3518. Can e-mail pictures. Reg# 2093048.

FOR SALE: 40-foot-long horse trailer. Three horse slant. Has generator, TV, Bose entertainment center, large bathroom, 29-foot living space. Call Vic at (530) 923-4878. Reg# 1276105.

FOR SALE: 1-3/4 drive dial torque wrench 350 ft. lb; 1-1/2 inch click type 200 ft. lb. snap on; 1-21/4 slugging wrench; 1 1/78 slugging wrench; 1 2-3/16 wrench; 1 1/78 wrench; 1 2/14 wrench; one handle for the last three; 1- 24 inch heavy duty pipe wrench; 11/4 sae & std stude driver; 1 1/2 sae and std studedriver; tool that holds them to make them work. Make offer. (916) 489-1227. Reg# 1130290.

FOR SALE: Cat backhoe new and used parts: 416 hyd pump, Cat backhoe controls; starter alternator; King Pin bearings (cups and cones); bucket and boom bearings; bucket pin washers and locks; 14 Hoc bucket tips and pins; D4 ripper shank; 6-XT3 (Cat) hoe hyd hoses; hyd test gauges, hoses and quick couplers. All for \$1,500. (707) 442-5265. Reg# 1620480.

FOR SALE: 1978 Ford F7000. Mechanics service truck. Brakes air 16x7 rear 16x3.5 front. Clark 5 speed 397V5. Engine 3208 Cat, 36,663 miles. 84-inch Cab to Axle. A frame boom with chain drive at end of poles. Load line and boom winch, both 8,000 pounds. DC 225 Lincoln welder. Air compressor LeRoi 42 CFM Engine Wisconsin THD 2 cylinder. Call for additional details. \$9,500 OBO. (925) 935-7975. Reg# 1208446.

FOR SALE: 1971 Ford Bronco V8 hard top, inside done, under hood done, outside ready for paint. \$5,950. Bob in Stockton. (209) 992-0227. Reg# 1510977.

WANTED: Smith & Wesson pistol, model 53 – 22 Rem. jet. Bob in Stockton. (209) 992-0227. Reg# 1510977.

FOR SALE: SQHD rear ends. 463 ratio. \$900. Also: 24-foot heavy-duty trailer top for bridge. \$1,400. (707) 312-1900. Reg# 1826077.

FOR SALE: Creek-side home/shop on three acres. Beautiful. Potential income. Sheridan, Wyo. www.homesbyowner.com/90153. Reg# 2541558.

FOR SALE: Like New Topcon System 5+ GPS. Tracker Jack Receiver complete with pole and cord. Steep Slope Sensor. GPS Pole and L-Bar. 3D-MC GPS and Single Disk antenna with carrying case. Best offer. Call Jesse at (916) 601-7197. Reg# 1965560.

FOR RENT: 2 bd/2 ba ocean-front condos in Maui. Both units are right on the ocean at Sugar Beach in Maalaea Bay. Full kitchens, laundry. Sleeps six. (707) 480-4121. Reg# 0782777.

FOR SALE: Condo in Maui, 2 bd/2 ba. Ready to move in or use as a vacation rental. Comes furnished. Ocean-front unit. (707) 747-6727. Reg# 0782777.

FOR SALE: Complete liquidation of 35-year collection of Heavy Duty Repairman and welder's tools. Everything goes; prefer to sell as complete group. Includes all tools from service truck as well as torches, bottles, arbor press, four come alongs, taps and special tools for everything from diesel engines, hydraulics and electrical to conveyor belt lacing and home repair tools. Serious calls. (209) 531-6943. Reg# 1631688.

FOR SALE: Snap On 3/4-inch Drive Socket Set 3 Ratchets 25 Sockets 2 Ext. 8 inch and 16 inch: \$200. AC Test Kit Hoses and Gauges 3 14 ounce cans of Riz Refrigerant: \$40. Road Master Tow Bar Frame Bracket (fits Ford Ranger): \$40. Remco Drive Shaft Disconnect Coupling (fits Ford Ranger): \$50. (530) 432-3874. Reg# 0950636.

FOR SALE: Bullhead City, Ariz. house for sale. Quiet gated community close to shopping, hospitals, Lake Mohave and the Colorado River, Laughlin, Nev. gaming. 3 bd/2 ba. 1,730-plus feet landscaped with irrigation system, pool, block fence. Room for RV with complete hookup. Three stall boat deep garage. Property adjoins community park. \$290,000. (928) 704-5199 or highland1luke@yahoo.com. Reg# 0796005.

FOR SALE: Two burial plots at Oak Hill Cemetery in San Jose, Calif. Section 926, Lot 4. Well-maintained. Plots border Veterans section and civilian section. Paid \$5,995 each. Asking \$10,000 OBO for both. (210) 679-0978 or (210) 262-7834. Reg# 1386830.

FOR SALE: Six single-phase electric motors: 5 hp Century, 3450 RPM, 230 volts, 5/8-inch shaft: \$90. 2 hp Century, 3450 RPM, 115/230 volts, 5/8-inch shaft: \$75. 3 hp Marathon, 1750 RPM, 230 volts, 1-1/8-inch shaft: \$225. A 1/2 hp and a 1/3 hp Leeson, 1625 RPM, 115 volts, 5/8-inch shaft, reversible: \$65 each. 1/12 hp Hitachi, 1740 RPM, 3/8-inch shaft, reversible: \$25. (916) 487-2201. Reg# 2046985.

FOR SALE: 1998 Airstream cutter motor home. 35 feet freightliner chasis, air ride suspension, 300 Caterpillar 3126 engine.

Six-speed Allison md 3060 transmission, 6 kw Onan diesel generator 400 hours, 16-foot slideout, satellite dish, washer/dryer combo, two roof air conditioners, backup camera, catalytic heater, solar panels, inverter, tow package. Excellent condition. 58,000 miles. Second owner. \$31,500. (510) 793-4904. Reg# 0867016.

FOR SALE: 1997 Freightliner (FL 60, business class). 64,616 miles. Set up with ball to tow gooseneck RV/trailer. Four-door cab; Scelzi 9-foot body; six-speed Allison tranny; Caterpillar diesel motor; two fuel tanks (total capacity: 100 gallons); air rear suspension; aluminum wheels. Air suspension seats in front (captain's chair-style); bench seat in rear lies flat. Heated side mirrors; more. Clean. \$41,500. (650) 728-9298. Reg# 1107333.

FOR SALE: Older three-horse stock combination trailer. Two 7,000-pound axles; 2-5/16 ball hitch. Best offer. (707) 887-2033. Reg# 0661943.

FOR SALE: Cyrus Noble bottle collection. Small wine bottles or large whiskey bottles plus boxes that they come in. Call for price. Also: A Hobart portable 225-amp welder. Powered by gas two-cylinder Wisconsin engine. \$600. (415) 488-9515. Reg# 0702375.

WANTED: Shotguns, rifles, pistols and ammo from one to a whole collection. (559) 351-6615. Reg# 2123273.

FOR SALE: 302A John Deere Tractor. Front loader. 1-¼-yard bucket, hydraulic tilt on scraper and rippers, safety cab; set up for backhoe; has reconditioned heads, heavy-duty pump for backhoe, new valves, injectors, diesel fuel pump, booster pump and starter, good tires. Ready to go to work. \$8,500 OBO. Will take smaller tractor in trade. (916) 991-1530. Reg# 0486196.

FOR SALE: 2000 Ford F-350 7.3 Diesel Lariat Edition 2WD. Four-door, long bed. 70,500 miles. \$20,000. (916) 704-7601. Reg# 2292900.

FOR SALE: 2006 Yamaha Raptor 700 with nerf bars high flow air intake. \$4,000. Also: 2005 Yamaha Raptor 350. \$2,500. (916) 704-7601. Reg# 2292900.

FOR SALE: Cat D4 J-series 1941. Under carriage is good; needs a little work. Also, a 5-foot-6-inch gang disc that goes with it. Both \$2,000 OBO. (707) 257-2339. Reg# 1265331.



Say **NO** to **PROP. 32**

Otherwise, YOU WILL LOSE EVERYTHING

What's behind Proposition

32? It may sound good (“Campaign Finance Reform” or “Paycheck Protection”), but Prop. 32 is just a cleverly marketed union-busting initiative funded by anti-union billionaires (CEOs) and corporate special interests who hate everything you stand for, especially your unionism. While supporters claim it will “level the playing field” by stopping corporations and unions from collecting political funds through payroll deductions, corporations don’t deduct money from payroll for campaigns, so *it just handicaps us*. Prop. 32 makes the political system even more unbalanced to favor the already rich and powerful.

What will happen to unions if

it passes? Our political voice will be silenced, while greedy corporate CEOs will be allowed to shout louder. Corporate special interests already outspend unions 15-1 in politics, but if Prop. 32 passes, we will have no spending power at all. Over time, we will lose everything we have fought for: Our prevailing wage, our pensions, our health-care benefits and our collective-bargaining rights. Ultimately, public and private-sector unions will die out in California, and it will become a right-to-work state. Look at what happened in Indiana and Wisconsin. Don’t think for a minute that California is safe.

What can you do to stop it?

First and foremost, get registered to vote and tell your friends and families to do the same. Then, get loud. Talk about who’s behind this ballot measure and what it really means – at the grocery store, at the gas station and in your neighborhood. Become a Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) volunteer and donate some time to call your fellow union members and educate them. *Most importantly, VOTE NO ON PROP. 32 on Nov. 6.* None of us can afford ignorance or inactivity now.

For more information on Prop. 32 and what it means to you, visit our website at www.oe3.org, call your district office and keep reading your Engineers News.