Operators enjoy big Hwy. 99 job

Simply Le Grand

Operators enjoy big Hwy. 99 job
Here’s to the future

Happy New Year’s to every Local 3 family in this great union.

It’s impossible not to reflect on the past year when a new one emerges, and brothers and sisters, as usual, we faced some political and financial struggles. But I am proud to say that we endured.

While our financial numbers are not at their best, they are not at their worst either. There have been modest improvements to our funds across the board, which is a result of our hard-working Trustees’ close monitoring and the year’s overall improvement in work hours. Most notable are the positive gains our Health and Welfare Funds have made. Your willingness to use company providers when possible and stay healthy has helped improve these funds, along with some of the Plan changes we made. I thank you for your diligence.

Politically speaking, we did what naysayers said was impossible: We took on corporate CEOs’ fat wallets and conducted one of the best grassroots campaigns in labor’s history to defeat anti-union Proposition 32 in California and anti-union presidential candidate Mitt Romney.

It is worth mentioning that the first people Obama met with after his re-election were labor-union officials, assuring them that he’s going to let the burdensome tax cuts for the wealthy expire while preserving and creating more tax breaks for middle-class families. God knows this nation’s middle-class needs as much help as possible, since unemployment numbers are still very high.

Local 3 secured some major projects last year as well that will boost our dispatch numbers this year, including the Willits Bypass in District 10 and the High-Speed Rail project (another example of a win we had in the face of much opposition). We also had a big victory last year on what we are capable of. Don’t ever miss. Unfortunately, as Local 3 gets older, so do its members, and with them are the best stories of our Retirees can tell you about.

Rohnert Park Retiree Russ Swanson. Redding Retiree John Hinote and finest this past year, including Raley’s, Hostess, Walmart etc. unfortunate, as Local 3 still not as favorable as it was several decades ago when unionized workers would rather starve than cross a picket line and employers’ worst fear was a strike. Today, more and more workers are being forced to strike (Raley’s, Hostess, Walmart etc.). Some say union members should just tighten their belts and accept hard times, but unionized workers have already been doing that, while corporate America continues to get richer. Enough is enough. The gap widens, and until our country’s opinions on unions shift, the economy will continue to spiral out of control.

The fact that workers are uniting and striking more and more against Unfair Labor Practices (ULPs) proves that there is a mobilizing force growing stronger in organized labor. No matter the circumstances, labor must value and utilize its ability to come together and demand fairness. If you see a picket line, stop and offer your support for those workers. They are marching for all of us. They are marching for the middle class, something this country must protect so every American can thrive.

This is an old battle, one that many of our Retirees can tell you about. We lost some of the union’s oldest and finest this past year, including Redding Retiree John Hinote and Rohnert Park Retiree Russ Swanson. Both played huge roles in making this union what it is today, and there are many others who will be sorely missed. Unfortunately, as Local 3 gets older, so do its members, and with them are the best stories of unionism. So ask a fellow Retiree to share some history with you. I doubt they’ll turn you down, and you just might learn something.

A new year is a clean slate. We have new projects to start (see the District Reports for some of them), a new presidential term and a new outlook on what we are capable of. Don’t ever forget that your skill set is invaluable. We remain realistically hopeful that 2013 will go better than last year, but we need your involvement to make sure that happens. Here’s to the future.
Hoping for a level playing field

It is another new year and a new term for some politicians. Hopefully those at the federal level can now put aside their differences and work together to get something done. The political climate in Utah and Nevada is pretty much status quo after the last election. (We were able to keep Nevada blue.) But Hawaii and Northern California had big wins for labor, so we must hold these politicians’ feet to the fire to secure work for our members.

The results of the last election were a huge mandate from the American people to the politicians to make some positive changes. But don’t think the politicians are going to fulfill their obligations all by themselves! We need to use every way of communication possible (phone calls, e-mails, letters) to get our issues out front and center. Local 3 is already prioritizing what we need to advance the interests of the membership throughout our entire jurisdiction.

We now have a “super majority” in California, so maybe it’s time for a statewide Project Labor Agreement (PLA), which would improve job opportunities and wages for every member across the state. That way, we wouldn’t have to keep fighting for individual agreements. Hawaii also has a pro-labor super majority. We must get more aggressive with the people we helped get elected. They can’t just sit back and go through the motions. They need to pass legislation that helps labor get where we need to be – back to where the middle class used to be.

We just want a level playing field. Major disparity still exists between the wealthiest and poorest of Americans, and this must end. The wage gap must be closed so folks can stop being foreclosed on and can afford to have their kids participate in extra things like Pop Warner football and soccer.

Folks should also be able to make necessary purchases like groceries without having to use a credit card. Our calendars are filling up for the new year already, and it will be busy. For the most part, the work picture looks promising, so, again, if you have time to get your skills tuned up, call your respective training site and knock off some rust!

The Northern California Master Construction Agreement is up this year, so we will be busy securing negotiation dates with contractors. (The Laborers have their agreement, so it’s our turn.) It should be a fairly smooth negotiation session, but you never know. We will keep you informed on any progress.

With the re-election of President Obama, the health-care law will be unfolding this year, and we have already been given updates on exchanges and how and when certain provisions will be implemented. We don’t know yet how it will impact our Retiree and active Trust Funds, but we will keep you advised. Indications are that it shouldn’t affect us too much as far as rate increases on a per-hour basis, but we need to do our research ahead of time and be informed. Some aspects of the health-care law are still open for interpretation.

We recently finished our fourth-quarter District Meetings, and it was good to see some friends. However, with the holidays and the high price of fuel, attendance was a little light. If you can, try to come to at least a few meetings this year. Carpool with another Operating Engineer, and remember that this is your union. Be informed, since knowledge is power. The suggestion you have could be the one that positively impacts thousands of members and their families. Don’t be shy with your ideas!

Be safe, and see you in the field.
Objects start out as ideas; drawings on a piece of paper. It's machinists, like those at WMC Machining in Utah, who make something real. For them, machining is like breathing, and for the equipment they service and the prototypes they design, their work is just as important.

"Everything you use in daily life, something had to be machined for it or the mold to make it was machined," said WMC Team Leader Craig Wyllie. Machining is the complex process of using precise metal-cutting tools to create parts designed from mechanical drawings. At the shop in Salt Lake City, which is a new location for the company with extra space to accommodate larger equipment, machinists use manual machines and Computerized Numerical Control (CNC) machines.

When Engineers News caught up with these members last year, they were working on a Caterpillar haul-truck filtration system as part of an update they designed a prototype for. Currently, there are 16 machine tools onsite, an inventory that has grown from the small lathe and mill the company originally started with more than 25 years ago.

The shop has been an ever-evolving work in progress, and so have its members and their training. Wyllie, who has been with the company for more than 20 years, started as a machinist and worked his way up to team leader. While managing the 18-member crew is rewarding, he misses the hands-on aspect of machining, which he says is a very gratifying trade.

"You're taking a blank piece of steel or whatever metal you're machining ... and you are making something out of it that in the end result has to be so precise; you have to be so skilled, so critical in how that piece performs," said Wyllie. "When you get finished with that part and you measure it and everything is how it's supposed to be, there's a lot of gratification in that." There's also a lot of gratification for Wyllie in working with such a "great group of guys."

"These guys are highly skilled and great team players," he said. "Big contractors come in and want work done 'right now,' and every single one of them steps up to the plate to take care of our customers."

WMC Machining is a subsidiary of Wheeler Machinery, but unlike Wheeler, the company can service brands other than just Caterpillar. (Komatsu, for example.) Currently, members are working on one of the biggest front-loaders in existence, and with the new shop, they can work on it inside without having to deal with volatile weather.

Welder Nolan Anderton, a six-year member, appreciates the extra 7,000 square feet the crew acquired, since he sometimes had to work on the huge 793 Caterpillar truck beds in the snow. "This is much better than outside; it's nice to have the room," he said.

Room is definitely important, since Anderton was also machining the bores of a 50,000-pound part for a Hitachi EX 35500 excavator and would soon be working on a door with the same weight.

The shop gets a large amount of work from the mines and heavy-highway construction contractors. Currently, business is good!
Member Royce Dalton works on filtration-system parts for Caterpillar haul-trucks using the CNC lathe machine.

Six-year member Jeff Dennison re-machines a part on the horizontal mill.

Member Larry Paulsen has worked for WMC Machining for 15 years.

Twenty-nine-year member Jeff Mower.

Five-year member Keil Liebert.

Member Grant Sudbury bores a seal area on a hydraulic cylinder on the horizontal mill.

Five-year member Jim Kemp works on a front-loader part in the new heavy welding shop.

Members Jim Kemp and Nolan Anderton unload a 50,000-pound bucket.
Caltrans clears the way in the Bay
By Gladys Perry, business representative

The Caltrans Landscape Crew is responsible for pruning and trimming shrubbery and bushes in San Francisco County along the highways, freeways, side streets and lots – anything that is deemed state property. Members use chainsaws, pull saws, chaps (special equipment to protect their legs), hedge trimmers, grass trimmers and loppers to get the job done. All trimmings go into a truck known as a packer, which takes the load to the dump as green waste.

The landscape crew is also responsible for irrigation repair and helping with homeless encampments. Dealing with overgrowth, responding to complaints from the public and attempting to keep homeless encampments from forming is an ongoing project. We thank these members for all that they do.

Caltrans Equipment Operator David Douglass drives the packer for the Caltrans Landscape Crew.

Belonging to Unit 12 has its benefits

Unit 12’s bargaining season is coming soon, so get your member applications in and earn the right to vote on your contract. As a full Unit 12 member, you can propose any changes you believe necessary to better your working conditions, wages, hours or other terms of employment and receive full representation regarding disciplines and grievances. Membership also gives you an automatic $3,000 life-insurance policy, plus an additional $3,000 in the event of an accidental death, access to a lawyer-referral service and eligibility to be appointed as a job steward. Call your agent for more information. The members below did!

Heavy Equipment Mechanic Bobby Ray works at the Napa Veteran’s Home.

Unit 12 member John Stockwell.

Operator Ray Luna works in Napa.

Caltrans Heavy Equipment Mechanic Terry Brister replaces a water pump on a fleet truck at the Fairfield yard.
A new beginning

As I do in my personal life, each January, the Associated Third Party Administrators (ATPA) analyzes the past year and determines priorities, assignments and deadlines for the upcoming year.

In 2012, the ATPA performed the following for the Operating Engineers:

- Processed more than 40,000 claims, 20,000 calls and 500 enrollments per month
- Maintained an average speed of less than 30 seconds for 90 percent of phone calls and an average walk-in wait of less than five minutes
- Managed more than $50 million in employer contributions
- Dealt with almost 200 Pension and Annuity applications per month
- Focused on improving technologies for processing contributions, accounting numbers, enrollment, COBRA, eligibility and claims, including updating our phone system and infrastructure

Going forward, the ATPA has several goals:

Improving responsiveness

- Responding to all requests timely and effectively
- Finding ways to mitigate unnecessary escalations
- Continuing and enhancing how we work with members to provide solutions with courteousness and respect

Enhancing staff development

- Focusing on leveraging strengths
- Training staff to provide the OE3 membership with the best experience

Call-recording

- All OE3 calls are now recorded to provide security and tracking

As you can see, the ATPA is committed to providing top-notch, professional service to all OE members and participants in 2013. It is our No. 1 priority!

On another note, please take a look at the schedule for the upcoming round of Pre-Retirement Meetings published in the Fringe Benefits section. Fringe Benefits Director Charlie Warren and I look forward to seeing you and your spouse there.

The ATPA staff sends all of you our sincere wishes for a healthy new year and a new beginning with lots of safe work hours for 2013.

Updates for the new year

It's only January, but we already have some good news to share!

In December, the Board of Trustees approved the purchase of 1,730 acres for a new training site in California very close to where we train now. This has been a long process, taking more than two years to complete, so we're really excited about it. It will definitely pay off in a lot of ways.

Our current training grounds at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC) have become harder and harder to work with over the years, because of the clay-type soil. It has been moved so many times, it becomes a muddy, sticky mess when the rain comes. For this reason, we don't offer a lot of training in the winter.

This new property will allow us to train year-round – 75 percent of the property is dredge tailings, which is really good for us.

It's also a lot bigger! Our current training site, with the shop and campus included, makes up just over 50 acres. Our new space is more than 34 times that size! And we won't have any neighbors to worry about.

If all goes as planned, we should have closed escrow on this property by year's end 2012. The new property is about three miles southwest as a crow flies or about a seven-mile drive from the current site. All of the permits are applied for, and as soon as we receive them, we can start to move in. However, some things will continue at the RMTC for awhile. We will use the dormitories at the current site for four to five years, and, because of the permitting process, the cranes will remain where they are for about two years.

The current training property is actually owned by the Pension Trust Fund, and the Training Trust rents the space. The Pension Trust Fund property is currently in escrow, and the fund is looking to sell the 732 acres of property at Rancho Murieta and make some money.

Speaking of our Trust Funds, at the time of this writing, the Pension and Health and Welfare funds are pretty much status quo, but we won't know the exact numbers until Dec. 31 – before this article went to press. Obviously, we will keep you posted.

As we enter a new year, we're trying a few other things that will help us save money, one being a change to our late-night hours. Starting this month, late night will only be once a month through March; then twice a month from April to October. (In November, we'll return to our once-a-month policy.) See the Meetings and Announcements section for the schedule. Times have changed a lot since we started our late-night policy 30-40 years ago. With high gas prices and electronic media, not as many members utilize these late-night hours any more, so we're just wasting money and time to keep all the offices open 52 weeks out of the year. We've decided to try this new schedule for awhile and see how it works.

As 2013 unfolds, we are optimistic about the work picture and encourage you to attend our Semi-Annual Meeting on March 17 to learn all about what's going on. We'll be back at the Solano County Fairgrounds this time, so we hope you all can make it. (For the address, see page 26.)

I hope everyone had a great holiday season, and we'll see you in the new year.
Looking forward to 2013

Now that 2012 has come to an end, we are all looking at 2013 with hopes of a better economy and the return to some normality. There is some optimism in the air after the 2012 election results. However, we confronted lots of issues last year that we never thought we would have to deal with. Some of these included the bankruptcy filing in Stockton, the California Pension Reform Act and the many issues we faced in San Jose, just to name a few. These issues have created uncertainties, and we have a long way to go before we see some type of resolution. Still, the year ended on a good note.

If you listen to the news or read the paper, the major topic now is the “fiscal cliff” that will start impacting us this month. It is said that our elected representatives are hard at work in an effort to avert crisis, but depending on who you listen to and what day it is, there is concern over political deadlock. By the time this article is printed, we should know whether we went over the cliff or reached some form of a resolution.

With signs that the economy is coming back, we hope members who were laid-off last year will have an opportunity to go back to work. As for the members who were fortunate not to lose their jobs but saw their benefits and salaries reduced, we hope there is also room for recovery there.

I would like to welcome new Business Rep. Zeb Feldman to our staff. He has extensive knowledge and experience working in the public-employee arena and will represent the County Employees’ Management Association (CEMA) members. If you come across him in your travels, please introduce yourself and give him a warm welcome.

Have a happy new year.

Make participating part of your plan

By Gregory C. Ramirez, business representative

Was it me or did the last year just fly by? As most of you know, 2012 was a transitional year for me in coming to the Operating Engineers. I previously worked as a business agent in another union for four years in the East and South Bay. There is quite a difference in communities between the coast and the mountains, and I have enjoyed meeting members in pockets of California I’d never been to before. I still have the three- and four-hour drives I did in the Bay Area, but the difference is the stunning scenery I get to enjoy and the fact that my car is always moving! It has been wonderful to develop a good rapport with the units I represent in Plumas, Sierra, El Dorado and Alpine counties along with the cities of Galt and Stockton. I’m hopeful that in 2013, we can settle into a rhythm and really start to plan for the future.

Last year (and before) we became all too familiar with the refrain, “We have no money.” The truth is that there is money available for priorities. As a group, we need to ensure that the services we provide to the public are a priority of the decision-makers who vote on such matters. We can do that by sitting down together and developing a plan for the next year, three years, five years and beyond. It won’t happen overnight, but if we don’t develop a plan of action – a strategic campaign – we will not be able to effectively respond to additional attacks on our pensions and wages.

Even the best plan will produce zero results if we don’t have the member-power to move the agenda forward. If you’ve attended a union meeting in the past year, you’ve had an opportunity to listen to me talk about the need for unity and increased participation from all of our members in their respective areas. As you think about your plans for 2013, make participation in the union a part of them. Now is the time to reach out to your employee representatives. Let us know how you can lend some expertise and help us move forward.

I look forward to a great 2013. Happy New Year’s to you and your family!

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 (gramirez@oe3.org) 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.

Holiday phrase has new meaning

By Joe Santella, business representative

Happy New Year’s, everyone. Hopefully you all had a good holiday.

A popular phrase heard during the last few months was “’Tis the season.” Unfortunately, this phrase has been reduced to a description of the election season and the onslaught that unions across this country have had to endure for the past 30 years – it is always the season for this.

We recently experienced the first real head-on assault on unionism under the Citizens United case that allowed unprecedented monies to be funneled into campaigns by private corporations and billionaires. These groups looked to strip the middle class and, most notably, unions, which have done more for the middle class than any other institution.

With overt actions, such as what occurred in Wisconsin and Ohio and so-called paycheck protection (deception) in California, the union movement has never had to fight so hard for its very survival. In this day and age, every election is the most important election we’ve had to face, but, as seen in November, labor does what it does best – mounting a grassroots, union-member-to-union-member campaign to present the common-sense truth behind the high-dollar campaigns designed to strip us of 100 years of progress.

I understand members are exhausted with the political process at this time. However, every union vote mattered, and your continued engagement in the political process and your union have tremendous effects on our strength and solidarity now and in the future. Because of your efforts and those of millions of union members across the country who voted with their time and actions, many right-minded candidates were elected and initiatives designed to squash us were soundly defeated. As we look to this new year, let us be thankful for all that we have and all that we have preserved.

Unfortunately, the fight is not over, and we will be called on yet again to counter those who try to take from us. It seems that we are always coming into an election year: “’Tis, the season!”
An early Christmas for some
By Mike Minton, business representative

I hope you all were able to enjoy the holidays. It certainly is a happy time for many top public-employer administrators in my district. They were able to spike their pensions prior to the Jan. 1, 2013 deadline.

I’m sure everyone has seen the media and politicians tear into public employees for what they call excessive pensions. This has been bantered about for several years now, as all accuse public employees – the men and women out in the trenches – of not paying their fair share into their pension plans and receiving exorbitant, six-figure retirements. However, the average public employee actually earns a $40,000 annual salary and receives a $25,000 pension when they retire.

It's the upper-management public employees who actually earn six-figure salaries and will receive six-figure retirements, and they are the ones to blame for what the public believes are excessive pensions. More often than not, these people receive perks besides their six-figure salaries. These perks consist of employer-paid health insurance, car allowances, per diems, pension contributions, executive leave time and much more and can total thousands of dollars. I know of an instance where these perks totaled $24,000 in addition to a $170,000 salary.

When you retire, your pension is based on a percentage of your base salary, which does not include perks. In the example above, the manager's pension would be based on a percentage of $170,000, which upon retirement would total $130,000 a year (that's being conservative). What a nice retirement, especially when you compare the average retirement of people like you and me!

Lately, management administrators have been taking the perks compensation and adding it to their annual salaries to increase their pension. In the example above, an upper manager's base salary of $170,000 a year with the added $24,000 in perks equals $194,000 a year. This base salary bumps the pension amount up $12,000 a year.

These are the unethical practices that caused the attack on public-employee pensions and Gov. Brown to sign a pension-reform act into law that takes effect the first of this month. This law prevents upper-management employees from spiking their retirements. Unfortunately, many folks tried to spike their pensions before the deadline, before the act becomes illegal.

I have not mentioned the agencies or the managers receiving these gifts of public funds by name. I have also not mentioned the names of the councilmembers, supervisors or trustees who approved giving these already overpaid managers these gifts. At the time of this writing, I do not have all the facts, but when I do, I will mention every single one.

The employees who work for these agencies and managers are well aware of what is going on. They also realize these increased salaries are coming out of their pockets, as they have received no salary increases in the past several years and their health-insurance premiums have increased considerably over the last five years. They have all made salary and benefit concessions, while upper managers received salary and benefit increases.

To those managers who have received these very generous gifts of increased pensions, you should thank those who work for you for your early Christmas!

Be all you can be
By Dave Gossman, business representative

The popular Army recruiting slogan, “Be all you can be,” was used for more than 20 years. It inferred that serving in the U.S. Army was the pinnacle of public service. Over the course of my career, I have observed that public employees are “all that they can be” and have a deeply rooted desire to give themselves in the form of public service. The vast majority of public employees are dedicated and hard working and take pride in performing their jobs to the best of their abilities. They live in the cities and counties they work in, and they buy homes and raise families with a strong community spirit and commitment.

With the downturn of the economy and prejudice against unions and public pensions on the rise, the morale and sentiment of public employees is at an all-time low. (Morale is defined as the degree of mental or moral confidence of a person or group – the spirit of optimism.) Public employees have lost income, medical benefits and jobs due to the economy and mismanagement by city and county managers. However, the vast majority of public employees are still committed to providing the best service and performing their duties in an efficient and effective manner.

In this new year, there should be a rise in optimism and new challenges. There will be many retirements due to changes in the pension formulas, and this will create opportunities for advancement and new careers. Lower-level employees can advance into supervisor/management positions and provide new leadership and direction, which we desperately need. The best of the best will rise to the top. Pensions have also changed for new employees; however, current employees are vested and will enjoy the retirement they have worked for in the future.

The economy is turning around and improving! I challenge all public employees to continue to be all you can be! Do it for you, your family and your commitment to public service. Together we will reap the benefits of serving our communities. Let us all have a prosperous new year by being the best we can be!

Engineers News wants you!
If you’re a public employee, we want your story.
Public employees are a varied and interesting group within the Local 3 union family. From managing county employees to patrolling the Golden Gate Bridge, Local 3's public-employee membership provides invaluable services to the communities they work and protect.

Unfortunately, the public doesn’t always see it that way. Public employees have been the scapegoat for city, county and state financial problems, even though the reality is that funds have been mismanaged from the top.

Let's beat the negative press by offering true stories of our own about what our membership does.

Share with us your daily tasks, how you got into your career, what setbacks and triumphs you have had on the job and why what you do matters. We may pay you a visit and do an interview/photo shoot for an article that will run in this magazine and possibly be submitted to local newspapers for reprint.

Contact us
• Regular mail: Operating Engineers Local 3, 3920 Lennane Drive, Sacramento, CA 95834, Attn. PR
• E-mail: jjohnston@oe3.org
• Phone: (916) 993-2047, ext. 2506

Don’t be shy. You may just make the news … for the good work you do!
Moving forward with a fresh start

As OE Federal Credit Union enters its 49th year of service, we are proud of the accomplishments we made in 2012, despite the economic challenges we all faced. Because of those accomplishments, we enter the new year with a solid foundation. OE Federal will continue to grow and thrive, and you can always trust us to keep your best interests in mind as we move forward.

With the new year underway, many of us have made a list of resolutions that may include items like watching what we eat, exercising more and most importantly, saving money. While improving physical fitness is a great resolution, now more than ever it is also very important to stay fiscally fit. Saving money when your budget is already spoken for can seem difficult, but it is about setting small, obtainable goals. To reach those goals, you must create a plan and then stick to it. This can be hard to do when there is always something tempting to spend your money on. OE Federal understands this, which is why we offer BALANCE Financial Fitness programs to help members keep their New Year’s savings resolutions. BALANCE is a free, confidential service for all OE Federal members to help them be successful with savings goals and resist those temptations to spend. In addition to savings tips, BALANCE also provides tips on other life-changing events like purchasing a home, identity theft and debt counseling. All of these services are provided to our members completely free of charge. For more information on Balance and savings tips, visit us online at www.oefcu.org.

Another way to stay financially fit in the coming year is to explore all the ways OE Federal can help you keep your budget intact. Besides savings accounts and budget programs, OE Federal offers a full range of financial products, including checking accounts, auto loans, real-estate loans and much more. Each of these products and services was developed with our union members in mind and built to be competitive without sacrificing features and benefits. If you’re not currently a member of OE Federal, I encourage you to see the difference. We’re union, just like you, and we think you’ll find that no one understands your financial needs like we do. If you or a family member would like to join OE Federal Credit Union, simply visit us online or give us a call at (800) 877-4444.

Our best wishes to each of you in 2013!
Fringe Benefits
By Charlie Warren, director

Research highlights benefits of pension plans like ours

We are fortunate to have the wonderful Pension Plan we have. It started in 1958 with just a nickel an hour, and there was a heck of a fight to start it. At first, members wanted all the money on their checks – they didn’t want to see even a nickel disappear.

Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed during the voting, and members approved the Pension Plan.

Today, the Pension pays out $28 million per month to more than 14,000 retired Operating Engineers and surviving spouses. That’s more than $300 million every year!

The Local 3 officers and Trustees monitor the Plan every day with the help of actuaries and consultants to ensure the Plan remains sound for Retirees and working members. One of the many ways they do this is by receiving more information about defined-benefit plans like ours.

A recent report by National Institute on Retirement Security (NIRS) Executive Director Diane Oakley shed more light on our Plan. According to Oakley, the NIRS is a non-profit, non-partisan research organization founded in 2007 out of Washington, D.C. to contribute to informed policy-making by fostering a deep understanding of the value of retirement security to employees, employers and the economy.

The NIRS research found that Americans are highly anxious about retirement and have low expectations regarding their own. They feel the U.S. system needs fixing and Congress is completely unaware of citizens’ anxieties.

According to the NIRS, a huge majority of Americans are concerned that current economic conditions hurt retirements, making it harder for people to achieve the American Dream. Further, surveys showed that people want pensions so they can be self-reliant. People believe that our government should make it easier for defined-benefit pension plans to remain strong. Plans like ours really are precious!

Our officers appreciate those who help keep our Pension Plan strong and educate us about its many benefits. We applaud the efforts of Oakley and the NIRS. Visit www.nirsonline.org for more information.

Pre-Retirement Meetings

Pre-Retirement Meetings begin this month. Participants 50 years of age and over will receive a postcard reminder of the meeting in their area, though participants of any age are welcome.

We encourage you and your spouse to attend these meetings and familiarize yourselves with all aspects of your retirement benefits, as they have a direct bearing on your financial security.

If you are unable to attend the meeting in your area or need additional help, a representative from the Fringe Benefits Office or the Trust Fund Office will be at your district hall earlier that same day. Call your district office if you would like to make an appointment to meet with a representative.

All meetings convene at 7 p.m.

BURLINGAME
Tuesday, Jan. 8
Transport Workers Union Hall
1521 Rollins Road

NOVATO
Wednesday, Jan. 9
Novato Oaks Inn – Redwood Room
215 Alameda Del Prado

FAIRFIELD
Thursday, Jan. 10
Hampton Inn
800 Mason St.
Vacaville, CA

REDDING
Tuesday, Jan. 15
Operating Engineers’ Building
20308 Engineers Lane

YUBA CITY
Wednesday, Jan. 16
Hampton Inn
1375 Sunsweet Blvd.

STOCKTON
Tuesday, Jan. 22
Operating Engineers’ Building
1916 North Broadway Ave.

FRESNO
Wednesday, Jan. 23
Operating Engineers’ Building
4856 North Cedar Ave.

MORGAN HILL
Tuesday, Jan. 29
Operating Engineers’ Building
325 Digital Drive

WATSONVILLE
Wednesday, Jan. 30
VFW Post 1716
1960 Freedom Blvd.
FREEDOM, CA

EUREKA
Tuesday, Feb. 5
Best Western Bayshore Inn
3500 Broadway St.

ROHNERT PARK
Wednesday, Feb. 6
Operating Engineers’ Building
6225 State Farm Drive

OAKLAND
Tuesday, Feb. 12
Operating Engineers’ Building
1620 South Loop Road
Alameda, CA

CONCORD
Wednesday, Feb. 13
Centre Concord
5298 Clayton Road

SACRAMENTO
Tuesday, Feb. 19
Operating Engineers’ Building
3920 Lennane Drive

AUBURN
Wednesday, Feb. 20
Auburn Recreation Center – Lakeside Room
3770 Richardson Drive

RENO
Tuesday, Feb. 26
Operating Engineers’ Building
1290 Corporate Blvd.

SALT LAKE CITY
Tuesday, March 5
IBEW Local 354
3400 W. 2100 S.

District visits

A representative from the Fringe Benefits Office or the Trust Fund Office will be available to meet with you and answer questions at your district hall once every two weeks starting this month.

The Fringe Benefits schedule is below. (Stay tuned for the Trust Fund Office schedule.)

• First Tuesday of the month: Redding District 70
• First Wednesday of the month: Yuba City District 60
• First Thursday of the month: Sacramento District 80
• Second Tuesday of the month: Stockton District 30
• Second Wednesday of the month: Fresno District 50
• Second Thursday of the month: Morgan Hill District 90
• Third Tuesday of the month: Rohnert Park District 10
• Third Wednesday of the month: Eureka District 40
• Fourth Tuesday of the month: Burlingame District 01
• Fourth Wednesday of the month: Oakland District 20
• Fourth Thursday of the month: Fairfield District 04

If you aren’t able to meet at these times, the Trust Fund staff will be in your district on the same date as your district’s Pre-Retirement Meeting. (See the schedule above.)

Contact your district office if you would like to schedule an appointment with a representative.
It's bigger. It's badder. It's faster and more efficient.

C.C. Myers' new paver is the first of its kind, with no other machine quite like it in the world. Company Superintendent Jason Hogue said the Guntert & Zimmerman S850 concrete slipform paver being used to widen I-80 in Sacramento was custom-made, containing “a little of this” and “a little of that.”

“This is pretty innovative for what we do,” he said. “It's up there as far as technology goes.”

One of the most notable upgrades is its Leica 3-D stringless system, which eliminates the use of string and GPS to determine the grade and slope control. Instead, the machine’s built-in system simply tells the paver where to go. This cuts about an hour of set-up time and makes the operation safer for other drivers onsite, since there's nothing they can accidently run into.

This extra time saves money, said Hogue. So does the machine’s size. At 30 feet wide, the machine, which runs between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. to eliminate traffic concerns, can pave more than 1,800 yards a night (the crew has done up to 1,850 yards in a seven-hour shift). At this pace, “we'll shatter our own records for sure,” said Hogue.

“You get more done with this machine, because it's wider,” said 23-year member Brian Slavich, general superintendent for C.C. Myers.

That's a good thing, as operators widen about nine miles of I-80 in both directions from the Sacramento River Bridge to the Longview Drive overcrossing. The Caltrans project also involves constructing a bus/carpool lane in the median and adding auxiliary lanes in both directions.

Though this all sounds good on paper, adding any new piece of equipment can be difficult for the crew that has to use it.

“That operator up there is the first to operate anything of this magnitude,” Hogue said of Paver Operator Bobby Thomas. “The computer system, electrical system, hydraulic system – everything is new.”

This can make a job a nightmare or a dream-come-true. Thankfully, it looks to be the latter.

“I like it,” said Thomas. “It's a cool machine to run.”

Sixteen-year member Rick Stoddard, the only mechanic on the night shift, agrees.

“It’s pretty incredible,” he said.

The District 80 job, which started late last fall, has about two years of work remaining. When completed, the new machine will head to Antioch, where crews will widen a portion of state Route 4 from west of the G Street overcrossing to east of the Hillcrest Avenue overcrossing.
Big wins in 2012 help us continue to fight for your rights in 2013

Politically speaking, 2013 holds promises, challenges and threats. Coming off the electoral victories of last year, we can feel optimistic about moving our agenda forward. We worked hard at the local, state and federal levels to gain electoral victories in 2012, and we can feel good about flexing our collective muscle. In unity there is strength!

At the federal level, the challenge facing us and others in organized labor will be getting the government to invest in jobs. Whether it’s more Stimulus Funds for projects like High-Speed Rail or just straight-forward funding for infrastructure, transportation or energy bills, we need the White House and Congress to act. Undoubtedly, we will need all of you to help move them toward that goal. Be prepared to send an e-mail, make a phone call or write a letter to your elected official when the time comes to help pass important federal legislation. Look for e-mail notices from us or the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) about these coming legislative fights.

National trends to look for this year include:

• The right-to-work push. Michigan, well known for being a blue-collar, unionized state, went right-to-work last month, following Indiana. Will other states go that route this year? Anti-union forces are clearly trying to get a majority of states to turn that way. If that happens, will there be an effort to pass federal right-to-work legislation?

• Grooving income inequality. While middle-class Americans are still looking for work and fighting to keep their homes, Wall Street and the stock market have robustly rebounded. How long will most Americans tolerate the rich getting richer, while they live on a knife’s edge? Will the Occupy Movement be rekindled? Will the White House or Congress have the courage and moral fortitude to act on behalf of working families?

• The housing crisis. Will Congress do the right thing by reigning in the banks and helping middle- and low-income homeowners keep their homes? Several economists have suggested that for less than what it took to bail out the U.S. banking sector, the feds could underwrite every outstanding mortgage in America. Main Street instead of Wall Street!

• Expanding energy production and the move to a “green” economy. We can expect to see more discussion and action about domestic-energy production as a national economic security priority. Whether it’s the Keystone XL Pipeline, “fracking” at the Monterey oil shale or the resurrection of the crippled nuclear industry (think the Fukushima disaster and the current debacle at San Onofre in California), domestic-energy production will be key to providing us jobs and helping with economic recovery. Likewise, investments in natural gas, wind farms and biofuel production will help create jobs for Operating Engineers and help America become energy-independent.

This year promises to be an exciting one! If we work together on our priorities, we can defend our wins and pull off some new ones. Stay tuned for important e-mails, robo-calls and mailings from Business Manager Russ Burns about the union’s latest activities and how you can get involved. We want to keep you in the loop, so we can all work together for better lives through collective action.

Organizing efforts create nearly 2.4 million work hours!

As we charge forward into the new year, there are some important statistics I would like to share with you. Since 2010, when the construction economy hit rock-bottom, Local 3 organizing efforts have seen a steady flow of non-union employers migrating toward the union. In 2010, we signed 75 new employers, in 2011, we signed 69 new employers and as of October 2012, Local 3 had signed 70 new employers, with two months still remaining in the year. Even though Project Agreements (PAs) and Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) are not long-term, they should also be included in the equation, since they create dispatches for our members. A total of 214 new employers have been signed to full agreements since 2010, and once you include PAs and PLAs, the total number of new agreements signed during that time period is 591.

If you’ve ever wondered what the impact of organizing is, consider this: If we signed 214 new employers and 591 new agreements, how many work opportunities did we produce? Well, the number of dispatches from organizing efforts alone totaled 2,426. In summary, over the last three years, more than 2,400 work opportunities have been directly related to the organizing efforts made by the Local 3 administration, staff and membership. Hypothetically speaking, if each dispatch resulted in an average of 1,000 hours for each member dispatched, we can assume this would equal roughly 2.4 million work hours that were contributed toward our Health and Welfare Fund, our Pensioned Health and Welfare Fund and our Pension Fund. Even though we don’t currently track individual hours by dispatch, I believe this represents a reasonable estimate. Based on the numbers, organizing is significant to the membership of Local 3.

As we look back on the success of our program, it’s easy to get caught up in our accomplishments. However, we need to reflect on the things that helped facilitate our success. First and foremost is the commitment of Business Manager Russ Burns, Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan (the officer in charge of organizing) and the other officers of Local 3 to prioritize organizing as a responsibility shared by all districts and departments. I would be remiss if I did not mention the commitment of the district representatives and agents who work cooperatively with the Organizing Department to make sure we identify the non-union competitors working on jobsites in their areas. We also receive a substantial number of tips and information from the membership, which is greatly appreciated by the department, so keep up the good work.

As I have mentioned before, state and federal funding plays a huge role in creating a work platform in which signatory contractors compete. It’s obvious that when the playing field is leveled through prevailing wage, the skills and training of our members keep signatory employers competitive, which in turn creates additional work opportunities for our membership. As members, if you protect prevailing wage, support the use of PLAs and continue to upgrade your skills, you will help make organizing a much easier task.
On behalf of the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC), I would like to thank everyone who applied and interviewed for the new instructor and coordinator positions. We are pleased to announce that we had more than 38 applicants, and they all displayed an overwhelming interest in contributing to the future of our union.

As a result of this process, we would like to introduce our new Bay Area Apprenticeship Coordinator Catherine Lytle. She has a background in cranes and drilling and looks forward to working with the apprentices and serving the Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC). She will be assigned to the Burlingame District and will assist the Oakland District.

Our new seasonal instructors include William Neely, Douglas Albright, Consuela Lawson and Robert Sharples. They will work throughout the rainy season, from November to February. Together, they have more than 100 years of experience and are eager to share their knowledge.

The new instructors will focus on teaching journey-level classes, while our current instructors will teach Supplemental Related Training (SRT) for apprentices. In the past, we trained apprentices first, then journey-level operators, however, by the time the apprentices were finished, most of our journey-level operators had returned to work.

By increasing our staff during the rainy season, we hope to provide expanded training opportunities to members who are out of work due to inclement weather. Currently, winter training is limited because of the clay soil at the training center. This issue will be resolved with the potential acquisition of a new property that contains rocky soil. This property is located near our current training center, so we’ll be able to offer training during the wettest part of the season, while still utilizing our current campus.

The RMTC is looking forward to expanding our staff and providing you, the members, with the most experienced and motivated instructors and coordinators available. If you are interested in further training opportunities, please contact your dispatcher for details. It is our continued aim to improve training and make it more accessible to our members.
The story behind the story
Operators with SCQ dig deep on and off the job

Story and photos by Mandy McMillen, managing editor

The image of massive haul trucks lined up to receive thousands of yards of dirt from the bottom of a 30-foot hole is impressive enough, as is the fast-swiveling excavator digging the dirt out with its claws.

But even more impressive is the story behind how these operators chose this profession and why they love it so much.

Whether a young apprentice or a seasoned veteran, every Stevens Creek Quarry (SCQ) crewmember on the job has something to share. And each plays a part in getting the Stockton East Water District treatment plant ready for a new, 11 million-gallon reservoir, which will secure water for the city well into the future.

Compactor Operator Mike Costello was originally interested in photography, but when he took photos of heavy equipment in school, he developed a new love.

“I enjoy what I do,” he said.

For Blade Operator Dave Graf, a 22-year member, he knew what his career would be much earlier. “I was born and raised in the dirt,” he said. “I’ve been leveling all my life.”

Gradesetter Apprentice Jimmy Bobst took a more practical approach to his profession, noting that being a Local 3 Operating Engineer provides good money and benefits.

But Haul Truck Operator Barbara Flippin had the most unusual story. Her mother was an original “Rosie the Riveter,” a welder responsible for building dams across the country, but she insisted her daughter get a degree. (Flippin’s father was a Teamster.) She complied and later worked as a legal assistant while going to law school. But she missed being outside.

Today, the seven-year member couldn’t be happier with her job or the crew she works with. “These are great guys,” she said. “The people couldn’t be better.”

For the star of the show, Excavator Operator Rick Comer, his work isn’t work at all.

“This is a glorified sandbox,” he said. “I get to throw dirt all over the place … dig holes and cover them up. You get in a rhythm. Otherwise, you’d mess up.”

Comer intends to operate excavators until he’s too old to do it anymore. He has been a member since 1999.

The tight-knit crew is expected to finish the first phase of the project this month and will return in the spring to backfill and build the actual reservoir. Excavated dirt is being used to build levees and ponds as part of a retention plan.
Blade Operator Robert Wainwright calls it “an awesome job.” Dozer Operator Steve Long calls it “a great job.” Teichert calls it the Hwy. 99/Le Grand project, and according to the operators onsite, it’s simply that: Grand!

“I like it a lot,” said 13-year member Chico Ibarra, a compactor operator on the District 50 job. “It keeps me working, and it’s only about an hour from home.”

At 6.7 miles long, there’s a lot more to like than that.

Teichert is tasked with realigning the highway at the Le Grand Interchange in Merced County and adding a lane in both directions. This means operators must move 1.8 million cubic yards of dirt and perform 100,000 cubic yards of concrete-paving before the job is complete in 2015. This will require graders, dozers, loaders, blades, compactors and mechanics to keep it all running, meaning lots of hours for operators across the board.

The 2-½-year project started in July, and so far, work has been going well.

“The dirt is close by the fill, so that helps a lot,” said Jose Jimenez, an eight-year member and grader on the job. “This is one of the biggest jobs I have ever been on.”

Fellow Grader Margarito Perez agrees. “It is a long project – I’m getting in a lot of walking,” said the seven-year member.

For Holt Mechanic Victor Barragan and first-step Apprentice Brett McIntosh, the job also offers some new opportunities. “This is my first time out working on the earth-moving equipment,” said Barragan, a seven-year member.

“It’s great,” agreed McIntosh, an operator with Teichert. “Right now, they have me on the compactor, but I am always ready to try something new.”

For 12-year member Bernabe Chavez, it’s all about the “old” things – a good paycheck and steady hours. “It keeps the kids fed and the wife happy,” said the Holt mechanic.

In the end, that’s what really matters!
Excavator operators Carl Canida, above, and Brad Bricksley, below, load trucks for Teichert on Hwy. 99.

Dozer Operator Steve Long and Blade Operator Robert Wainwright keep the scrapers moving at a fast pace through the borrow pit.

Compacter Operator Chris Ibarra works on the new overpass.

From left: Holt mechanics Bernabe Chavez and Victor Barragan.

Excavator operators Carl Canida, above, and Brad Bricksley, below, load trucks for Teichert on Hwy. 99.

Apprentice Brett McIntosh.

Jose Jimenez sets grade for the realignment.

Compacter Operator Chris Ibarra works on the new overpass.
When Local 3 members want something, they fight for it, whether it’s better wages and fair working conditions or a better community for needy children.

These things are even more important during the holidays, so last month, union members put this tenacity to work.

For many, this meant taking part in Fairfield District 04’s Eighth Annual Pancake Breakfast and Motorcycle Toy Run, a joint effort with Mission Solano to collect new, unwrapped toys for children who would have nothing otherwise.

And once again, the event was a success.

“We worked the same shift,” said Molina. “He [Croll] was a trustworthy person … my friend and partner.”

Croll joined the union in 1994. He came on staff in 2006 as an organizer in Burlingame and Oakland and later became business rep. in Oakland. He eventually represented his former crew during the strike that began in July 2007, and they couldn’t be happier about how he handled things.

“I’m proud of Local 3 for putting on this event,” said 34-year member Dennis Chambers.

Well, we’re proud of you too!

Staff Spotlight: Mike Croll

When members Roger Towle and Adan Molina worked with current Oakland District Rep. Mike Croll, they didn’t know he would one day help lead them through one of the union’s longest-running strikes in history (against Valley Power). They did know that he was a good mechanic and an even better friend.

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No one wants a strike, but this one “went well, and that reflects on Mike’s leadership,” said Molina. “His core values as a person are outstanding … He will listen to you when you raise a concern.”

Towle also mentioned Croll’s desire to listen and take care of the members he serves. When asked how Croll had impacted his life, Towle said it was never about individuals.

“He looked out for the group as a whole, and that is what the union is all about – all of us,” he said. “He has been the same person in good times and bad and is very good for the union and the members. It’s been a blessing knowing him, and I’d stand next to him anytime.”

Bringing the group together as a whole is what makes the job most important to Croll. “Everyone deserves a voice in the workplace,” he said.

According to Treasurer Pete Figueiredo, Croll gives the membership this voice. “Mike gives 110 percent all the time,” he said. “He is a fierce and tireless advocate, and Local 3 is fortunate to have him as one of our own.”

Croll was promoted to district rep. in Oakland in April 2010 and has been actively serving the membership in this capacity ever since. Most recently, he recovered more than $35,000 for seven members in back wages.

“Organized labor built this country,” he said.

Walking the walk

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And once again, the event was a success.

“Feels good to donate,” said member Jonathan Mariscal, who brought his daughter, Kailena, to the event. “I want some little girl like her to have what she has.”

For Retiree Gary Schmidt, it was a two-for-one deal! “I’m helping out Local 3 and giving to the local community at the same time,” he said.

Like most union functions, the message resonated with the young and old alike, hopefully passing the torch to another generation.

“We brought a teddy bear and portable CD player,” said participant Robert Rogers. “To help the kids that don’t have anything,” explained his 12-year-old granddaughter, Taylor, who came with him.

“I’m proud of Local 3 for putting on this event,” said 34-year member Dennis Chambers.

Well, we’re proud of you too!

From left: Former Valley Power employee Alan Lamar gets support from Mike Croll. Retiree Jack Short and his wife, CeCe, add backpacks with sleeping bags to the growing pile of gifts for underprivileged kids in Solano County. Member Dennis Chambers tosses a basketball on the pile of toys. Member Jonathan Mariscal and daughter Kailena came to drop off toys and have breakfast. Chuck Smith gets ready to drop off toys as part of the Eighth Annual Pancake Breakfast and Motorcycle Toy Run. Robert Rogers and his granddaughter, Taylor, participate in the District 04 event. 

Member Dennis Chambers tosses a basketball on the pile of toys.
A look at the state’s 2013 economic forecast

Hawaii’s economy is sustained by its No. 1 export industry, tourism. With a good forecast of a 3 to 4 percent increase for 2013, it is likely to help stimulate growth in the construction industry. Increased revenues will help infrastructure improvements and put an emphasis on new hotels. Oahu, Maui and Kauai will see the most improvements. The island of Hawaii has seen some interest in the private market that will make it better for developments this year.

Maui has seen the biggest increase in construction with several large projects, although work slowed down at the end of last year. Things should start to pick up in the second and third quarter of this year as other Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) and private projects like the Honua’ula master-planned project in Wailea, get funded and approved. Maui’s energy projects have supported the private sector and will continue into 2014.

The island of Hawaii will see more work coming from the federal, state and county sectors. The private markets should kick-off mid-year with a continuation of projects like the Bridge Aina Lea that have stopped because of the market and investors. The Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) is in its final stage of approval. The re-election of Mayor Billy Kenoi and an open City Council will help facilitate a lot of this work.

Kauai will continue to push CIP and secure state funds for major improvements on our highways. The private market will start to show up in 2013 with energy projects like Lihui-Hanamalu, Koloa, Port Allen, Kilauea’s Lighthouse Village, Safeway’s Hokulei Village and the Waithohonu project. Kauai’s military work will continue on Barking Sands with the Aegis Ashore missiles and its infrastructure.

Oahu has seen the election of Mayor Kirk Caldwell and a City Council that is sensitive to the concerns of our industry. The city’s second digester at the Sand Island Wastewater Reclamation Plant should get underway this year, which would sustain growth from Pearl City into Waikiki. The rail-transit system should resume full speed. With the State Land Use Commission’s approval of the large developments Hoopili and Koa Ridge last year, it is expected that the final permitting process should be concluded this year, with bids and work starting soon after.

As for new projects, Kiewit Building Group started work on the $8.5 million Ilima at Leihano site-development project in Kapolei, and Royal Contracting started its $6.9 million Sea Country Area 7, Phase 2 project on Kaukama Road.

Today, our industry is 30 percent below the peak of 2007. We have made significant gains in the last two years in the construction tax base and private permits. The worst is over, and the future is bright. We encourage our members on the out-of-work list to utilize the Kahuku Training Facility to upgrade and learn new skills. Keep your membership and contact information current. Stay informed, and participate in your union by attending our quarterly meetings.

Another promising year ahead

District 90 wishes you and your families a happy, safe and prosperous new year. Thank you to all who contributed to our food and toy drive throughout the holiday season. Giving to those who have less makes it a special time of year.

As we start a new year, we would like to look back on last November and thank all of you who volunteered your time to help us elect the right president and defeat Proposition 32. Without your help and determination, we would be starting the year off with uncertainty. Instead, we are starting off with hope and a bright future ahead. This past election proves what unions can achieve when we stick together. Please get involved with your union this year. It does make a difference.

On the work front, it looks like we are going to have another busy year. Last year, we had more dispatches than the previous six years. With the backlog that some of our signatories have, 2013 looks promising. A lot of jobs are still ongoing, and there are a good number of jobs that will break ground in the months to come. Granite Construction is still working on the Prunedale Bridge Bypass and was awarded the $42 million Hwy. 101 flyover at the Red Barn across from San Juan Road in Aromas. RGW is still working on the Butterfield extension in Morgan Hill and along Hwy. 1 at Morrissey Avenue in Santa Cruz. Granite/Morgan Hill/ Pavex is starting work on Hwy. 101 and the Capitol Expressway in San Jose. In Camp Roberts, Robert Bothman and Granite Construction picked up work on a $40 million job. The 49ers stadium, Los Esteros Power Plant and BART extension are still going strong, with more work to come. DeSilva Gates is the apparent low bidder on the $30 million Hwy. 880/Hwy. 280 upgrade. Golden State Bridge is still working on two jobs along the Big Sur coast on Hwy. 1 in Monterey County.

These are just a few of the jobs in our area, so keep reading the Engineers News for monthly updates.

This year, back by popular demand, is District 90’s annual picnic. The location and date are yet to be determined, so keep reading your Engineers News for more details.

Remember to keep your credentials up-to-date, including your medical card if you have a Class A license, Hazmat, Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), etc. Call Dispatcher Ed Estrada to get on a list for classes. Work safe, and make it a great year.

Change in district office hours

Please note that starting Jan. 1, 2013, there will be new hours for Wednesday “late night.”

November-March: Late night will be the fourth Wednesday of each month.
April-October: Late night will be the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

Office hours:
Monday-Friday: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Designated late nights: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Welcome, Sierra Pacific Materials

Here’s hoping everyone had a wonderful holiday season and the new year brings joy to all.

We would like to welcome Sierra Pacific Materials to OE3, a rock plant near Orosi. FCI Constructors continues work in Hanford on Hwy. 198 and teamed up with Teichert in Merced. Papich is working on Road 80 near Dinuba and is the apparent low bidder on a job on Hwy. 99 and Hwy. 198. Diablo is working on Hwy. 99 near Kingsburg. Emmetts is on Plaza Drive and Hwy. 198. Agee has a job in Hanford on 12th Avenue. Viking Construction is doing a bridge replacement on Avenue 416 near Reedley. Granite is working on Hwy. 99 in Madera and has a job coming up in Lemoore at Hwy. 198 and 19th Avenue. Security Paving started work on Hwy. 99 in Merced and is the apparent low bidder on a project to re-route the Avenue 12 interchange. RGW is also working on several jobs in Merced.

There is lots of pipeline work going on and coming up, so be sure to get the training you need, so you are eligible to work on these projects. Call the Hall for information.

We would like to give a huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped with this past election. Our successes would not have been possible without you.

Millions of dollars worth of work to bid at Kennecott

We hope you all had a great holiday season with your friends and families. Thanks to our apprentices for donating some time to a local charity last month. The close of one year brings new opportunities and a fresh outlook on another.

In the Utah District, 2012 was a good year. We were very successful in getting many projects done on time and under budget, such as the I-15 Core project, the Mountain View Corridor, Commuter Rail from Salt Lake to Provo, North Temple Light Rail from the airport, the landslide by Cedar City and the Orange Street sewer-relining project. Other projects still being worked on include the National Security Agency (NSA) Data Center at Camp Williams, the streetcar project in Sugarhouse, Draper light-rail line, Kenneecott projects and work with a newly named company, Ragnar Benson Construction, at Lake Point. Ames Construction and Granite Construction were awarded work on state Route 193 that will start early this year. Members are also working for Geneva Rock and Wheeler Machinery.

This year will see $120 million worth of work bidding at Kenneecott as well as projects like the Salt Lake City (SLC) Airport, St. George Airport, GAP project on I-15 from Draper to American Fork and Willard Bay. Although work in Utah seems to be slowing down due to a lack of funding, we are encouraged by the work coming up for bid and the outlook going forward. Much like the period right before the Olympics, the next year is expected to be slower because of the state’s bonding capacity. That being said, the fact that we are the largest construction local in the United States gives our members other opportunities to work if they are willing to travel. If so, please call the different districts in our local.

As always, if you are laid-off and looking for work, do not pass up the opportunity to improve your skills by going to the training site and taking advantage of the classes offered this year. The following subjects will be offered in January and February: First Aid/CPR, 24-hour Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and its eight-hour refresher, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10 and 30, GPS rover, GPS dozer, crane rigging and signalperson, 40-hour Hazwoper and its eight-hour refresher, 40-hour gradesetting, 40-hour Ore-Certification of Crane Operators (CCO), Operator Qualification Compliance (OQC) and journey-level upgrade. If you are interested in any of these classes, please contact Keira Nielson at the Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) office at (801) 664-6934.

We had a very successful year in politics in 2012. Success is often gauged in wins and losses but should be gauged by whether we are as good or better off today than we were before the election. As many of you know, we are not a Democratic union or a Republican union but a labor union. Our objective every day is to make sure that we have the best possible wages, fringe benefits and working conditions. These things are often achieved by us union members standing together, but we must also have friendly politicians helping us pass and retain legislation that benefits the working men and women of Utah. We would like to thank our Executive Board member Glenn Smith, our Political Action Committee (PAC) members Gordon Purcell, Doug Archibald and Justin Pentz and all of our Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) volunteers for helping get labor-friendly candidates elected.

The District 12 staff wishes you and your families a very successful year.
Biggest excavator on the West Coast in Walnut Creek

The new year is here — and so is the bad weather. It’s time to take a look at the work picture in 2013. We are expecting another good year in District 20.

Last year’s projects and new ones are popping up all over the district, and that’s what we need to get our brothers and sisters back to work this year. In east Contra Costa County, Hwy. 4 is still the main project. The first phase of work at Loveridge Road with O.C. Jones, Sanco Pipelines and Shasta Construction started in Pittsburg. Part of the three-year, two-mile project that includes two major overpasses is scheduled to finish in August.

R&L Brosamer has the second phase at Sommersville Road. The 1.6-mile, two-year westbound-overpass project in Antioch is finished, but traffic is getting worse through construction zones. Please Slow for the Cone Zone. C.C. Myers and Bay Cities will team up to tackle phases 3a, 3b, 4 and 5. These projects will be big and continue for a long time, so let’s get through the weather and get ready to go to work.

Ghilloti Brothers, Inc. is working at Hillcrest in Antioch and is well underway on the E-BART train-station switchyard and maintenance yard. E-BART is also going down the middle of all this work on Hwy. 4.

In Walnut Creek, Ferma Corp. is demo-ing a 10-story office building downtown with the biggest excavator on the West Coast! This 5110 excavator, which was built for the Doyle Drive job in San Francisco, can reach up to 110 feet and is just eating up the building. Bigge Crane is assisting Ferma on the job.

The good news is this is just a small part of the work picture in District 20.

Apprenticeship Spotlight

Congratulations to Crane Operator Larry Miller and Construction Equipment Operator (CEO) Shannon Janssen for successfully completing the Apprenticeship Program. Miller is working for Michels Corporation, and Janssen is working for Top Grade Construction.

Projects continue in San Francisco, regardless of rain

The District 01 staff and members would like to wish all the best to George Steffensen on his retirement. Steffensen has been a member of Local 3 for 31 years and has spent 20 years on staff with Operator (CEO) Apprentice Top Grade Construction. On the Bay Cities job, three operators are working multiple shifts for different contractors, operating different types of equipment.

Top Grade Construction is working for Bay Cities on the Transbay Center, work is moving forward with the installation of 1,800 micro piles by Drill Tech with Operator Ryan Schupbach and Oiler Apprentice Rich Thompson. Shimmick Construction will be moving in on the next phase of the project, performing the below-grade structure. About 100 Operating Engineers are working multiple shifts for different contractors, operating different types of equipment, surveying and performing testing and inspection. Subcontractors include M Squared (which is finishing the final phase of the utility relocation), Becho, Drill Tech, Anderson Drilling and Clipper International.

Just down the street at the Embarcadero, Dutra is working on the Brannan Street Pier with Ken Washington and Denny Guinta on the barge Doolittle. Next to Dutra is Power Engineering with Kristi Tuemmler, Dan Beckerlidle and Scott “Gus” Ferreira.

Future work includes a $100 million renovation of the old shops on Pier 70 that will convert them to office and associated space. New buildings at every stage of construction are all over the city!

In San Mateo County, many jobs continue to move forward, even though winter is upon us. The Bay Division Tunnel project, part of the $4.6 billion program to upgrade the Hetch Hetchy Water System, will extend five miles under the San Francisco Bay from Menlo Park to Newark. The tunnel is being driven by Michels/Jay Dee/Coluccio Joint Venture (JV). Operating Engineers are working two shifts to advance the tunnel. Members on the job include Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) operators Mike Guitner and Justin Stevens, crane operators Steve Fistolera and John Quinn, forklift operators Demarco Mackey and Brian Stanton and mechanics Dave Quinn, Chris Haggard, Angel Vasquez, Dave Ericson, Leon Richardson, Justin Stevens, Enrique Del Toro, Eddie Ruiz, Billy Carpenter, Gerry Cunningham, Richard Schaffer, Jason Kenyon and Steven Wright.

In Redwood City, McGuire and Hester is working on a $2 million storm-drain box culvert and utility-relocation project. On the coast, Half Moon Bay Sealing & Paving is staying busy at different locations in Moss Beach and El Granada. Veolia ES Special Services Inc. is keeping operators hopping at Crystal Springs Reservoir all winter.

Apprenticeship Spotlight

We would like to focus on two apprentices from District 01 this month, both of whom started their careers with very little experience yet have developed into great operators.

Fourth-step Construction Equipment Operator (CEO) Apprentice Charles Hammon Jr. started as an employer referral with Mountain Cascade. He began operating a kick broom and is now working for Kiewit Infrastructure, operating everything from track loaders to excavators.

Third-step CEO Apprentice Dan Durkan works for Ranger Pipelines. He started as an excavator operator’s oiler and is now operating loaders, mini-excavators and backhoes.
Our volunteers go above and beyond

Happy New Year’s from your staff at the District 60 Hall. The good work that comes from this Hall is not always done by staff. In fact, we could not get our jobs done without our volunteers, so we wanted to say a very heartfelt thank you to those who helped – our job stewards and those who assisted with contract negotiations, attended union meetings, volunteered on Bylaws, Business, Political Action and Geographical Market Area committees, served food and cleaned up at our picnics, donated equipment or time to build the Barry School Track and phone banked, walked and petitioned for politics that matter to working families.

The things you do reinforce our union’s positive image. You are the leaders in the battle to protect health care, pensions and wages that make us the middle class. Without benefits, just one medical emergency could send you to bankruptcy court or leave you facing a retirement with not enough income to live with dignity. Thanks again. You make us all proud to say, “I am a member of the Operating Engineers.”

Just some of the members who volunteered their time in 2012 include: Robert Coleman; Tony Godoy; James Costello; Duane Inhoff; David Josephson; George “Vic” Bourbon; Bill Hodges; Jerry Seiff; Cesar Garcia; Merrick Deal; Alfonso Ochoa; Will Holly; Richard Hobbs; Luther Slack; Delene Dippel; Joe Wurn; Robert Blodgett; Earle Cyr; Jesse Williams; Kevin Schmidt; Geoff Trigueiro; Randy Stage; Ken Bettis; Steven Nelson; Larry Woodward; Garret Brown; Damien Geddis; Carla Estes; John Murray; Shaun Cooper; Frank Newton; Dominic O’Grady; Tom Underwood; Donald Card; Mike Murdock; Bob Dietz; John Collins; Frank Blatt; Willard Lipscomb; Brandon Hill; and Michael DeWitt.

ROHNERT PARK

Operators move more than 8,000 yards of dirt to secure hillside

This month, we’d like to highlight the difficult work done to fix an active slide on Mt. View Road just outside of Manchester. Due to impractical environmental studies from 2006-2012, this job was put on hold, but operators eventually prevailed. Backhoe Operator Greg Stuart stayed busy on the job, as did Jon Green of Willits, who supervised the project, making sure things went smoothly. Twenty-five-year member Jeff Green worked for Akeff Construction, operating an 813 RT Bomag paving machine. Crews with Akeff and Green Right O’ Way Constructors, Inc. had to move more than 8,000 yards of dirt to secure the hillside. This opened up a tricky corner for the new paving that was desperately needed! Crews put down about 350 tons of asphalt. That’s where Finish/ Breakdown Roller Operator Keyin Green came into play. Member Alan Waddle was also onsite, operating an excavator and whatever else was needed to get the job done.

Russell F. Swanson
Aug. 25, 1921 – Nov. 3, 2012

It is with much sadness that we report on the passing of 72-year member Russ Swanson. He was a former Local 3 district rep. and International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) rep. His father was Local 3’s founding business manager, Vic Swanson.

Russ was as dedicated to his country as he was to his union, having served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

He remained active in the union even in his retirement and often attended meetings and events while wearing his usual smile.

“Brother Swanson’s contribution to Operating Engineers Local 3 and the labor movement are cherished,” said Rohnert Park District Rep. Chris Snyder. “He made life better for working men and women in the Operating Engineers for generations.”
Spring will kick off with work on I-80

The District 11 staff would like to welcome our members and their families into the new year and hope you all enjoyed the holiday season. Now is a great time to obtain or renew any certifications you may need and gain more experience on equipment. Call the training center in Wadsworth at (775) 575-2729 for more information.

Weather permitting, spring will kick off with Granite Construction at I-80 in Winnemucca. Road and Highway Builders will be at the I-80 Dunphy project, and Q&D Construction will be on I-80 at the Carlin Tunnel project. Please remember to keep all your information updated and to call every 84 days to renew your registration on the out-of-work list.

From Elko

As we start a new year, we hope you and your families enjoyed the holiday season and are looking forward to 2013. On Jan. 31, the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between Operating Engineers Local 3 and Newmont will expire. Operating Engineers and the elected committee members exchanged proposals with Newmont in December and are now working out the terms of the agreement. This month, we will bring the proposal with Newmont to union members for ratification. Send us your contact information and we will put you on our e-mail list for upcoming information, or contact your committee members or union steward. Information will also be posted at the Hall (1094 Lamoille Highway).

The Elko Hall will continue conducting Membership Meetings on the first and second Wednesdays of each month. For more information, please call the Elko office at (775) 753-8761.

Best wishes for the new year.

Signatories to stay busy through winter

We hope everyone had a good Christmas and started the new year off right! The winter has set in, but the Stockton District still has some work going on. Flatiron Construction continues on the $8.1 million Carpenter Road Bridge seismic-retrofit/widening project in Modesto, which consists of diverting the river and building islands so subcontractor Malcolm Drilling can set casings and cagis and pour for the new piers. Sierra Mountain Construction started in November on the $12.8 million Harding Drain bypass in Turlock, adding about 35,000 feet of 36-inch pipe and a pump station. Bay Cities Paving and Grading was awarded the $12.9 million widening of Kiernan Avenue/Hwy. 219 almost half-a-mile east of Dale Road to McHenry Avenue, which will start this spring and keep operators busy through summer.

Infrasource continues work on a new, four-mile Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) pipeline on Bangs Avenue and with the hydro-testing of gas pipelines in Modesto. O.C. Jones is the apparent low bidder on the $30 million Hwy. 219/Hwy. 99 interchange, which will provide work for operators this spring and summer. We look for more work to be bid this year. We are also on the look-out for non-union companies that are picking up our work, so we can sign them up or help our signatories get the work. If you see any work that looks like it’s not being done by one of our signatories, call the Hall so we can keep an eye on it.

Please remember that if you are on the A or B out-of-work list, your registration is good for 84 days, and if you are on the C list, you will need to call and re-register on the first working day of the month. You can also take advantage of the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC) for journey-level upgrade training or minimum-qualification testing.

Retiree Post

The Vargas brothers make Local 3 a family affair

Retiree Joe Vargas is the oldest of 12 children – six girls; six boys. Of the boys, four of them belong to Local 3.

Like any good big brother should, Joe always looked out for his younger siblings and set some strong examples for them to follow. In 1966, that was joining the union. Just two years later, his brother Manuel (Baby No. 2) followed suit. That same year, Joe asked his boss to consider hiring his brothers Arlindo (No. 6) and Ed (No. 8).

“I’ve got another brother,” Joe remembers telling his boss and laughed.

Since the family immigrated to the United States from Portugal, Joe said it was important for the boys to stick together.

“We try to help each other, because we came over here with a little suitcase in our hands. … Some people make it, and some people don’t,” he said.

Thankfully for the Vargases, it was the former. Now retired, all four brothers had healthy construction careers and are thankful for what Local 3 has given them.


“You did what the boss needed you to do,” said Joe, yet another good example to follow.
We thank our Retirees

As we welcome 2013, we hope everyone had a joyous holiday season. We hope this year will be as good as 2012 was in terms of work. One job worth mentioning is the Ft. Bidwell project with T&S Construction. So far in District 70, not a lot of work has gone out to bid. We will, however, keep track of proposed and awarded projects and make sure we get that information to you as soon as we can.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Retiree Ken Green, a 54-year member who retired in 1991. Green was a district rep. in Redding for many years, and until recently, he served as a member of our Election and Bylaws committees and as the Retiree chapter chairman. Green has chosen to pass the torch, and we thank him again for his service to the local.

Fifty-four-year member Curtis Brown has been selected to fill his shoes and represent our Retirees. Brown spent time as an instructor at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC) as well as an operator in the field. We have no doubt that he will do an excellent job in his new position. Brown has been a “warrior” phone-banker this past election season, so we know he won’t shy away from giving folks a call from time to time.

If you get the chance, please thank the aforementioned gentlemen in person, in a phone call or in a note for the work they do and have done to further our local.

Also, please remember to keep your certifications current, including Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10, Hazmat, Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), a Class A California Driver’s License (CDL), etc. These are some of the things employers are requiring on jobs.

Best wishes to you and your families for the new year!

Kenny Spliethof works on T&S Construction’s Ft. Bidwell project.

Chad Page works on the Ft. Bidwell project for T&S Construction.

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

Work to start on the widest overpass in Sacramento

Happy New Year’s from the District 80 staff. We hope everyone had a safe and memorable holiday season. Now winter is upon us, and hopefully this year’s work season will not start too late. Last year’s work hours in this district were up from the previous year. There still hasn’t been much private-sector work, so we should be thankful for the last of the Stimulus monies that funded many projects last year.

Now that it’s a new year, some members have become eligible for a 10-year letter. If you think you might be eligible, contact us for verification. If you are, congratulations! You can now solicit work with any of our signatory employers.

The criteria to obtain a 10-year letter is, as stated in Section 04.10.24(i) of the California Job Placement Regulations: “For the immediately preceding ten (10) year period, been employed as an Operating Engineer or available for employment through the Job Placement Center in any one (1) or more classifications set out in Section 01.00.00 of this Agreement on the type or kind of craft work covered by this Agreement in Northern California, Northern Nevada, Utah or Hawaii.”

We cannot stress the importance of registering on the out-of-work list when you are not working to show your availability for employment. This is an important part of the eligibility requirements for a 10-year letter.

Also, if you have had a change of address or phone number in the last year, now is the time to stop by the Hall and complete a required change-of-address form. If you have had issues with receiving information, such as the Engineers News or your dues notice, you should check to make sure your information is current. This is also a good time to check your beneficiary card to make sure you have designated the correct person.

Regarding the work picture, it looks like O.C. Jones will be working in the Sacramento area for awhile. The company started on the $22.5 million Watt Avenue/I-5 interchange, which will continue through 2014. Watt Avenue will get two new regular lanes in each direction over the freeway and two new short-distance lanes, making it the widest overpass in Sacramento. The project will create a separate biking and walking path that uses tunnels under the on- and off-ramps. Another feature will be a walled-off lane in the middle of the overpass for buses. This will be the first step in offering Bus Rapid Transit, where, at certain places, buses will avoid dealing with car congestion and have their own lane. Hopefully this new strategy will provide for some future upgrades on other intersection projects in the area.

At the time of this writing, Teichert Construction was the apparent low bidder on the Cosumnes River Boulevard/I-5 extension/interchange project, which is scheduled to go through June 2015. This will extend Cosumnes River Boulevard from Franklin Boulevard to Freeport Boulevard and includes the construction of a new interchange at I-5. This also includes a new overcrossing of the railroad tracks and Morrison Creek. Upon completion, this improvement will provide another east-west corridor by connecting Hwy. 99 and I-5.

We are also keeping track of a proposed project in Elk Grove located on 20 acres in its future Civic Center site. The city wants to build an outdoor aquatic facility that could be used for Olympic-level water sports. It could include a 50-meter pool and a second lap pool with a 10-meter dive tower as well as a recreational, outdoor commercial park. The plans have been proposed to the City Council, and if this moves forward, hotels, parking structures and restaurants would not be far behind.

We hope that all the work by the District 80 staff and members in support of the Elk Grove City Council will help some of our signatory companies get this future work. It was a good sign when the city planners invited the Sacramento-Sierra Building Trades and all the crafts to a meeting to ask for our input in making sure things were done properly. The city wants the most qualified contractors bidding on the project that are in compliance on all prevailing-wage issues and will use a local workforce with an approved apprenticeship program.

Let’s hope this kind of forward thinking works well for Elk Grove, because it could be used as an example for other cities and counties in our area.
Success on windmill projects shows operators’ skills

Here’s to another great dredge season for Local 3 members. For most of last year, dispatches were down with just 57 through September. Then the floodgates opened with more than 70 dispatches in October and November alone. The biggest work went to Vortex in Stockton and Emeryville; Dutra in San Francisco, Oakland, Richmond and Collinsville; Manson in Oakland; and our newest contractor, R.E. Staite, in Richmond. Hopefully this year’s dredging season won’t start so late in the year and we can get our members to work a little sooner.

In other dredging news, the Master Dredge Agreement is due to expire in June. Keep an eye out for notices, as we will be conducting pre-negotiation meetings soon.

As of Nov. 16, Shiloh IV has gone commercial; all circuits have been energized. This makes the sixth big wind-farm project in a row for the Rio Vista area that has been completed with no major incidents. Congratulations to all the hands from Mortenson, PLC Trenching, Rosendin Electric and Duran & Venables. As we have said before, these windmill jobs are tricky, and lots of things can go wrong. It speaks well of our local operators that the project was completed safely. Shiloh IV had its own set of problems, with components showing up more than a month late and the hands having to work around this setback. The owners extended the deadline, and the job got done ahead of it. Windmill projects will likely slow down for the next year, but there are more large expansions planned for not only the Rio Vista area but in surrounding counties as well.

With the wet weather, many projects have slowed down for the winter. However, Ghilotti Construction and Ghilotti Brothers will have plenty of work in the spring on Hwy. 12 in Jameson Canyon. In Napa, Ghilotti Brothers will also continue with the Saratoga extension, and Argonaut will perform the underground on the project. Proven

Emergency work awarded on Hwy. 101, Hwy. 299

It’s a new year, and things look good in District 40. Fluor Construction and Kiewit Nuclear are keeping members busy through the winter months at the Humboldt Bay Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Power Plant. With several companies working on the demolition of the old plant and the building of the new one, it’s been a big job. This project will continue for several years, and we hope to have more of our operators participating as 2013 unfolds.

Dutra is making progress at the Crescent City Harbor reconstruction. With the delay of crab season in December, this month will be challenging as the season continues into the early weeks of 2013. Of course the company is making an effort to accommodate local businesses as much as possible. This landmark project will provide steady employment for many of our operators in the coming months.

Emergency work was awarded to Calex Engineering on Hwy. 101 in Del Norte County. A retaining wall should be finished by the end of February.

Condon-Johnson was also awarded emergency work on a retaining wall on Hwy. 299. The work has been difficult with the weather and road conditions, but crews have forged ahead.

Wahlund Construction continues work on the Rio Dell Water Treatment Plant and the Stewart Street Reservoir. Both projects will make a tremendous amount of progress this month, despite the rain.

Mercey-Fraser has slowed down with the coming rains but continues to pave whenever the weather permits. The shop also continues to employ operators through the winter.

Peterson uses the slow months to gear up for the spring, so the company has remained busy throughout the winter.

Management should complete the Napa Creek project early this year.

Ship-dismantling is at a standstill at Mare Island. Hopefully, there will be more work to come in the near future.

Looking forward, once the Hwy. 12A-680 interchange goes out to bid, a lot of hands will be heading back to work.

Apprenticeship Spotlight

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**DISTRIBUTION MEETINGS**

All meetings convene at 7 p.m.

**JANUARY 2013**

No meetings scheduled.

**FEBRUARY 2013**

5th District 20: Oakland
Warehouse Union Local 6
99 Hegenberger Road

5th District 30: Stockton
Operating Engineers’ Building
1916 North Broadway Ave.

6th District 50: Clovis
Clovis Veterans Memorial District
808 Fourth St.

6th District 80: Sacramento
Operating Engineers’ Building
3920 Lennane Drive

7th District 01: Burlingame
Transport Workers Union
1521 Rollins Road

7th District 90: Morgan Hill
Operating Engineers’ Building
325 Digital Drive

13th District 11: Reno
Operating Engineers’ Building
1290 Corporate Blvd.

14th District 12: Salt Lake City
IBEW Local 354
3400 W. 2100 S.

19th District 04: Suisun City
Veterans Memorial Building
427 Main St.

19th District 40: Eureka
Best Western Bayside Inn
3500 Broadway

20th District 10: Rohnert Park
Operating Engineers’ Building
6225 State Farm Drive

20th District 70: Redding
Operating Engineers’ Building
20308 Engineers Lane

21st District 60: Marysville
Veterans Memorial Center
211 17th St.

25th District 17: Honolulu
Ala Moana Hotel
410 Atkinson Drive

**MARCH 2013**

No meetings scheduled.

**TOWN HALL MEETINGS**

**January 2013**

2nd District 11: Elko
Mine Meeting: 6 p.m.
Operating Engineers’ Building
1094 Lamoille Highway

9th District 11: Elko
Construction Meeting: 6 p.m.
Operating Engineers’ Building
1094 Lamoille Highway

**February 2013**

6th District 11: Elko
Mine Meeting: 6 p.m.
Operating Engineers’ Building
1094 Lamoille Highway

13th District 11: Elko
Construction Meeting: 6 p.m.
Operating Engineers’ Building
1094 Lamoille Highway

26th District 17: Maui
Meeting: 6 p.m.
Kauai Beach Resort
4331 Kauai Beach Drive, Lihue

27th District 17: Hilo
Meeting: 7 p.m.
Hilo ILWU Hall
100 W. Laniakula St.

28th District 17: Kona
Meeting: 7 p.m.
Courtyard Marriott
King Kamehameha Hotel
75-5660 Palani Drive

**March 2013**

1st District 17: Maui
Meeting: 7 p.m.
Maui Arts and Cultural Center
One Cameron Way, Kahului

6th District 11: Elko
Mine Meeting: 6 p.m.
Operating Engineers’ Building
1094 Lamoille Highway

13th District 11: Elko
Construction Meeting: 6 p.m.
Operating Engineers’ Building
1094 Lamoille Highway

**District Picnic Details**

District 40: Eureka
Saturday, Feb. 16, 4:30 p.m. to midnight
Eureka Elks Club, 455 Herrick Ave., Eureka, Calif.

Menu: Crab, salad, bread (chicken dinners available upon early request)
Cost: $25 per adult, $20 per Retiree, $30 per Retiree and spouse, free for children
Other: No-host drinks at 4:30 p.m., dinner from 5-7 p.m., live band and dancing at 8 p.m., prize drawing

**Semi-Annual Meeting**

Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan has announced that the next Semi-Annual Meeting of the membership will be held on Sunday, March 17, 2013 at 1 p.m., at the following location:

Solano County Fairgrounds
900 Fairgrounds Drive
Vallejo, Calif. 94589

**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.

Change in district office hours

Please note that starting Jan. 1, 2013, there will be new hours for Wednesday “late night” in the district offices, as follows:

- November-March: Late night will be the fourth Wednesday* of each month.
- April-October: Late night will be the second and fourth Wednesdays* of each month.

*In Hawaii, the same schedule applies for Mondays.

Office hours:
Monday-Friday: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Designated late nights: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Important registration reminder**

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 November 2012 and have been determined eligible for Honorary Membership effective Jan. 1, 2013.

James Aja
District 30: Stockton
1528528

Wayne Duarte
District 99: Out Of Area
2416290

Gordon W. Gines
District 12: Utah
1566823

Sheldon R. Kimball
District 99: Out Of Area
1689692

Jerry Lusk
District 20: Oakland
1697221

Bernard K. Makuade
District 17: Hawaii
1446498

Lino J. Martini
District 30: Stockton
1447211

Takeo Miyashiro
District 17: Hawaii
1321290

Luis C. Pardo
District 60: Yuba City
1511504

Gilbert Peirsol
District 90: Morgan Hill
1745154

Gerald Schaffer
District 60: Yuba City
1716583

Daniel Silva
District 20: Oakland
1737491

Dwight Thomas
District 11: Nevada
1631688

Donald Wells
District 99: Out Of Area
1697332

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Dear brothers and sisters:
As you all know, our local union is large and encompasses four large states. All official union business, including the nomination and election for union-wide offices, Bylaws, elections and Political Action Committee (PAC) delegates, will be conducted at locations close to the main district office in your specific home area.
As a result of the large geographic jurisdiction of Local 3, the business manager can, at his discretion, establish subcommittees. Business Manager Russ Burns has currently authorized four subcommittees to be located in Elko, Nev. and Hilo, Kauai and Maui, Hawaii. These subcommittees will have their own PACs to deal with local concerns. Please note: The payment of dues for subcommittee PAC members will be at the discretion of the business manager.
If you are interested in becoming a PAC member, the business manager strongly encourages you to attend your February District or Town Hall Meeting (these meetings are listed on page 26) so that you may be nominated and then elected.

Fraternally yours,
Jim Sullivan
Recording-Corresponding Secretary

Proof of voter registration for Political Action Committee nominees

Proof of voter registration may be obtained by going to your county Registrar of Voters’ or county clerk's office. The cost for a certificate varies by county but is usually nominal ($1) or free. All Political Action Committee (PAC) nominees: Please bring a copy of proof that you are registered to vote to the District Meeting at which nominations take place. Any member seeking nomination who does not bring proof of registration to the meeting will be required to fill out a new voter registration form at the meeting. (You will need your driver’s license when filling out a new voter registration form.)

2013 Political Action Committee Election

Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan has announced that in accordance with Article X, Section 10 of the Local Union Bylaws, the election of Political Action Committees (PACs) will take place at the first District Meeting of 2013 in each respective district. No Member shall be eligible for election, be elected or hold the position of PAC Member:
1. Unless he or she is a Member in good standing in the Parent Local Union and a registered voter (with proof of current voter registration) in the District where he or she is seeking nomination;
2. Unless he or she was continuously a Member of the Parent Local Union for not less than two (2) years next preceding his or her nomination;
3. If he or she is retired, is an Officer of or is on the payroll of the Local Union or a related entity;
4. If he or she is an Owner-Operator or a Contractor;
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 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 be a PAC Member and will accept the nomination if nominated.
Please see page 26 for the schedule of meetings at which these elections will be held.
Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Foundation

A charity is only as strong as its contributors want it to be, and the Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Foundation is no exception. Today, the foundation is strong both financially and in the support it receives from Local 3. It has grown substantially in the last several years, with much of its success due to an increase in donations from members, friends of labor and the employer community. Most contributions come in the form of traditional cash donations, but some have chosen more creative methods. Because of tax considerations, some donors are able to give a gift that is greater than they think possible. These gifts help build the strength and future of the Scholarship Foundation and allow the donor to experience giving the gift of a lifetime. The Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Foundation offers a variety of ways to contribute:

- **Cash gifts in any amount to the general Scholarship Fund.**
- **Merit sponsors and memorial and honor gifts.** You can contribute to the Scholarship Foundation in the memory of a loved one, friend or colleague or to commemorate a special occasion. The Foundation will acknowledge your gift to the person(s) you designate and provide written acknowledgment of your gift and the amount. A $1,000 minimum is necessary to establish a named gift, and there are four donation levels:
  - Merit: $1,000
  - Third-place academic: $5,000
  - Second-place academic: $7,500
  - First-place academic: $10,000
- **Bequests.** Gifts made through your will allow you to retain control of your assets during your lifetime and distribute them as you wish upon your death. Many people choose to include a gift to the Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Foundation. Leaving a fixed dollar amount or specific property are the most common types of bequests. A charitable bequest may reduce your estate tax. Consulting an attorney is advised any time you make or change a will.
- **Securities.** There may be an advantage to giving marketable securities (stocks, bonds or mutual funds) instead of cash. In some cases, you may receive a charitable deduction on your taxes and avoid taxes on capital gains. Consult your financial adviser for details.

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

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Yes! I would like to support the 2013 Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Fund.

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of:

- $20
- $50
- $100
- Other $_____

Name:___________________________________________________________

Phone:_________________________________________________________

Address:________________________________________________________

City:________________________ State:________ Zip:_____________

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

Please note: Anyone who contributes $20 or more will receive a scholarship pin.

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**DEPARTED MEMBERS**

| Adams, Horace | Parowan, UT | District 12 | 10-15-12 |
| Barretta, Lonnie | Santa Rosa, CA | District 10 | 10-15-12 |
| Blaic Virgil | Riverdale, UT | District 12 | 10-18-12 |
| Blanchard, Stephen | Wellington, NV | District 11 | 10-09-12 |
| Bonilla, Charles | Waipahu, HI | District 17 | 09-11-12 |
| Braverman, David | Elko, NV | District 11 | 10-12-12 |
| Brit, Ralph | Red Springs, NV | District 99 | 09-29-12 |
| Britzenden, Ronald | Oakdale, CA | District 30 | 09-01-12 |
| Castle, Tony | Elk Creek, CA | District 60 | 08-22-12 |
| Cox, Ronald | Myrtle Creek, OR | District 99 | 10-20-12 |
| Currie, Robert | Redding, CA | District 70 | 10-23-12 |
| Enderud, John | Elko, NV | District 11 | 09-17-12 |
| Frost, Jack | Jenner, CA | District 10 | 10-04-12 |
| Graham, Ralph | Biggs, CA | District 60 | 10-13-12 |
| Hardin, Richard | Nevada City, CA | District 80 | 09-10-12 |
| Hecker, John | Coffay, CA | District 80 | 09-24-12 |
| Hinote, John | Cottonwood, CA | District 70 | 09-23-12 |
| Jensen, Robert | Modesto, CA | District 30 | 08-18-12 |
| Jurgens, James | Redding, CA | District 70 | 08-18-12 |
| Lopez, Candelario | San Jose, CA | District 90 | 10-10-12 |
| Loshet, Laverne | Napa, CA | District 04 | 10-16-12 |
| Madsen, Cheston | Fountain Green, UT | District 12 | 08-22-12 |
| Mattice, Stanley | Placerville, CA | District 80 | 09-18-12 |
| McGee, Jack | Oakdale, CA | District 30 | 09-13-12 |
| Pyeatt, Randall | Carlin, NV | District 11 | 10-04-12 |
| Renfrow, Ronald | Oroville, CA | District 60 | 10-02-12 |
| Richardson, James | Oroville, CA | District 60 | 08-25-12 |
| Roberts, William | Daly City, CA | District 01 | 09-06-12 |
| Ross, Eugene | Brookings, OR | District 99 | 10-05-12 |
| Sanchez, G | Puunene, HI | District 17 | 05-23-12 |
| Severson, Richard | Dove Creek, OR | District 99 | 09-10-12 |
| Sherman, Joseph | Golden Valley, AZ | District 99 | 10-02-12 |
| Shira, Sargent | Marysville, CA | District 60 | 09-10-12 |
| Smieck, George | Fairfield, CA | District 04 | 09-25-12 |
| Stark, Derrel | Clearlake, CA | District 10 | 09-19-12 |
| Vogel, Albert | Milpitas, CA | District 90 | 08-07-12 |
| Wong, Harvey | Haulu, HI | District 17 | 08-10-12 |
| Woodward, James | Penn Valley, CA | District 80 | 08-29-12 |

**DECEASED DEPENDENTS**

Best, Elvera.
Beneficiary of Best, Paul (dec) 10-13-12
Bezzant, Margean.
Wife of Bezzant, Douglas 04-15-11
Clay, Ronald.
Husband of Clay, Annie 03-03-12
Doseo, Thelma.
Wife of Doseo, Philip D. Jr. 09-21-12
Farris, Ruth.
Wife of Farris, William (dec) 10-08-12
House, Nancy.
Wife of House, Robert (dec) 10-22-12
Justice, Charman.
Wife of Justice, Robert (dec) 10-02-12
Keller, Joan.
Wife of Keller, Billy (dec) 10-16-12
Medeiros, Argeline.
Ex-wife of Willis, William (dec) 10-18-12
Myers, Naomi.
Ex-wife of Myers, Herbert 10-08-12
Obrero, Helen.
Wife of Obrero, Sandy (dec) 09-13-12
Robbins, Catherine.
Wife of Robbins, Fred (dec) 10-10-12
Stoner, Connie.
Wife of Stoner, Larry 08-17-12
Taylor, Maurine.
Wife of Taylor, Gorden 10-09-12
Ward, Bonnie.
Wife of Ward, Harlan (dec) 10-09-12

Local 3 Scholarship Foundation Contest Rules for 2013

The Local 3 officers, Executive Board and Scholarship Board of Directors understand that the workplace is rapidly changing, and many jobs require skills that can be attained only with a good education. Local 3 is dedicated to giving our young people the opportunity to succeed by providing them with the chance to further their education and training. For this reason, Local 3 awards annual scholarships to sons, daughters, stepchildren and foster children of Local 3 members. Local 3 awards two types of scholarships: Academic Scholarships (winners are judged based on academic qualifications) and Merit Scholarships (winners are selected through a random raffle drawing).

WHO MAY APPLY

Children (sons, daughters, stepchildren and foster children) of Local 3 members may apply for the scholarships. The parent of the applicant must be a member for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the application. Grandchildren are only eligible to apply if their grandparent (member) is their legal guardian. Children of deceased members are eligible to apply for the scholarships if the parent of the applicant was a member for at least one year immediately preceding the date of death.

WHERE TO GET APPLICATIONS

OE3 Academic and Merit Scholarship applications are available at the local's district offices, Credit Union branches and online at www.oe3.org.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Six college scholarships will be awarded to children of Local 3 members:

• First place: Two scholarships of $4,000 each will be awarded to the first-place female and male applicant, with an additional $2,000 for the second, third and fourth years of college if they remain a full-time student. ($10,000 total)

• Second place: Two scholarships of $3,000 each will be awarded to the second-place female and male applicant, with an additional $1,500 for the second, third and fourth years of college if they remain a full-time student. ($7,500 total)

• Third place: Two scholarships of $2,000 each will be awarded to the third-place female and male applicant, with an additional $1,000 for the second, third and fourth years of college if they remain a full-time student. ($5,000 total)

These scholarships can only be used for study at an accredited college or university located in the United States, and no restrictions of any kind will be imposed on the course of study. Recipients may accept any other grants or awards that do not rule out scholarship aid from other sources. Winners must submit proof of full-time enrollment to receive payment for the second, third and fourth years.

Academic Scholarship applicants must be senior high school students who have, or will be, graduated at the end of either the fall semester (beginning in 2012) or the spring semester (beginning in 2013) in public, private or parochial schools. They must plan to attend an accredited college or university anywhere in the United States during the academic year and be able to meet the academic requirements for entrance in the university or college of their choice. Students selected for a scholarship must have achieved not less than a 3.0 (B) weighted grade point average in their high school work.

Applications will be accepted from Jan. 1, 2013 to March 31, 2013.

AWARDING ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Upon receipt of the application and required forms, the membership of the parent will be verified. The application will then be submitted for judging to the University of California Berkeley Scholarship Selection Committee, an independent outside group composed entirely of professional educators. Apart from verifying the eligibility of the applicant, Local 3 will not exercise any choice among the various applicants or indicate in any way that one applicant should be favored over another. The University of California Berkeley Scholarship Selection Committee will submit recommendations for finalists to the Scholarship Foundation’s Board of Directors. The list of potential winners and their qualifications will be reviewed by the board, and the winners will be selected.

In June, Academic Scholarship winners will be posted on www.oe3.org and notified by mail. They will also be invited to an awards ceremony at the July Executive Board meeting. Checks will be deposited in the winning students’ names at the college or university they plan to attend.

Applicants who are not selected for an Academic Scholarship will automatically be eligible for OE3 Merit Scholarships, which are awarded through a raffle drawing; therefore, only one application is required. Merit Scholarships will be awarded at Local 3’s July Executive Board meeting. Applicants need not be present to win.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

The following items must be postmarked by March 31, 2013. All items should be submitted together by the applicant (unless it is the policy of the school to submit the Report on Applicant and Official Transcript directly).

1. APPLICATION & ESSAY.

2. REPORT ON APPLICANT AND OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT. Must be filled out by the high school principal or person he or she designates. Transcripts must be official.

3. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION. One to three letters from teachers, community leaders, family friends or others who know the applicant must give information about the applicant’s character and ability.

Note: Winners will be contacted for a photograph to be used in the Engineers News and local newspapers.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to the six Academic Scholarships, Local 3’s Scholarship Foundation will award 25 Merit Scholarships in the amount of $1,000. Children of Local 3 members who attend, or plan to attend, college or a trade school are eligible to apply. The Merit Scholarship winners will not be judged on academic qualifications but instead be selected through a raffle drawing held at Local 3’s July Executive Board meeting. Applicants need not be present to win; winners will be notified by Local 3. All applicants who apply for the Local 3 Academic Scholarships and do not win will automatically qualify for this drawing; therefore, a second application is not necessary.

Applications will be accepted from Jan. 1, 2013 to March 31, 2013.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

The following items must be postmarked by March 31, 2013. All items should be submitted together by the applicant.

1. APPLICATION & ESSAY.

HOW TO SUBMIT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

It is the responsibility of the applicant to see that the application is completed in full and that all of the required items are received on time, postmarked by March 31, 2013. If any items are missing, the applicant risks ineligibility. Send to:

James K. Sullivan
Recording-Corresponding Secretary
Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3
1620 South Loop Road
Alameda, CA 94502
Attn: Scholarships
There are a lot of benefits to being a gradesetter: Working on your own, being outdoors and being able to move around while on the job. But it wasn’t until she started working in the field that third-step Apprentice Chantaa Primus discovered another plus: Weight loss!

Since joining Local 3 in 2011, Primus, a former interior designer, says she’s lost about 20 pounds and dropped at least two pant sizes.

“I’ve lost a lot of weight,” she said. “I can get into clothes that I couldn’t get into for a long time. My work clothes are so baggy.”

She credits the weight loss to the amount of walking gradesetters do and is considering bringing a step-counter to work to see just how far she goes every day. The slim-down has also inspired her to keep the weight off and build muscle.

“Because I started losing weight, I think I eat better,” she said.

In addition to drinking water all day – “If I know it’s going to be hot, I try to start drinking water the night before,” she said – Primus tries to eat oatmeal for breakfast and packs a healthy lunch, which typically includes a sandwich or a kale salad. She also brings fresh veggies to snack on, like bell peppers and cucumbers.

“I just cut them up and eat them raw, just like they are,” she said. To satisfy her sweet tooth, she grabs some fruit. Her favorites include nectarines, grapes and watermelon.

“Tastes better than candy,” she said. “I love candy, but natural sweetness is the best.”

By quitting time, Primus is hungry and treats herself to “a big dinner” that “usually revolves around chicken.”

Primus realizes that packing a lunch takes a little extra time and planning and understands why many operators don’t do it. Instead, they opt for a fast-food burger that unfortunately has a lot of fat and calories.

“If you’re tired when you get home, you don’t want to make lunch,” she said. “I understand it, because I work a lot, my hours are so long. … I just think as an Operating Engineer, we just need something easy – as easy as it is to go to Jack in the Box. … Time is everything to people. Time is money to people. It’s got to be convenient.”

Here’s her suggestion:

“On your way home … stop by the deli and get a sandwich. Or Subway. Subway is way better for you than a fast-food burger,” she said, yet it’s easy, “just like picking up a burger.” Then bring it to work the next day for lunch.

Another benefit of eating lighter is the way you feel afterward. Burgers and other fast-food options can leave you tired.

“To me, I think packing your lunch is the best,” she said.

Primus admits that her new career “was a big change for me; a 180 degree turn,” but she doesn’t look back.

“I wanted a career. Operating Engineers is a career,” she said. “It’s all a challenge. I like the outdoors. I like the work. … I feel like I’m on the right track.”

Try these tips to ensure an easy, healthy lunch:

• On your way home from work, pick up a sandwich from the deli at your local grocery store. That way, there’s NO prep work for the next day’s lunch!

• Pack whole vegetables and eat them raw.

• Bring fruit to ward off sweet cravings.

• Drink lots of water.
FOR SALE: 5th wheel hitch from 1978 Ford truck. Was new when bought in 1978. Great condition. Needs to be used; don’t have truck or 5th wheel hitch. (916) 590-1613 or e-mail terry2zandra@yahoo.com and I’ll send a picture. Reg# 2344593.

FOR SALE: 3-1/3 record collection. About 4,200 albums. Lots of rock, country, jazz, blues, easy listening. Take all for $300. (530) 223-4388. Reg# 0827031.


FOR SALE: Snap-On Southern Thunder Racing Theme Rower cabinet and top chest. Good condition. $850. Willing to negotiate. (714) 694-8578, boatstorella@yahoo.com or (775) 934-1899. Reg# 1804351.

FOR SALE: 1946 Willys jeep project vehicle. Body, new fenders, new floor, tub good – no rust. Two frames, two motors with new springs and all running gear, one 4-cylinder motor. One V-6,211 already mounted in frame, numerous parts included. Located in Winnemucca, Nev. (775) 421-6434. Reg# 1904048.

FOR SALE: 2002 Travel Trailer 23’ long. Very clean 2002 Wanderer Gl tidlette by Thor. Auto Multi-Sat TV Antenna (Direct TV Slimline), dual propane tanks, single battery, CD player, AC/heating, gas stove, microwave, stand-up shower and tub, (bathroom in back, walk-around queen bed in front), non-smoker, kept ultra clean. 88,000. Winnemucca, Nev. (775) 424-6316, Reg# 1904149.


FOR SALE: Ranch in the Okanogan Highland. 2 bd, plus large den. 1,500 square feet. Galley kitchen, full stove, two-car garage, tack room, barn, hay sheds, stable for horses, sheep shed and pen, chicken pen, pig pens, 35.5 acres, 10 acres mature pine timber, six joining pastures. Many wild animals cross property, half-hour from Canada. Misc. equipment, animals included in sale. $265,000. (509) 496-0830. Reg# 1770467.

FOR SALE: Watch 6 obsidian, 7 obsidian, 5 redwood, 8 D9L and D11T, a few others available. Call Mike at (707) 996-8097. Reg# 1768903.


WANTED: Shotgun, rifles, pistols and ammo from one to a whole collection. (559) 351-6615. Reg# 2123723.


FOR SALE: 14’ travel boat and trailer (Elgin) with new 40 HP Johnson motor, only used five hours. Back-to-back seats. Ski boat and fishing boat. Will trade for 25’ or 31’ travel trailer or house boat. (916) 991-1530. Reg# 0486196.

FOR SALE: 3 bd/2 ba home on two-plus acres. All fenced, underground irrigation, shop (4,500 square feet). All insulated, power, small shop (40 HP motor) for welding/repairs. House remodeled in 2002 with new addition. $80,000. Call Frank at (209) 604-3014. Reg# 2275457.


FOR SALE: Burial plot in Lawncrest Cemetery in Redding, Calif. Plot. Vault and opening/closing package included. Local Union No. 3 reserves the right to take all the items listed for the list 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
3200 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.

Forging a new path with old equipment

Story by Mandy McMillen, managing editor

When Engineers News asked Mike McGinty how he was enjoying his retirement, he couldn’t say for sure, since he had only been retired for three days. The third-generation, 34-year member had no idea how it would feel to not be working, since his father, Mac McGinty, put him and his brothers “in the seat of equipment as soon as we could reach the pedals.”

Mike remembers the joy he felt as a young boy when one of the Caterpillar parts salesmen gave him his first watch fob, a shiny trinket that symbolized the equipment he would eventually learn to operate and love.

Construction was all his family knew. His father was a partner in Wise and McGinty Construction out of Sonoma, and his grandfather, Fred Huntington, owned Huntington Bros. Construction in the late 1940s.

Mike also has two brothers in the union – Tom, who is retired, and Jim, who is still an active member. His niece, Jennifer Johnson, is also in the union, along with his wife, Christie, who was a water-truck owner/operator before retiring in October 2011. (Mike actually met Christie when he was working on The Geisers for North Bay Construction.) Her grandfather, Laurel Musselman, and her mother, Roberta Reed, were also Operating Engineers.

So, it’s not a stretch when Mike says “operating equipment is in my blood.”

A self-described workaholic, Mike worked every hour he could in the field. He didn’t understand why his fellow co-workers took vacations, since he was planning the biggest one of all, his comfortable retirement. He planned to retire when equipment became so technologically advanced that he didn’t enjoy running it as much.

“I’m not into high-tech,” he said. “I didn’t want to outlive my career.”

Though Mike admits technology has improved the comfort and ease of operating equipment (GPS, fingertip controls, air-conditioned cabs), he prefers to use cables, “something operators hardly do now,” he said. He also explained that new safety requirements, though necessary, have forced the job to include a lot more office time and paperwork.

“I enjoy being on the machine, not in the office,” he said.

Though his last job was running equipment at a quarry just 40 minutes from his house for Syar Industries out of Napa, Mike recalls traveling all over when he was younger. He stayed in hotels and rented trailers – something else a lot of younger operators don’t typically do today. His advice for them is to consider it.

“Get your foot in the door and stay focused. Don’t give up on it.”

Now that his retirement has arrived, the way to spend it is the one thing he doesn’t have grand plans for. He knows for sure that he can’t stay away from equipment. He will continue to build things around his house and is involved in an antique Cat club with his brother, Tom. They have old D8 and 14A dozers from the mid-1950s that they have restored.

Mike and his wife took a big vacation last summer to Mount Rushmore in South Dakota and visited Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Washington and Oregon on a two-week trip.

That initial watch fob from Mike’s childhood has since turned into a collection of 400 of them, while his childhood seat time turned into a career. Only time will tell where his new path will lead, but regardless, he will drive it with heavy equipment!