

OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL UNION NO. 3

# ENGINEERS

NEWS

Vol. 71, #3

March 2013



Going **ABOVE**  
and **BELOW**







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## For The Good & Welfare

By Russ Burns, business manager

# Work picture looks good

Knock on wood and throw some salt over your shoulder, but I believe we're coming out of the recession!

Just look around San Francisco and you can see that things are getting better. As reported in this month's cover story, we have 24 tower cranes currently working in the city with another 18 scheduled to go up this year. That's huge, considering that for the last three years we've had no more than three up at one time. In addition, as the Central Subway project breaks ground and we prepare for the upcoming America's Cup, you will see more drill and equipment operators working.

San Francisco has always been a hot spot for work, but it's not the only place in Local 3's jurisdiction that's busy right now. Read through this month's District Reports for forecasts in each district. The Sacramento District is expecting a lot of operators to go to work on projects surrounding the Folsom Dam, the Oakland District is excited about a new rock, sand and gravel quarry that just opened with brand-new equipment and the Yuba City District is working on Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) for 41 miles of levee work. Of course we also have the highly anticipated High-Speed Rail (HSR) project getting close to breaking ground in the Fresno District, with money being approved to start buying parcels.

Work looks good in our other states too. The price of gold is keeping the mines busy in Nevada, military build-up is providing work in Hawaii and there's already refinery work lined up in Utah for this year. Our business agents in the Technical Engineers Department are also seeing an uptick in hours, and every operator knows that where there's a surveyor, there's work for the rest of us.

Even our financial professionals are seeing an increase in work. According to our Financial Reports on pages 4 and 5, the unemployment rates have fallen in all four of our states.

Needless to say, we're hoping 2013 is a good year with lots of hours not only going into our members' back pockets but also into our funds.

With the bright work picture, make sure you take advantage of upcoming training to sharpen your skills and renew any expired or almost-expired certifications. Also remember to stay current on the out-of-work list. Don't miss an opportunity to go to work.

Don't miss the opportunity to educate the non-union either. *Time Magazine* recently reported that America's unionized workforce hasn't been as low as it is now in almost a century. Though even the reporter of the story realizes that "when unions are stronger, the economy as a whole does better," not everyone gets it. Unions raise wages not only for their members but for non-union workers as well by requiring a higher prevailing wage.

Speaking of wages, by the time you read this, we will have held our Master Labor Agreement ratification/allocation meetings in your district. If you were unable to participate or attend your District Meeting, you can find the details on the OE3 members-only website, [www.oe3.org](http://www.oe3.org). I encourage you to visit our website often and get updates on what is taking place in your local.

At the end of March, our website will show a copy of the mandatory Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) pension-status letter that will be hitting mailboxes around this same time. The Trustees have had to make some changes, which will be detailed in the letter. As always, the other officers and I are always available to answer any questions you may have.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming March 17 Semi-Annual Meeting at the Solano County Fairgrounds. It's always a good opportunity to talk with your officers and district reps. and be around other union members who understand what being a part of this organization means. Just talk to one of our proud Retirees and they'll let you know all about it. They fought hard for what we have today, and we need to keep it going.

As always, work safe.

# From the Archives

## Fifty years ago this month ...

In March 1963, a lot was different than it is today, but as is usually true with history, many things were the same.

For instance, the union received a typed letter from California Gov. Edmund G. Brown (current Gov. Jerry Brown's father) commending Local 3 for its safety-prevention programs. (The letter was published in the March 1963 *Engineers News*.) "I wish to personally compliment you and all of your members for your vigorous action in the interest of safety," he wrote.

The current governor is also a labor supporter and thankful for Local 3's endorsement of his election campaign in 2011 and top-notch safety program.

Other notable news during that time period included the slow progress of the Oroville Dam (eventually completed in 1967) due to area floods and slides and continued setbacks in the contract. Today, the dam is the tallest in the United States at 770 feet high. The project was one of the most memorable for some of the union's Retirees, who have held reunions with their former crewmembers.

At this same time, the *Engineers News* printed an article encouraging the membership to stand up against the media's negative portrayal of unions by telling the truth about organized labor and getting involved in their union.

"Local 3's good name is like your own good name, a priceless asset to you. Let's guard it well," the article said. Today, unions continue to fight anti-union propositions and the public's perception that unions are the cause of economic problems.

Perhaps most interesting are the prices 50 years ago. A 1953 Pontiac sedan was selling for \$75 in the Swap Shop section, along with a \$12,500 two-bedroom home on an acre lot in Eureka and a \$250 Guilietti accordion.



## Report & Review

By Carl Goff, president



## Help me welcome the new officers

As you've all heard by now, former president Fred Herschbach retired last month. I wish him all the best in this new stage of life and want to thank him for everything he has done for Local 3, especially in the last 6-½ years he's been an officer. When he and the rest of the Gold Ticket were first elected in 2006, it was a rough time to say the least. The recession was just starting to unfold, the economy took a major hit and work hours began to drop dramatically. Herschbach helped us weather this ugly storm, and now that we seem to have turned the corner, his job is done. I thank him again for all his hard work and dedication. I'm sure he won't be a stranger.

At the Feb. 10 Executive Board Meeting, I was sworn-in as your new president. Dan Reding assumed the vice president position, and Pete Figueiredo was promoted to financial secretary. New to the team is former Nevada district rep. Steve Ingersoll, who was sworn-in as your new treasurer. A 24-year member, Ingersoll has been on staff since 1996, helping the membership in Nevada work through the difficult right-to-work laws there and playing a major role in turning the historically red swing-state of Nevada blue in 2008 and keeping it blue in 2012. (You can read more about him in a short introduction on page 6.)

Because Ingersoll was also a union Trustee, there were a few other shifts within the administration. Stockton District Rep. Nate Tucker became the newest Trustee, while Hawaii District Rep. Pane Meatoga Jr. is now an auditor. Both will continue their previous duties. Please help me welcome the new officers as we delve into another work season.

With that said, we are currently working on an extension to the California Master Agreement. There always seems to be some confusion about how we make decisions regarding our union and our Trust Funds, so I wanted to try to clear that up as well.

Local 3 and its Trust Funds are completely separate entities. While the union is overseen by the officers, Executive Board and membership, our Trust Funds are managed by *both* union and employer Trustees. Because of that, when a change is made to any of our Funds, whether it's our Health and Welfare Fund, Apprenticeship Fund or Pension Fund, an agreement has to be reached. Often times, the employer trustees and the union trustees don't see eye-to-eye, so compromises must be made by both sides, keeping in mind, as Trustees, that the membership and beneficiaries are the ones who matter the most. When it comes to the union, however, there is no employer input. We can simply do what is best for the membership, as long as we follow the Bylaws and the Constitution and the officers and Executive Board agree.

If at any time you have questions or hear rumors about what is going on within the union, please call your district office. Is it a union issue or a Trust Fund issue? If no one at your office knows the answer, they can find the answer and will get back to you. Please make sure you have the correct information, so you don't spread rumors.

I am honored to serve the membership in this new position and look forward to seeing you all soon. Our next Semi-Annual Meeting is this month, on March 17 at the Solano County Fairgrounds. Please try to attend!

# OE3 FINANCIAL REPORTS

## Fourth Quarter 2012 Financial Results

Our nation’s economy stalled during the fourth quarter of 2012, with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) falling 0.1 percent. The fall reversed a trend of 13 straight quarters of economic growth. While the decline was a surprise following the 3.1 percent gain experienced during the third quarter of 2012, the details were not as dire as headlines suggest. The decrease was due primarily to weather-related issues and a severe drop in government spending and business inventories in anticipation of the Jan. 1, 2013 fiscal cliff and proposed tax increases. On the bright side, consumer spending and business investment in equipment and software strengthened to nearly offset the above declines. The year was also aided by a 9.2 percent increase in construction spending versus 2011. For all of 2012, the economy grew 2.2 percent, up from 1.8 percent in 2011.

Even as GDP stalled during the fourth quarter of 2012, employment continued to show momentum with 603,000 new jobs created. While the government sector lost 72,000 jobs, 675,000 were created in the private sector. Of the private-sector jobs, 70,000 were new jobs in the construction industry. Our nation’s fourth quarter 2012 unemployment rate finished the year at 7.8 percent, unchanged from the third quarter, as increases in job growth were matched by increases in the labor force. Within Local 3’s jurisdiction, the fourth quarter of 2012 saw California’s unemployment rate fall from 10.2 percent to 9.8 percent, Hawaii’s rate fall from 5.7 percent to 5.2 percent, Nevada’s rate fall from 11.8 percent to 10.2 percent and Utah’s rate fall from 5.4 percent to 5.2 percent.

During the fourth quarter of 2012, Local 3’s membership increased by 35 members; nevertheless, for the full year, the local experienced a loss of 335 members or 0.96 percent. Total membership as of December 2012 stood at 34,447.

Financially, fourth quarter 2012 results continued to show improvement with a gain of \$899,411 for the local. Revenues

came in at \$10.9 million – a 3.7 percent increase over the same period in 2011. Expenses were \$10.0 million – up 3.7 percent from the third quarter of 2011. For the entire year 2012, revenues came in at \$40.3 million – \$1.4 million (3.7 percent) above the same period in 2011. For 2012, annual expenditures came in at \$40.7 million – a \$1.5 million (3.7 percent) increase versus 2011. Overall, Local 3’s net loss for 2012 was \$393,138. Full year’s revenues benefited from increased supplemental-dues receipts (up 10.1 percent) and a new organizing grant from the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE); however, service-fee income was lower (down 43.0 percent) in 2012 due to the 2011 completion of pipeline work in Nevada and Utah. In 2012, expenses rose primarily due to increased employment costs and higher legal fees. Overall, 2012 financial results were slightly better than budgeted expectations by \$214,265.

Looking back, 2012 was a solid year with work hours once again topping 27 million hours. With good hours and financial results for the local’s General Fund at about breakeven, the local was able to staff-up to more normal levels in order to provide the services necessary for its membership. Including all funds, Local 3 increased its financial reserves by more than \$1.7 million during 2012.

Fund Balances (\$ in millions)		
	12/31/12	12/31/11
General	\$36.9	\$37.3
Hardship, Strike, Lockout	\$4.9	\$4.5
Emergency	\$14.2	\$13.3
Defense	\$6.6	\$6.0
Capital Maintenance	\$0.6	\$0.3

### Fourth Quarter 2012 Financial Report

(Unaudited, in thousands)

#### Profit & Loss Statement

(Dec. 31, 2012, year-to-date)

Membership Revenue	\$35,591
Other Revenue	\$4,681
Total Receipts	\$40,271
Salaries, Benefits & Taxes	\$25,241
Per Capita Taxes	\$5,644
Office & Operations	\$3,250
Depreciation	\$1,572
Professional Services	\$851
PACs & Fund Allocations	\$1,037
Admin & Public Relations	\$3,068
Total Expenses	\$40,665
Net Income/(Loss)	(\$393)

#### Balance Sheet

(As of Dec. 31, 2012)

Cash, Investments & Deposits	\$30,109
Employee Funded 457 Plan	\$1,690
Automobiles	\$3,300
Office Furniture & Equipment	\$1,643
Computers & Software	\$9,784
Communications Equipment	\$869
Print Shop Equipment	\$1,006
Less Accum. Depreciation	(\$9,819)
Total Assets	\$38,582
Liabilities	(\$3)
Employee Funded 457 Plan	\$1,690
General Fund Balance	\$36,895
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	\$38,582



# Pension Trust Fund for Operating Engineers 12/31/12

## Plan Assets

(1) Total Investments	\$ 2,975,216,308
Domestic Stocks	1,073,958,928
International Stocks	232,044,306
Fixed Income	613,281,498
Hedge Fund of Funds	233,432,206
Real Estate	508,549,544
GTAA	92,712,115
Other Investments	221,237,711



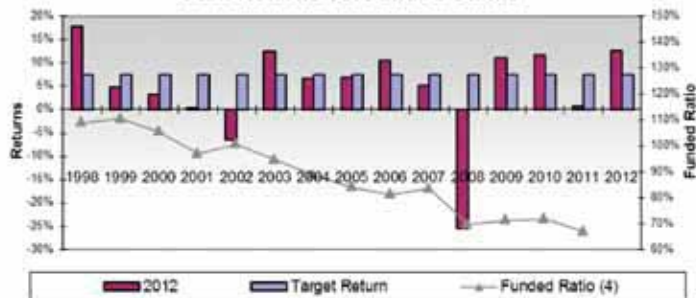
### Notes:

- 1) Asset figures and returns are preliminary, unaudited and gross of fees. The 2012 return is 12 months, ending Dec. 31, 2012.
- 2) Other investments include insurance contracts with New York Life and operational cash.
- 3) Returns through Dec. 31, 2007 were not calculated by IPS.
- 4) The Funded Ratio is the value of assets used for the annual Pension Plan valuation divided by the present value of accumulated Plan benefits, as provided by the actuary.

## Plan Returns / Funded Status

	Investment Return (3)	Target Return	Funded Ratio (4)
1998	17.8%	7.5%	108.9%
1999	4.8%	7.5%	110.4%
2000	3.2%	7.5%	105.4%
2001	0.4%	7.5%	96.9%
2002	-6.6%	7.5%	100.6%
2003	12.5%	7.5%	94.5%
2004	6.7%	7.5%	88.7%
2005	6.9%	7.5%	84.0%
2006	10.5%	7.5%	81.3%
2007	5.2%	7.5%	83.5%
2008	-25.6%	7.5%	69.7%
2009	11.1%	7.5%	71.2%
2010	11.7%	7.5%	71.7%
2011	0.8%	7.5%	67.0%
(1) 2012	12.6%	7.5%	N/A

## Plan Returns vs. Funded Status



### Commentary (Fourth Quarter 2012):

U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is picking up slowly and interest rates remain low, as does inflation with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) at 1.8 percent for 2012. There is some very modest job growth, and unemployment, while still very high, is declining a bit. Forecast earnings for the companies in the S&P 500 Index are expected to decline by 1 to 2 percent in 2013, with one-fifth of the companies lowering expectations. Energy costs for production, especially natural gas, have declined. Corporate cash remains at all-time highs. The massive federal deficit spending and the debt ceiling remain contentious issues. The European Central Bank avoided a major crisis in Europe, but the fundamental issues remain. This may lead to very low levels of growth if not a recession in Europe. Asia and emerging markets' growth rates are also slowing but remain relatively robust. Year-to-date, the S&P 500 Index is up 16.0 percent and the MSCI EAFE Index is up 17.3 percent. Dispersion among companies was significant and dependent on individual firms' guidance. Even within industry groups, there was a significant difference between "winners" and "losers." The Barclays Aggregate Bond Index returned 4.2 percent for the year. The Barclays High Yield Index Ba/B2 was up 15.0 percent year-to-date. Commercial real estate continues to show appreciation with the NCREIF ODCE Index up 10.9 percent for 2012. Hedge Funds have had modest gains in most strategies. In the aggregate, managers have maintained very low net exposures. The HFRI HFOF Composite Index was up 5.2 percent for 2012.

## News & Notes

By Dan Reding, vice president



## The truth about the Pension

I hope everyone started 2013 off right. Unfortunately, in the last six months, I have had to attend three funerals and paid my final respects to some long-time, dedicated Local 3 members.

The most current was Retiree Ken Green out of Redding District 70. Green worked for Local 3 for a long time, serving as a district rep. in Redding. He retired a little over 20 years ago but stayed very active in the union. He was one of the original members who started the annual Redding Picnic well over 30 years ago and worked at it every year since then.

A few months earlier, we lost Retiree John Hinote, another mainstay at the Redding Picnic. Year after year, the Redding Picnic has grown to be one of Local 3's biggest and most-attended. It is going to be very strange to not have Green and Hinote directing it this year.

Though it was a big one, the picnic wasn't the only thing these men were involved with. Green did anything the Redding District needed. He served on the Bylaws Committee, was the Retiree Chapter chairman and participated in politics and phone banking. Whatever was needed, you could always count on him. He really knew what it meant to be union.

To a lot of people, being union is all about better wages and fringes. Green understood that, but he also understood how important it was to stand up for the rights of working people and be a part of a union. Even as a Retiree, he never stopped doing what he could to make the lives of union members around him better. He is truly going to be missed for all the work he did for Local 3 members.

On that note, we have been working on a possible extension to our Master Agreement. The employers approached us, and we told them that we are open if the terms are right for our members.

The Pension is another hot issue right now, and unfortunately, it will continue to be for many years. By the Pension Protection Act rules, our Plan could dip into the red zone for 2013. Does that mean the sky is falling or that the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) is going to take over the fund? No! It means we have to make changes. By the time you read this, the changes may have already been made or we'll be very close to making them.

There are always a lot of rumors going around about the Pension, but the fact is our Plan is very sensitive to the stock market, the economy and work hours, which, unfortunately, we have little control over. There are certain individuals who will tell you that we control the stock market and there are guaranteed 9 and 10 percent returns available, but that's just another rumor. The markets are up; then they are down. The economy busts loose; then it stalls. It changes year to year, and we work on it weekly.

We are always looking at ways to improve our returns and strengthen the Pension, but there is no silver bullet. It has to be monitored and worked on all the time, and that's what this administration has been doing since 2006. We are not just looking for a short-term fix but one that will benefit us year after year.

## Meet your new treasurer

Initiated in August 1989, Treasurer Steve Ingersoll is a 24-year member who worked as a Construction Equipment Operator (CEO) in Nevada and served as a Grievance Committee member before joining the payroll in 1996. He served as a dispatcher/business agent for the Reno district office where he was later promoted to district rep. in 2006. Last year, he was elected by the membership as a Trustee for Local 3. Ingersoll returned from the Harvard Trade Program last month.



## It's working!

By Gary Rocha, business representative

Another year has come and gone, and it's almost time for the annual Caltrans Workers Memorial (scheduled for April 24). This year is a special year for highway workers, because *there will be no cones added at this memorial for deaths on the job in 2012*. At last! This is a good feeling for sure. Maybe all the sign boards that light up with slogans like "Move Over. It's the Law" and "Slow for the Cone Zone" are working. Operating Engineers Local 3 and the California Highway Patrol teamed up to make these laws and the safety of our highway workers a No. 1 priority.

Over the years, 178 state employees have lost their lives

on the job, including three in 2011 who were killed just 48 days apart. This is why the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) and Operating Engineers Local 3 are so glad that 2012 was such a good year for safety. Moving over a lane when there's a Caltrans vehicle with flashing amber lights and slowing down through construction zones are key factors in the safety of our members.

Remember, with every fallen member, there are a hundred or more people who are affected by it, so don't text and drive, use hands-free devices and Slow for the Cone Zone. Let's make 2013 just as good as 2012.



## Looking at Labor

By Pete Figueiredo, financial secretary

## Know what you're buying!

Last November, I wrote about the "Bread and Roses strike" of 1912. In researching it, I realized that some of my purchase practices were out of whack and I had some simple changes to make. Unknown to me at that time was how pertinent that conclusion was. In late November, I heard about a garment-factory fire overseas, and the details seemed a bit familiar, so I dug into it.

Turns out this story reminded me of one I heard many years ago: The Triangle Shirt Waist Company Factory fire in New York City in 1911. I located the centennial edition of "The Triangle Fire" by Leon Stein, originally published in 1962. This is the story of the worst workplace disaster in New York state history until the World Trade Center attack on Sept. 11, 2001. This is one of the most gut-wrenching and tragic books I have ever read. It is the story of 500 or so garment-factory workers, predominantly young, immigrant women, who occupied the top three floors of a 10-story "fire proof" building in New York City. It's the story of how greed, bribery, corruption, nepotism and the concentration of power and wealth cost 147 workers their lives in a most horrific and preventable set of circumstances. The writing is exceptional, and the book reads like a gripping suspense thriller. The fact that it's true makes it extremely sad! I could not begin to do the story justice in this

small space and urge you all to pick up a copy and learn for yourselves the terrible events of that day, March 25, 1911.

There are a couple of things about this story that are significant to us right now. First, this fire resulted in many building-code and labor changes related to workplace safety that we all take for granted today. It is astounding how many basic safety features we have in today's world that came about not only as a result of such tragic events as this one but because of the efforts of organized labor to force change that not only benefits working people but society in general.

Secondly, and much more importantly, is coming to the realization that we have contributed to these same conditions today! A hundred years ago, it happened regularly in the United States: Literally thousands of workers, often immigrants who were easily taken advantage of, maimed and killed in the name of a "free market" society. Today, factories migrate to poor countries for worker exploitation. For example, in May 1993, a toy-factory fire in Thailand resulted in 188 people killed and 469 severely injured. Toys here were manufactured for Fisher-Price, Hasbro, Tyco, Kenner, Toys R Us, J.C. Penney and others. Items produced included The Muppets, Big Bird, Playskool, Bugs Bunny and Santa Claus dolls. Six months later, 84 women died in a similar toy factory in China. In 1991, a Chinese raincoat factory

had an incident where 80 workers were killed. In another incident, 60 women were burned or jumped to their deaths in a textile factory in Fuzhou, China. Sadly, dozens of other incidents have also occurred, leading up to the Nov. 25, 2012 headline that first grabbed my attention: *Fatal fire in Bangladesh highlights dangers facing garment workers*; 111 people died. The factory produced, among other things, Walmart's Faded Glory line. Bangladesh is the second-largest exporter of clothing after China. Since 2006, more than 500 workers have died in factory fires in that country. Companies like Gap, Tommy Hilfiger, Sears, Disney and Walmart are major buyers for import to the United States.

What I find most sickening about this whole thing is that these working people died, the companies distanced themselves from any responsibility and their customers are largely ignorant of the callousness that lurks behind the products they purchase for their families. These people died for basically the same reasons as those of the Triangle Fire some 100 years ago.

Worse yet, sweatshop conditions are on the rise again in the United States. They occur in garment factories in New York, food-processing plants in California and North Carolina and on and on. How is this possible? We buy the products. It's that simple. We must stop.





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

By Tammy Castillo, director of apprenticeship

# Everything you need to know about apprenticeship

### Announcement

The apprenticeship-graduation ceremony and celebration will be held in conjunction with the Retiree Picnic on Saturday, June 1 at Rancho Murieta's Lake Clementia. More details will follow, as we get closer to the events.

### Training

Apprentice Supplemental Related Training (SRT) classes have been in full swing since the first week of December and are scheduled through March 16. The Probationary Orientation Period (POP) classes are scheduled to begin March 18 and continue through Aug. 9.

### Apprenticeship Program

The Apprenticeship Program is governed by the state, the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) and the federal government.

### Apprentice requirements

Apprentices are required to abide by the state and federal apprenticeship standards, the substance-abuse policy and 20 rules, regulations and procedures.

### What the Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) is looking for when selecting a candidate

Someone who will show up every day, be motivated, ready for work, on time and willing to learn and maintain a positive attitude.

### Apprenticeship-application process

Candidates must be at least 18 years of age, reside within Local 3's jurisdiction and possess a valid California driver's license.

An applicant can call the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC) at (916) 354-2029 to request an application, pick one up from a district office or complete and print one from the Local 3 website ([www.oe3.org](http://www.oe3.org)). Click on the "Training" tab.

Mail the completed application accompanied by an original Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) printout to RMTC at 14738 Cantova Way, Sloughhouse, CA, 95683.

Once the training center receives the completed application, a letter will be sent to the applicant acknowledging receipt. The next point of contact will be a letter scheduling the applicant for a computer-generated System Assessment for a Group Evaluation (SAGE) test, a basic-skills assessment test that includes reading comprehension, basic mathematics, vocabulary, spatial recognition and eye-hand-foot coordination.

The branch of training the applicant selects will determine the minimum SAGE test score he or she will need to be placed on the waiting list. A minimum 33.3 is required for Construction Equipment Operator (CEO); Crane Operator; Dredge Operator; Heavy Duty Repairperson (HDR); Rock, Sand and Gravel; Concrete Pumper; and Vertical Horizontal Drill. A minimum 33.10 is required for Lubrication Technician, and 29.70 is needed for Gradesetter/Grade Checker.

If the applicant doesn't achieve the minimum score required for the branch of training he or she selected but did achieve the minimum requirement for one of the other branches of training, he or she can elect to be placed on the appropriate waiting list or have **one opportunity to retest**.

**Apprentices who fail the test are required to wait.**

Once the applicant passes the SAGE test, they will be placed on the waiting list by the district in which they live, the score they obtain and the branch of training they have selected.

Applicants will then be scheduled for a panel interview. If selected, an applicant will be scheduled for a **mandatory substance-abuse test**. Once the substance-abuse monitor receives a negative result, the applicant will be scheduled for five weeks of hands-on and classroom instruction at the RMTC. **Please note: Medical marijuana cards will not be accepted as a valid excuse for a positive result.**

After completing the five-week orientation, a newly indentured apprentice will be added to the out-of-work list. Once dispatched, the apprentice will begin receiving on-the-job training

hours. After completing 1,200 hours, the apprentice will be scheduled for **two weeks of mandatory SRT**. The branch in which the apprentice is registered will determine when the apprentice will be rescheduled for SRT.

Remember: Don't wait until the last minute to apply! We accept applications throughout the year. Classes fill up fast.

Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

If you have any questions, contact me at (916) 354-2029 and/or your district apprenticeship coordinator listed below.

Please remember that apprentices are the future of our industry. Help keep it safe by continuing to train.

Have a safe work season.



### Apprenticeship Coordinators

Catherine Lytle  
Burlingame: (650) 652-7969

Holly Brown  
Fairfield: (707) 429-5008  
Rohnert Park: (707) 585-2487

Debra Carrell  
Stockton: (209) 943-2332

Senior Coordinator Patrick Grisby  
Eureka: (707) 443-7328  
Yuba City: (530) 743-7321  
Redding: (530) 222-6093

Jesse Vasquez  
Sacramento: (916) 993-2055

Butch Cabrera  
Fresno: (559) 229-4083  
Morgan Hill: (408) 465-8260



## Public Employee News

By Carl Carey, director

# The grievance process

There comes a time in every employee's work life when he or she feels wronged and wants to file a grievance. The first step in determining whether you have a grievance is to know the definition. I wish I could say that it's the same in all jurisdictions, but it isn't. In most cases, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will define what constitutes a grievance. If it is not defined there, it will normally be found in the Personnel Rules and Regulations.

A common definition entails the interpretation of a specific provision within a MOU, rule, regulation or other document that affects hours, wages or other terms and conditions of employment. One such definition found in a current MOU reads as follows:

*"Any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of specific provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding, a written rule or policy, or adverse action by the Employer in the form of an employee reprimand, suspension, demotion or termination for cause."*

Once you have decided to file a grievance, you must follow the grievance procedure that is also spelled out in the MOU or Personnel Rules and Regulations. A grievance procedure usually has three to five steps that must be followed. Each step dictates how a grievance should be prosecuted and who it should be presented to as well as any time limits that must be adhered to. The process usually requires that you start with step one, the least formal approach, which is typically with your immediate supervisor. If the grievance is against your immediate supervisor, the grievance procedure will most often state that you can go to the next step.

One thing you should always be aware of is the time limit. If you miss a time limit and do not have an agreement with the employer to extend it, you are in danger of not being able to further prosecute the grievance. If the employer misses a time limit, the only thing that normally occurs is that the grievance is automatically transferred to the next step.

If the grievance is not settled to your satisfaction at the lower step, you can continue through the steps until you reach the top. This could mean taking the appeal before the city manager, civil-service commission, city counsel or, if you are fortunate to have negotiated an arbitration clause, an arbitrator.

Should a grievance go this far, your business representative will collect all the material that is needed to substantiate the grievance and forward it to my office to be presented to the union's Legal Department to determine if there is merit to further prosecute the grievance. If so, it will either be assigned to one of the house counsel or transferred out to an attorney firm that the union has an affiliation with. Should it be determined that there is not enough evidence to further prosecute the grievance, your business agent is contacted and any additional information needed is requested.

This sounds like a convoluted process, but it assures that we keep track of all the cases that come in and know where they are in the system.

## One down, one to go

By Fred Klingel, business representative

Members of the OE3 bargaining unit at Westlands Water District accepted a new four-year contract. It is a good contract, considering not many units have a positive gain these days.

The road to this contract was a long one, as there are many drawn-out negotiations in the public sector. We began negotiations in January 2012 and finished just before the holidays in December. The end results were minor language changes in some of the clauses, the addition of a second tier for retirement for 2 percent at age 60 and changes to how medical benefits are paid, resulting in contributions to the Public Employee Medical and Hospital Care Act (PEMHCA) and a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA). There are no changes other than the mechanics of the distribution. For those who are hired after Jan. 1, 2013, the contribution rate will be lower and will have to be negotiated thereafter. In addition, wage increases were negotiated for a total of 7.5 percent effective Jan. 1, 2013 through March 1, 2015. Unfortunately, we were not able to get any increases for the first year, but the first raise will start two months earlier in the second year.

Negotiations at Turlock Irrigation District (TID) are also moving slowly, but we are near the end of the journey that started in March 2011. Having gone through some agonizing negotiations, we went to impasse in the summer of 2012 and initiated the fact-finding process, as set up under new California rules. The hang-ups have been changing medical to a new insurance program, some language changes and, ultimately, wages and retirement benefits.

The membership has been fighting for years to catch up with wage and benefit packages surrounding similar employers, and to lag again would be a hard pill to swallow. Add increases to employees' out-of-pocket costs for medical and a change in retirement benefits to a sub-standard defined contribution plan and TID has some real labor unrest not seen in years.

Fact-finding, as set up by legislation, has some real drawbacks for both the union and the employer, especially when the end result is advisory. It has no teeth. When the employer declines mediation after impasse, the union requests fact-finding, with the cost split between the two. However, no matter how the facts rule, the employer does not have to accept the findings, leaving employees unhappy, unless the employer agrees with a ruling in the employees' favor.

So we end up with no decision and then attempt mediation without a mediator. Many votes were taken, and many employees grew more and more disillusioned with the process. Now, almost two years into the negotiation process, we are attempting one last push to reach the best alternative to a negotiated agreement. The district has brought forth a "supposal," and with a single tweak, we can put this process to an amicable conclusion that both the employees and the employer can live with until the next time around.

I must say that the negotiation process has been difficult not only because of today's economy but also because of legislative Band-Aid decisions to fix economic problems. What we need are some commonsense applications to real-life issues. In the meantime, we continue to move on to ultimately have finality.



# District 60 Public Employees Division

By Mike Minton, business representative

District 60 continues to move along quietly and comfortably for the time being. We have many contracts that are in the process of opening and several others currently in the negotiations stage. It appears that we are finally starting to move out of the recession. We're not looking at nothing but takeaways and concessions. At the very least, we're holding the middle ground. We're not losing anything, but we're not receiving anything. In our world, that is a huge success right now.

One thing I am noticing is an increase in disciplinary matters. What bothers me is not so much the disciplinary issues but the reasons for them. Public employees, as well as private, need to remember that they are not entitled to their jobs. You took a battery of tests to be considered for a public-employer job. At the conclusion of those tests, which most times took months if not a year or more, you were put on an eligibility list. Once you were hired, you accepted the job knowing the conditions and benefits and were put on a probationary period ranging anywhere from six months to a year. When you passed your probation, you became a full-time benefitted employee.

What I am now seeing is employees getting in trouble because they don't think their supervisor or department head has the right to change a policy or tell them how their job should be done and when it should be done by. Management has the absolute right to set policy. It has the absolute right to create positions and re-classify other positions. As long as it follows the law and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place, it is within its right to make changes. Management has the right to expect a certain level of professionalism from employees. The employee has no right to tell his or her supervisor or department head that he or she "can't do that," or "I shouldn't have to do this." Management can make changes and hold its employees to a level of expectation to do their job. You as the employee need to know what your job description is and what is required and expected of your position. Usually, most job descriptions have a one-line item toward the end that states something to the effect of "and any other related duties." This one line is open to interpretation. Don't set yourself up for failure. If you're told to do something, unless it's against the law, do it first, then find out if it is in fact a so-called "related duty." Don't be insubordinate. That will get you fired very quickly.

I think what has been happening for the past several years is that employees are being told to do more with less. This is due in large part to the economy and the downsizing of employees. Employers can't afford the workforce they once had, so layoffs are the answer in their minds. The jobs still need to be done, but there are fewer people to do them, which causes frustration and eventually leads to conflict with supervisors and department heads.

Think twice before confronting a supervisor, especially if you're angry. Walk away first, think about it, write down what has angered you and then *later* come back, eliminate the opinion and emotion from what you wrote down and see what you have left. If what is left is a potential violation of the contract or your job description, you *may* have a grievance. Don't let your anger control your ability to see the real issue in front of you.

As I said, I am seeing way too many of these types of disciplinary issues popping up, and they are nearly impossible to defend.

## All around town

By Dave Gossman, business representative

### Golden Gate Bridge District

The Golden Gate Bridge Patrol Officers Unit finally settled its contract after 20 months of negotiations. The patrol officers received a three-year contract that included a 2 percent pay raise for each year and 10 and 15 percent premium pay for night differential in exchange for increased premiums to medical health care and a change to Extend Health coverage for Retirees. A special thanks to patrol officers Miguel Galdamez and Robert Smith for their hard work and dedication while being on the negotiation team and sticking to their guns for a fair and equitable contract.



From left: Golden Gate Bridge patrol officers Robert Smith and Miguel Galdamez.

### Alameda City

There is a new sheriff in town. "Sheriff" Terry Flippo is the newly elected Alameda City Employees Association (ACEA) president. Flippo has been a member of the Association Board for many years and brings experience, dedication and commitment in fighting for his membership. He has some big boots to fill, since past president Linda Justus has been promoted to a new job within the city. Justus will surely be missed, because she did a wonderful job as past president. Flippo's new posse consists of 1st Vice President Michael Leahy, 2nd Vice President Erin Garcia, Secretary Marie Dimeglio, Treasurer Michael Myer and Sergeant-at-arms Thomas Means. City Hall officials should be aware that Sheriff Flippo is coming to town to do a little roping and riding to ensure the association's contract is protected and promises are kept.

### Ukiah City

The union and the city of Ukiah started contracted negotiations. It is the same old story by city officials: The city wants to balance the budget by placing the burden on the backs of employees with wage reductions and reduced workweek schedules. I think it's time for management and administrative staff to accept the burdens of past mismanagement and be accountable for their actions. City councils throughout California need to wake up and support their hard-working employees with fair and equitable salaries and benefits. Is that too much to ask? The economy is improving. California has more money through increased taxes and a balanced budget. Ukiah city revenues are increasing. It is time for Ukiah city officials to support their frontline employees! The union and its negotiation team of Gary Smith, David Kirch, Jeff Basili and Don O'Hara will be rolling up their sleeves and are committed to bringing in the best and fairest contract.

Let the union and union employees work together in 2013 to bring in new hope, prosperity and improved working conditions for all of our members throughout Northern California.



### Credit Union

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

## Thank you

The holidays have passed, and the decorations are stored away, but the spirit of gratitude continues. At OE Federal, we are comprised of loyal union members, and we do not take that for granted. Your membership, support and belief in our products and services continue to be the reason we are able to provide you with outstanding services. We wouldn't be the same institution without members like you.

All of our products are created with our union brothers and sisters in mind. That's why we want you to think of us first if you're in the market for all things financial. We know you have choices when it comes to financial decisions, but we are confident that we know you in a way no other bank ever could and can serve you well with "big bank" products like real-estate loans and OE Federal's Mobile Banking.

The real-estate market is ever-changing, and OE Federal's Real Estate Department is ready to accommodate our members' needs. Our in-house Real Estate Department is comprised of a friendly, knowledgeable staff with more than 20 years combined experience. If you're in the market for a new home, a second home or to refinance your current home, we offer low rates and flexible options to our union members. Contact us today. We would be honored to serve you and answer any questions you might have.

The conveniences of Mobile Banking allow members to bank on the go, from almost anywhere in the world. Whether you're on a jobsite or running errands, our Mobile Banking allows you to check balances, make payments, transfer funds and more, all from the convenience of your smartphone. To get started, simply download our mobile app for your iPhone® or Android smartphone. To learn more about our Mobile Banking products, visit [www.oefcu.org](http://www.oefcu.org).

At OE Federal, we always encourage feedback from our members. Please take a moment to share your thoughts through the Member Testimonial section of our website, which you can find through the "About Us" menu on our homepage. If your experience with OE Federal was positive, we look forward to celebrating our success. If your experience was less-than-positive, your feedback will provide us with valuable insight as to how we can improve.

Our members are our most important asset, so our first and only goal is to keep their best interests in mind in everything we do. You can trust that your financial needs, as well as your families', are in excellent hands. If you are not currently a member or you are and one of your immediate family members would like to join, call (800) 877-4444, visit any local branch or visit our website to learn more about how we can help you.



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**OEFEDERAL**  
CREDIT UNION







**Fringe Benefits**  
By Charlie Warren, director

# How does your hour bank work?

Hour banks allow active members covered under the Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Trust Fund to continue coverage for themselves and their families at no additional cost during the offseason. Members can accumulate up to 990 hours (1,320 hours for members who established eligibility prior to July 1992) of coverage.

Once eligibility is established, maintaining your benefits requires 120 hours per month (for most contracts). Any hours worked in excess of 120 hours are stored in your hour bank. For months in which you work less than 120 hours, hours are drawn from your hour bank to make up the difference.

If you have any questions about your hour-bank balance, contact the Trust Fund Office at (800) 251-5014 or the Fringe Benefit Service Center at (800) 532-2105.

Hour-bank requirements are different for the Hawaii, Nevada and Utah plans. For information on those plans, please refer to your *Summary Plan Description* book or contact the Fringe Benefit Service Center at the following numbers:

Hawaii: (800) 660-9126  
Nevada: (775) 857-4440  
Utah: (801) 596-2677

*Hour bank example for California after initial eligibility is established*

Work Month	Hours Reported	Eligibility Month	Hours Required for Eligibility	Hours Applied/ Deducted from Hour Bank	Hour Bank Balance
June	180	August	120	+60	60
July	200	September	120	+80	140
August	20	October	120	-100	40
September	40	Not Eligible*	120	+40	80
October	170	December	120	+50	130
November	0	January	120	-120	10
December	120	February	120	0	10

\*insufficient hours for November eligibility

## District visits

A representative from the Fringe Benefits Office will be available to meet with you and answer questions at your district office once every month.

Please refer to the Fringe Benefit schedule below.

- First Tuesday

First Wednesday

First Thursday
- Redding

Yuba City

Sacramento
- Second Tuesday

Second Wednesday

Second Thursday
- Stockton

Fresno

Morgan Hill
- Third Tuesday

Third Wednesday
- Rohnert Park

Eureka
- Fourth Tuesday

Fourth Wednesday

Fourth Thursday
- Burlingame

Oakland

Fairfield

Contact your district office, if you would like to schedule an appointment.

## Retiree Post

### Retiree Picnic

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Retiree Picnic on Saturday, June 1.



Frank and Sharon Delacerna enjoy a game of bingo before lunch at the 2012 Retiree Picnic.

# Welded together

*Crew at Sierra Metal Fabricators is one big, happy family*

Story and photos by Jamie Johnston, associate editor, and Steve Laird, business rep.

It started out as punishment. When member Dan White first went to work for Sierra Metal Fabricators in 1983, it was simply a way to pay for the damage he caused to his father's Volkswagen after he "borrowed" it without asking. The shop was where White's father worked, so he quickly got a job sweeping the floors to raise money.

Twenty-nine years later, White is still there, and today, the job is more of a blessing. Besides the good wages, steady hours and Local 3 Pension, there's also a strong bond between the members who work at the Nevada City shop.

"Everyone here is like family to me," he said. White works along with 14 other Local 3 members to complete an average of \$1.5 million to \$2 million worth of work every year (though the company has had up to \$4 million worth of business in a year). That has included a wide range of projects, from the Skyway portion of the New Bay Bridge to the Vietnam

Memorial in Sacramento, which was especially memorable for Craig Reuter, a second-generation welder.

"That project was meaningful to me, because eight of my cousins went to war in Vietnam, and thankfully, all of them came home," he said.

Working on the Vietnam Memorial was also special for 27-year member Greg Skeahan, who left the Army in 1983 and has been working for Sierra Metal Fabricators ever since.

"It has really been a great place to work," he said.

Currently, the crew is working on the San Francisco 49ers stadium in Santa Clara, and member Steve Walters is building hand-grippers and a lift that will be used in an upcoming strongman contest. Shop Steward Sam Oliver has worked for the company for 12 years, and in that time, some of the work that stands out in his mind includes the San Diego Padres ballpark, the Fresno courthouse and some of the buildings at Stanford University.



Shop Steward Sam Oliver sets up forms at the Sierra Metal Fabricators shop in Nevada City.



Steve Walters works on equipment for an upcoming strongman contest.



Brete Williams cuts metal parts for a project.



Daryl Haines works on the plans for a river-gate extension.



“We do a lot of hard stuff, a lot of intricate stuff, a lot of big stuff,” he said.

A majority of the time, this “big stuff” is actually the small, complex pieces of a project that you may not even see. Oliver calls them the “Erector Set” pieces that operators place together in the field.

“We do small parts on big jobs,” said member and company co-president Jason White.

Building these fundamental pieces can be difficult, but it’s obvious the crew enjoys it. Most of the members working for Sierra Metal Fabricators have been there for decades. Though several have come close, 34-year member/employee Daryl Haines has been there the longest.

As the crew enters yet another year together, it’s clear they are like one big, happy family. Let’s just hope White doesn’t “borrow” anyone’s car!



Mark Downs is one of the many members who have worked at the shop for more than 25 years.



Greg Skeahan moves metal beams inside the shop.



Norm Winn pounds steel beams.



Andrew Wasley prepares a part for an upcoming project.



Rob Jones does a number of different things for Sierra Metal Fabricators.



## FIELD PERSPECTIVE:

What the members are saying

### How did you find out about Local 3?



"My dad."  
—Jesse Duarte,  
10-year member



"A friend told me about it."  
— Mari Rodriguez,  
new member



"In high school, and it is part of the job working for Holt."  
— Bruce Poland,  
eight-year member



"Job Corps."  
— David Dyer,  
apprentice



"Friends that work for Local 3."  
Kellen Cichy,  
apprentice



### Political Perspective

By Mark Kyle, director of government affairs and public relations

### What's wrong with this picture?

Are we really in an economic recovery? The unemployment rate is down, but millions are still unemployed. Home foreclosures have recently started to level off, but millions of people lost their homes over the last few years or are "underwater" right now. I'm sure you all know someone in this situation.

But here's the real question I want to ask: Is Main Street fairing as well as Wall Street in the so-called recovery? The stock market has rebounded to pre-2008 levels, but has Main Street recovered as robustly? I don't think so, and let me give you one reason why I'm skeptical. I call it the tale of two Americas: The America of working stiffs like you, me and the rest of our brothers and sisters in this union and the America of the super-rich, Wall Street corporate honchos and their political buddies.

Consider this difference in the following two reports.

In the Jan. 24, 2013 issue of BNA's *Collective Bargaining Bulletin* (a trade journal we labor lawyers read), it's reported that the average first-year wage increases under contracts negotiated in 2012 were higher than increases reported in 2011 in all sectors. Good news, right? BNA goes on to report that the average first-year wage increases under agreements reached in 2012 were 1.6 percent, better than the 1.4 percent for 2011. Not bad. A 1.6 percent wage increase is nothing to write home about but it's a few bucks in the back pocket and at least the wages are going up.

Now for the second report: In the Jan. 19-20, 2013 issue of *The Wall Street Journal*, it was reported that Lloyd Blankfein, the CEO of Goldman Sachs (one of the giant Wall Street investment firms that were at the center of the financial crisis), got a bonus of \$13.3 million for 2012. That's just in stocks. His total compensation for 2012 was \$21 million. This is one of the main guys who helped drive our economy over the cliff in the fall of 2008!

So here's the summary of the 2012 economic recovery: Workers – if they're lucky enough to work under a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) – get a few bucks in their back pocket, and Wall Street CEOs take home a few extra million as bonuses. What's wrong with this picture?

The system isn't broken; it's fundamentally set up against workers and for the rich. There are many thoughts on how to reform the system, but I want to focus on just one. It's an effort to eliminate "crony capitalism," and the first thrust of that effort is to reinstate the Glass-Steagall Act of 1933, a Depression-era law that prevented commercial banks from getting involved in investment-banking activities. The act was repealed in 1999 by president Bill Clinton. The act's rollback is considered one of the major contributors to the 2008 financial-market crash, and the effort to have it reinstated is being embraced by both the Left (think MoveOn.org) and the Right (think Tea Party). Both like reinstatement, because neither like crony capitalism and both believe it would help curb Wall Street's power.

This is an interesting and unusual alliance and may represent the start of a new trend. To me, it shows that people across the political spectrum are sick and tired of Wall Street and the politicians and organizations that protect it. Keep a look out for how this movement develops.

Speaking of not supporting the excessive greed of corporate America, a retired brother from the greater San Jose area called to remind me not to buy any Georgia-Pacific products (think paper products). Why? Because Georgia-Pacific is owned, in large part, by the Koch brothers, who have been behind union busting in our jurisdiction (think Proposition 32) and around the country over the last couple of years. Make your money match your beliefs and boycott Georgia-Pacific!



# Staff Spotlight: Bob Vanderpol

Redding District Rep. Bob Vanderpol is a longtime Redding resident, which has served him well, since he understands and values the area.

“It’s a pretty small town here,” said the 26-year member. “The faces here are the faces that were here years ago. The guy running the scale shack for a rock, sand and gravel plant is the guy you are negotiating that contract with several years later. Your kids go to school with owners who are signatory to our local. People here usually know who you are before you come knocking on their door.”

Before joining the Local 3 staff in January 2006 as a business agent and promoting to district rep. in June 2010, Vanderpol worked 19 years as a journey-level partsman in the Peterson Tractor shop in Redding. The relationships he forged there are just as important to him now, such as the connection he made with 31-year member Chuck Rodgers.

He and Rodgers became job stewards and served on the negotiating committee for Peterson’s Redding/Chico/Willows contract through several contract cycles. “Chuck and I were two guys who took a stand for the workers,” Vanderpol said.



District Rep. Bob Vanderpol, right, goes over a contract with members at Custom Crushing Industries.

Many years later, Vanderpol continues to take that stand, according to 21-year member Scott Fiscus.

“He’s always trying to hustle up more companies,” said Fiscus, who met Vanderpol about five years ago on the job. Fiscus and his crew were having problems getting paid the right amount on a pipeline job.

“He was our go-to guy for our problems. He got ’em all straightened out and fought tooth and nail to get it right,” Fiscus said.

Increasing the market share and getting things right for the membership have always been important to Vanderpol.

“I believe you must treat everyone fair, firm and consistent,” he said. “I believe you get out of this union what you put into it.”

According to fifth-step Apprentice Derek Pacheco, “Bob has always led me in the right direction; he’s a great guy. He does good by everyone, is easy to talk to and would give you the shirt off his back.”

Though Vanderpol doesn’t like praise (he is very humble), he is certainly worthy of it!

## ATPA

By Bob Miller, ATPA senior account executive

### District Visit Program a success

The Trust Fund’s District Visit Program, featuring a day’s attendance in each Northern California district, has been very popular and successful. Business Manager Russ Burns implemented a trial program last year, and member feedback was so positive he asked staff to continue in 2013 on a more formal basis and publish a regular schedule in the *Engineers News*. See below.

#### MARCH

12 (Tuesday)	Burlingame
13 (Wednesday)	Oakland
14 (Thursday)	Fairfield
19 (Tuesday)	Redding
20 (Wednesday)	Yuba City
21 (Thursday)	Sacramento
26 (Tuesday)	Stockton
27 (Wednesday)	Fresno
28 (Thursday)	Morgan Hill

#### APRIL

2 (Tuesday)	Rohnert Park
3 (Wednesday)	Eureka
9 (Tuesday)	Burlingame
10 (Wednesday)	Oakland
11 (Thursday)	Fairfield
16 (Tuesday)	Redding
17 (Wednesday)	Yuba City
18 (Thursday)	Sacramento
23 (Tuesday)	Stockton
24 (Wednesday)	Fresno
25 (Thursday)	Morgan Hill

Here’s how it works:

“Joe Member” and his wife, “Mary,” recently had some questions regarding his upcoming retirement and needed to spend some personalized time with a Trust Fund professional, so they called Rohnert Park District 10 Secretary Teresa Spain to schedule a specific time on District Visit Day. Over coffee, the couple spent about an hour reviewing their individual situation and determined the exact date Joe was eligible for a full Rule-of-85 Retirement. Since he had worked several years past that date, Joe was entitled to the Delayed Retirement Incentive. He was shown a quick calculation to get an approximate dollar amount and was told when he should expect his first check and for how long he would receive one. Mary had concerns about post-retirement health coverage and learned that the Retiree Health and Welfare Plan is basically an 80 percent plan that mirrors the active Plan she was familiar with. Joe and Mary were very happy to learn that Pensioned Health and Welfare would only cost \$500 per month for the two of them until age 65 and that they paid nothing until Joe’s hour bank ran out.

The couple left the appointment full of new knowledge about their upcoming “big change in life,” as Joe put it. Mary appreciated the handouts provided and said, “I *so much* prefer to meet face-to-face



Retiree Scott Rymer and his wife, Paula, of Windsor took advantage of a recent district visit.

with a real person where I can have eye contact, shake a hand and make a friend ... but most of all, I like the fact that you [the Trust Fund professional] came here to us.” As they left, Joe and Mary commented, “We really want to thank the officers and Trustees for taking such good care of our all-important Trust Funds.”

We at Associated Third Party Administrators (ATPA) look forward to meeting with you and your spouse at your district office in the near future. Call your office secretary to set up a time – it’s that simple!



# Going ABOVE and BELOW

Story by Jamie Johnston, associate editor; photos by Dominique Beilke, art director

It's a bird. ... It's a plane. ... Wait, it's just another tower crane going up in San Francisco!

"You blink your eyes and there are 10 more up," said 13-year member Arik Anthony Gheno. "It gets you excited, because you know things are cracking. Things are ready to jump off."

Tower Crane Operator Mike Burke is on one of them, and as he explained it, work "is exploding" in San Francisco right now. From spots like his on the tops of tall buildings to the tunnel where Gheno works tucked under the city's streets, signs of a better work picture can be found all over.

Burke, who works for Clipper International, is one of 24 tower crane operators currently working in San Francisco (all of which are union), and from his perch on top of the old Pacific Bell building, 300 feet above ground, he can personally see 19 of them! He can see the cranes working on the Transbay Terminal, Sheedy's crane on Fremont Street and Webcor's crane on the Rincon Hill 2 project. Cahill

has two tower cranes on Market Street, and Maxim has two on a private-residential project on 10<sup>th</sup> Street. And believe it or not, another 18 are scheduled to be erected by the end of the year!

"This is the best seat in town," Burke said of his spot, 27 stories above it all.

Though his view is pretty spectacular, fellow Tower Crane Operator Francisco Hernandez respectively disagrees!

"Work-wise, I do have the best seat. You can't beat it," he said from the Liebherr 316 electronics tower crane he's operating to help build a new apartment complex for Webcor.

The jury's still out as to who's got it better, but clearly, everyone's a winner when it comes to the work picture.

"There's more activity all over. It's a win-win for everyone," said Hernandez. "When construction comes around, it motivates our economy. ... I know in all these years, when Webcor comes around on a job, you see the neighborhood get a facelift right away. ... They [nearby stores and restaurants] fix their places, because there's a new building going up."



Working 300 feet above the city, Tower Crane Operator Mike Burke hoists material to the roof of the old Pacific Bell building.

**ON THE COVER:** From the roof of the old Pacific Bell building, operators can see some of the many tower cranes working in San Francisco, including those at the Transbay Terminal project, Foundry Square, several apartment buildings and the Rincon Hill 2 project, to name a few. Dozer Operator Arik Anthony Gheno has quite a different view, as he works on the underground launch-box portion of the Central Subway project.

Twenty-six-year member Hieu Pham operates an excavator in an underground tunnel dug for the Central Subway project.



Consolidated Engineering Inspector Paul Lee works on a building retrofit in downtown San Francisco.



From left: Brothers Oscar Espinoza and Steve Russell are lucky to be working for Pitcher Drilling.



Operators Mike Wiseman, Jason Noe, Eugene Clark and James Fahy work together for Condon-Johnson/Nicholson in front of Macy's on O'Farrell Street.



While working on two separate apartment buildings going up, Hernandez and Steve Russell have a great view of the city –



New construction also makes our members more confident about job opportunities. With a tower crane alone, there's typically site work that needs to be done, which requires dirt crews to load out material and trench work for utilities. Surveyors and Testing and Inspection crews are needed. Erecting the crane requires a technician and mobile-crane crew, and construction-elevator operators are needed to move material and personnel. (Cabrillo Hoist Operator and 15-year member Art Shanks says he makes his 27-story trip to the roof and back "about a million times a day.")

"It makes me very proud to be a member of Local 3 and very comfortable that all that work is going on," said Hernandez. "It feels good. ... It's awesome to be a part of it."

While Hernandez and Burke are on the "high" end of the work picture, 26-year member Hieu Pham is happy to be on the "low" end, working in an underground tunnel as part of the Central Subway project that broke ground this year and will continue through 2017. Pham is on the launch box portion for the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) that will eventually drive the new tunnel from Harrison Street along Fourth and Stockton streets to Chinatown.

"It's a challenge – different than the challenges up there," said Pham.

Pham is one of many operators working at several locations around the city to get the project finished. Others include Oiler

Anthony Hall, who is working for Condon-Johnson, and drill operators Oscar and Eden Espinoza, who are working for Pitcher Drilling.

"It's picking up, and that's a good thing for Operating Engineers," said Hall.

Pump Operator James Fahy was working at yet another location in the city and also commented on the amount of work going on.

"If I eventually get laid-off, I can go to another company," he said.

You can literally park almost anywhere in the city and walk to a handful of jobs.

"Works real busy right now," said Tower Crane Operator Steve Russell. "It's definitely been slow for the last couple of years, but it's picking up. It's great to see so much work going on in this city right now."

With that said, Loader Operator Lisa Anderson, who's also working on the Central Subway project, encourages members to stay involved.

"Attend your District Meetings and Semi-Annual," she said. "There's a lot going on. Stay in touch with your business agent and the hall."

For more photos from San Francisco's work picture, visit us online at [www.oe3.org](http://www.oe3.org). Click on the Engineers News tab and search through our online galleries.



and Eden  
g together



From left: Construction elevator operators Robert Stephens and Art Shanks move material and personnel up and down 27 stories.



up right next to each other, tower crane operators Francisco and the many other cranes working there right now.



Third-generation Operator Dionicio Salazar Sr. works on the basement of a new apartment building.



Surveyor Dave Delaney sets control points on the streets of San Francisco.

Rustom Ebalo and Ryan Federighi perform jet grouting for the Central Subway project.



Excavator Operator Lisa Anderson fills eight to 10 trucks a day with jet-grout spoils for Barnard.





## Folsom projects will require a lot of operators

Last year finished strong, and the spring is looking good. There are still some good-sized projects rolling over into 2013 along with new projects set to begin soon, including the fourth phase of the flood-control improvements at the Folsom Dam. This job consists of constructing the spillway chute and stilling basin on the downstream side of the new spillway to slow water before it enters the American River. The upstream approach channel and cutoff wall will direct water to the new control structure. Above-ground and underwater blasting and excavation are required to get the job done. Work on these improvements will continue through 2016 and keep a lot of our brothers and sisters very busy.

The Mormon Island Auxiliary Dam overlay project at Folsom Lake off Green Valley Road starts this spring. About 450,000 cubic yards of processed filter and gravel drain material will be imported and 1 million cubic yards of shale/fill material from existing waste stockpiles will be sorted, processed and placed to reinforce the base of the existing earth dam. This will require distinct zone separation and compaction and the excavation of the toe of the existing earth dam to install drain systems

consisting of pipe and filter material. Work involves extensive dewatering for foundation preparation and the installation of inspection wells. Site restoration will include removing haul roads, replacing top soil and establishing new vegetation. This project is labor-intensive and will need a lot of operators and equipment to get it done.

The Capitol South East Connector project running from Hwy. 50 in the city of Folsom down Grant Line Road south to Hwy. 99 at Elk Grove will release more phases of the four-lane bypass throughout 2013. This has been a long-awaited project to relieve traffic on the Hwy. 99 and Hwy. 50 corridors.

Please remember that “short duration” is less than 48 hours worked, not 48 hours. Be sure to call the Hall that dispatched you no later than noon the following day to get your place back on the out-of-work list. Weather conditions in the spring make it hard to predict how long jobs will run between storms. It is important that you keep your registration current, because it is your responsibility to make sure you don’t fall off the list.

Please also note that the District 80 Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 9. Further details will follow.

## BURLINGAME | 828 Mahler Road, Suite B, Burlingame, CA 94010 ■ (650) 652-7969 District Rep. Charles Lavery

### Work, work and more work; District 01 stays busy

In San Francisco, the work picture remains positive. Several of the jobs we have covered here continue to keep operators busy, and many new projects are in the pipeline, as the city remains the major economic engine for Northern California.

Contracts from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Sewer System Improvement Plan (SSIP) are starting to hit the streets. Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) are in the works for a multi-billion-dollar development at Treasure Island and \$350 million in San Francisco Unified School District improvements. Also in the works is a PLA for the 20-year redevelopment of Park Merced, the largest private-rental complex west of the Mississippi, which includes diverting Muni into the area with a station. As most of you know, PLAs are an important element in creating union projects.

We would like to welcome back **KC Builders**, which is currently doing work for **Cahill** with **Rusty Morgan** at the helm of a self-erecting tower crane on Market Street. We would also like to welcome **Apadana Engineering** and **Catmex**, subcontractors to **Synergy** currently working on the Great Highway. For six months, these companies will be doing underground, paving, landscaping and flatwork.

Work in San Mateo County also stays steady. **Disney Construction** is working on a detention pond as part of the San Francisco International Airport’s (SFO’s) runway-safety program. Work includes constructing a pump station, installing pump and electrical infrastructure and utilities, placing concrete pipe, grading turf, demo-ing utilities and backfilling. Operators include Foreman **Cuauhtemoc “Temo” Carrillo**, **Dave Conover**, **Michael Blackwood**, **Mike Berti** and **Ed Hagen**. **Roberto Uribe** is testing soil for **Consolidated Engineering**. **Synergy Project Management** is also at the airport, and **Pacific Engineering** is working at Terminal 3. Operator **Vance Pope** is removing and replacing storm-drain, sewer and water lines. In South San Francisco, **Pavex** is replacing street base at various locations with operators **Robert Kashkai**, **Jesus Vidales**, **Roger Willis**, **Jose Romero** and Foreman **Tony Carrillo**. **FMG** is grinding asphalt with Operator **Juan Fonseca**.

On the coast, operators are staying busy at **Pilarcitos Quarry**, including **Mike Gomez**, **Jose Ostillo**, **Mario Gomez**, **Jeremy Vaz** and Mechanic **Tom Viallet**. These guys work hard all year processing material for our jobs. At **Ox Mountain Landfill**, operators **Craig Ballew**, **Ruben Figueroa**, **Roger Gragg**, **Michael Beck**, **Gerard Terra**, **John Patton**, **Jake Jepson** and Mechanic **Chris Tentes** also stay busy year-round. **Half Moon Bay Sealing and Paving** is on **Skyline Boulevard** doing a **Caltrans** emergency storm-drain replacement.

In **Foster City**, **Rudolph and Sletten** keeps Elevator Operator **Chuck Plaine** busy. Subcontractor **Jos. J. Albanese** keeps operators **Perry Sabin**, **Pedro Gonzales** and Foreman **Jose Solis** busy with site grading and paving.

These are just a few of many jobs in San Mateo County, and there are a lot more starting.



Heavy Duty Repairman (HDR) Armando Ramos works at SFO for Synergy Project Management.



Mike Berti and Ed Hagen dig a settlement pond at SFO for Disney Construction.



## Power plant gets green light

Spring is around the corner and work is blooming in District 20.

The Public Utilities Commission approved a new power plant in east Contra Costa County, giving the green light to construct a 586-megawatt facility. This plant will help support the state policy on having more efficient, environmentally friendly power sources.

Construction of the power plant will create more than 700 jobs and bring millions of dollars into the local economy. At peak operation, the plant will produce enough electricity for about 500,000 homes. This project aims to be online by 2016 and should be able to put many of our brothers and sisters to work.

In eastern Alameda County, I-580 is due to get some relief. The bid has gone out to build a westbound carpool lane from Greenville Road to Foothill Road. Work will begin in April and continue into next year. This 13-mile stretch of road will surely ease congestion. More is yet to come.

The rock, sand and gravel companies have been working many hours producing stockpiles throughout the winter. This is a good indication that work is picking up. We would like to welcome the new kid on the block, **DeSilva Gates/Oliver de Silva**, which opened the new **Sunol Aggregates** rock, sand and gravel quarry.

With good weather upon us, **Dragados USA, Inc./Flatiron West, Inc./Sukut Construction, Inc.** Joint Venture (JV) is ready to continue the Calaveras Dam project with an added 2 million yards of earth to be moved and about two more years of work. This project will give us many hours before its anticipated completion in 2017.

With these projects and many others on the horizon, we are looking forward to a positive 2013.

We ask all of you to take advantage of the journey-level-upgrade training provided at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC) and sharpen your skills.

We look forward to seeing you at the March 17 Semi-Annual Meeting.



*Jesse Espinosa is one of many scraper operators getting more hours at the Calaveras Dam project, as work picks up.*

## **EUREKA** | 1213 Fifth St., Eureka, CA 95501 ■ (707) 443-7328 District Rep. Chris Snyder

### Signatories stay busy in tough economy, bad weather

The work picture has been slow during the winter months but should start to pick up very soon.

**Dutra** kept a few hands busy at the Crescent City Harbor replacement job but should really gear up when crab season ends.

**Wahlund Construction** kept operators working on the Rio Dell Water Treatment Plant and the Stewart Street Reservoir in Fortuna. This job has been especially challenging with the winter storms, but the job has moved forward.

**Mercer-Fraser** kept a few hands busy at Martin Slough in Eureka, at the golf course and at Plant A and B in Fortuna. The company has also had many small jobs throughout Humboldt County, which has kept operators employed during the slow months.

**Powell Concrete Pumping** has been very busy despite the rainy season with several jobs in District 40, keeping operators employed and working in a tough economy and stormy weather.

**Fluor** kept operators working at the Humboldt Bay Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Power Plant, and **Grace Construction** signed a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) to work on a portion of the job. **Kiewit** should start placing work orders through its subcontractor **J. Givoo Consultants** very soon.

**Peterson Tractor** kept all of its hands working through the winter, and District 40 would like to wish Shop Foreman **Tom Earls** a speedy recovery.

**Calex** is wrapping up emergency work on Hwy. 101 south of Crescent City.



*Peterson Holding Company's Cody Lipscomb works in the parts department with Bart Mace.*

**West Coast Contractors** should be gearing up for a bridge replacement at Smith River Bridge, but so much depends on the tricky weather in Humboldt County.

There are many signatory projects on the books for 2013, so it looks like a promising year in District 40. We hope our signatories continue to get the low bids.

Please remember to Slow for the Cone Zone and our brothers and sisters at Caltrans.

If you see something out of the ordinary, don't hesitate to call Business Rep. **Bob Center**, so he can investigate.

Fringe Benefits Rep. **Esther Redmond** will be in District 40 on March 20 and April 17. Call the Hall to make an appointment to discuss your benefits.

The Hall is open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. and on Wednesday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The OE Federal Credit Union is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

District 40 would like to thank everyone who attended the Crab Feed this year and give a special thanks to the volunteers who helped put it on, including District 10 Secretary **Teresa Spain**, who helped immensely; Political Action Committee (PAC) members **Mike Conway**, **Harry Herkert** (and his fantastic family) and **Frank Rojas**; Executive Board member **Mike Johnson**; and all the officers and staff at OE3 who came long distances to attend our event.

## Price of gold may rise again

With the onset of spring and warmer weather, work is picking up.

Kiewit is performing work on the South East Connector project in Sparks, and Granite Construction is working on Hwy. 50, I-80 and Hwy. 395. Several jobs are preparing to start, and more are awaiting bid results. Mine work is still good and should get even stronger.

Please remember to keep all of your information, registration on the out-of-work list and certifications current. Call the training center at (775) 575-2729 for upcoming classes.

### From Elko

At Newmont, gold prices are between \$1,600 and \$1,700 per ounce. Prices are expected to remain steady and may increase. Newmont is making efforts to control costs with a hiring freeze on employees and subcontractors. Any hiring or replacement

must be approved by the executive leadership team. Newmont has also cut 50 salary jobs in Nevada and reduced development and project-related advancements. Profitability is impacted by volatile metal prices and rising production costs. Safety has also been a major concern, and there has been a greater focus on correcting problems. We have a Health & Safety Committee and encourage our members who have questions or would like to participate in the program to call Business Rep. Bill Bodin at the Elko office at (775) 753-8761.

The Elko office continues to hold Newmont membership meetings on the first Wednesday of the month and construction membership meetings on the second Wednesday of the month. The office will also remain open on the fourth Wednesday of the month for late night.

## STOCKTON | 1916 North Broadway, Stockton, CA 95205 ■ (209) 943-2332 District Rep. Nathan Tucker

## Looking forward to a great year

District 30 has a significant amount of work on the books for this year, and a large portion of it has already been bid and awarded, creating more than \$300 million in opportunities and an early start to the work season this spring.

Bay Cities Paving and Grading is employing many members on a \$12.9 million widening project on Hwy. 99 that should be completed next year.

Flatiron Construction should be wrapping up an \$8.1 million seismic-retrofit and widening project on Carpenter Road Bridge this summer.

Sierra Mountain Construction started the \$12.8 million Harding Drain bypass project in Turlock, which includes excavation and laying 35,000 feet of 36-inch pipe.

C.C. Myers and Bay Cities are working together on the Sperry Road interchange, and Knife River is working on Hwy. 132 and Bird Road.

This spring, Myers and Sons will break ground on an \$87 million project on Hwy. 99 from Arch Road to Hwy. 4. R&L Brosamer, Case Pacific and West Coast Welders are working on a \$10 million widening project on I-5, and O.C. Jones started the \$30 million Hwy. 219 to Hwy. 99 interchange this year.

R.M. Harris is working on the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission (SJRRRC)/Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) track-extension and grade-separation project through the winter in downtown Stockton.

Cal Neva Construction should start \$16.4 million worth of dock, pier, shoreline-maintenance and storm-sewer work this month that spans San Joaquin, Sacramento and Solano counties.

Other upcoming projects in District 30 include the \$30 million Regional Transportation Center and Passenger Terminal on Hwy. 4 and Hwy. 99 in Stockton and the more than \$5 million Vine Street campus-modernization project for the Stockton Unified School District.

With all of this work, please note that an eight-hour Hazwoper refresher class is being held on Saturday, March 16 at the Hall. Our Semi-Annual Meeting is the next day, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Solano County Fairgrounds (900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo). We hope to see all of you there.



Fourteen-year member Jerry Young works for R.M. Harris on the ACE track-extension and grade-separation project on Main Street in downtown Stockton.



Members work for Bay Cities Paving and Grading.



## PLA in the works for levee project

Work is good in District 60 with a new and exciting year in store for 2013. Many jobs are being released for bid, such as the 41 miles of levee that will stretch from Thermalito to Yuba City. District Rep. **Ed Ritchie**, with the help of the Organizing Department, has been working hard to put together a Project



Member Randy Waldbusser works on the Chico sewer-line project for Cox & Cox Construction.

Labor Agreement (PLA) with state-recognized apprenticeship programs, local hiring and experienced labor being the selling points. When we as taxpayers float special taxes or bonds, we should expect our local, elected leaders to hire contractors that use local labor, and the only way to ensure they do this is by using local union hiring halls. This keeps benefits within our communities through wages, apprentice training and health-care coverage. Pressure is being applied on our local leaders to consider this

PLA for the levee project. Unfortunately, we have been told by the Sutter Buttes Flood Control Agency, "We don't want a PLA." The agency wouldn't tell us exactly who "we" is and knows it won't cost more to have a PLA in place. In fact, it would save the agency money. Hopefully, by the time this is printed, this PLA will be a reality. The project is scheduled to go to bid this month.

In the meantime, bridge work and paving continue to produce work in District 60. We currently have **MCM/DeSilva Gates** working on the Hwy. 99 Feather River Bridge project, **Viking/DeSilva Gates** continuing the Hwy. 99 bridges and widening in Chico and **Golden State Bridge** firing back up on the Ord Ferry Road Bridge project east of Chico. As far as paving goes, **Knife River, Teichert, George Reed and Martin Bros.** all received or have existing projects within District 60. This is good news for the plants that support these projects with rock, asphalt and concrete.

Backhoe operators **Randy Waldbusser** and **James France** are working hard digging laterals for **Cox & Cox Construction** on the Chico sewer-line project. **Cox & Cox** also picked up some sub work on **Viking Construction's** Hwy. 99 bridge project.

District 60 Secretary **Michelle Taylor** would like everyone to know that a representative from the Fringe Benefits Office will be in the District 60 Hall on the first Wednesday of every month, and two weeks later, a representative from the Trust Fund Office will stop by. The next scheduled visits are March 6 and March 20. If you have any questions or concerns about anything Fringe Benefits-related (health and welfare, retirement, death benefits, etc.), please call the Hall to schedule a time to meet on those days.

Also remember to call Dispatcher **Chuck Adamson** at the Hall to keep current on the out-of-work list, so you don't fall off.

The District 60 staff wishes you a safe and prosperous year.

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

### Recent classes a success

We would like to congratulate **Jerry White** for becoming our new Bylaws Committee chairman. White is a 41-year member who spent time on staff in District 70, at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC) and out in the field.

Spring is near and so is the Semi-Annual. Please make note that the event is on Sunday, March 17 in Vallejo at the Solano County Fairgrounds. Hope to see you there!

Thanks to everyone who attended the eight-hour Hazwoper class in January. It's always nice to have a full classroom for our instructors. We also need to thank

**Cecil Jones** and **Jim Corless** for putting on our gradesetting classes at the Hall. Surely there are a lot more members in the district who are knowledgeable thanks to you.

We have several jobs that are continuing from last season. **Tutor Perini** is moving forward on a bridge job in Lakehead that looks to have several more years of work. **Road and Highway Builders** is looking to add another shift this year on a paving job in Yreka to stay on schedule and complete the project in 2014. **Mercer-Fraser** will continue work on the Buckhorn Summit and I-5 Lakehead jobs until they're completed

this season. **Meyers Earthwork** is working on a streambed restoration on the Sacramento River in Red Bluff. **J.F. Shea** is working on the Diestelhorst Bridge in Redding. **Tullis, Inc.** will be paving I-5 from Cottonwood to Red Bluff.

Our Unit 12 brothers and sisters also continue to stay busy.

There are several new projects coming to the district, and we will have this information in next month's *Engineers News*. Please make sure you are on the out-of-work list, and stay current by renewing your registration every 84 days.



Unit 12 members out of the Red Bluff Maintenance Station include, from left: Brad Mullins, Jeff Doughty and Steve Hawthorne, above, and Raul Evangelista, Mel Riffel and Brandon Sarjenci, right.



Concrete Batch Plant Operator Danny Goddard works on Tutor Perini's I-5 Antlers Bridge project.

## Dispatches up

As our days get longer, our job opportunities increase. In 2012, District 90 had a grand total of 1,588 dispatches, the highest number we have seen in *seven years*. This year we are anticipating even higher numbers, and we are already off to a great start.

**Ranger Pipelines, Inc.** is still working in Santa Cruz on a storm-sewer project. **RGW** continues work on Hwy. 1 in Santa Cruz and on the Butterfield overpass project in Morgan Hill.



From left: Supervisors Elliot Vega and Johnathan Seifert have worked for the Resource Recovery facility for six years.

Just down the road, **Jos. J. Albanese** is finishing some site work.

We have a great deal of members installing an energy plant at Stanford University. Some of our signatory employers onsite include **Preston Pipelines, McGuire and Hester, Top Grade and Malcolm Drilling.**

Members with **Resource Recovery** are also staying busy.

Please remember to call the Hall to update any changes to your address or phone number(s), check on your dues to make sure you are current and, if needed, renew your registration on the out-of-work list. If you drop by in person, you can pick up some literature, like a copy of the union Constitution or the Bylaws. Open your Bylaws book to Article III – Duties Of Members. We are here for you, to inform, to educate and of course to serve.

## Apprenticeship Spotlight

Congratulations to the following graduates who successfully completed the Apprenticeship Program in 2012: Construction Equipment Operators (CEOs) **Andrew Balcazar, Justin Bozio, Michael Briemle, Christopher Gila, John Harper, Marc Jensen, Ronald Moon** and **Alberto Santoyo** and Heavy Duty Repairers (HDRs) **Nicholas Echavarria, Christopher Hutcheson** and **Randy Silveira**. Good job, and good luck in 2013.

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

### Working in the fog, cold weather

This month, we wanted to highlight the Fort Bragg Caltrans crew, which has been staying extremely busy during our long, wet and cold winter, constantly battling the fog on the northern end of our district. We have had steady rain, followed by high winds that pushed saturated tree roots to the limits and caused many trees to fall, giving our members even more work this year with tree removal and clearing the roadways. This crew has been getting calls about trees blocking the freeway completely from one side to the other! Members must go to work at 1, 2 and 3 a.m. or whenever Mother Nature calls, working in the cold to clear the roads, so travelers can get where they need to go safely. Members have been cutting trees from 36 to 50 inches in diameter. The crew performs several tasks, but one of the most

important is removing black ice, using a special mix of salt and cinder. Black ice has caused many accidents and, sadly, some deaths over the years. It is virtually invisible to the eye and comes up suddenly when temperatures drop. Please remember to Slow for the Cone Zone and pay attention to the signs being posted. One of these crewmembers summed it up perfectly: “It’s hard to soar like an eagle when you hang out with a bunch of turkeys!”

We would also like to highlight and thank **George Steffensen** for all his hard work on staff. Steffensen served the Local 3 membership in many facets. He had the ability to change many people’s lives for the better and deserves an extremely high token of gratitude for his devotion to the union. We thank his family for lending him to us to do the job right and wish him the very best during his transition into retirement.

## Apprenticeship Spotlight

Fourth-step Construction Equipment Operator (CEO) Apprentice **Michael Welsh** is currently working on the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) train project in Sonoma County for **A&K Railroad**. He feels very strongly about politics and helped with the Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program, logging more than 60 hours of volunteer time. He even traveled all the way to Reno, Nev. to help precinct walk during the 2012 political season. He is glad to see his hard work paid off with the 2012 election results.

“Michael deserves credit,” said District Rep. **Chris Snyder**. “His hard work and dedication has made a difference for Local 3’s entire membership.”



Fourth-step CEO Apprentice Michael Welsh.



Soaked in fog, the Fort Bragg Caltrans crew includes, from left: Rick Rodrigues, Tim Parker, Cody Dycus, Lead Worker Chris Pang, Brandon McGregor and Kevin Smith.



## Members needed to build at Army airfield

County budgets look good with monies for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). The state budget is still working through legislation. As we approach the midway point of the legislative season, it is important for us to make our voices heard. Your participation is crucial to this process. Contact your local office to participate in our Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program. Stay informed, and get involved.

In Washington, D.C., our delegation will be working hard to continue the funding of military build-up in Hawaii. Late senator **Daniel Inouye** laid the groundwork for us to build on.

Congratulations to the Political Action Committee (PAC) members who were elected at our February round of meetings. Each island (Kauai, Oahu, Maui and Hawaii) elected their committee. These members represent the rank-and-file in political and district business.

As for work, our newest signatory contractor, **Kingston Environmental Services, Inc.**, received the first phase of the Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) infrastructure project at Wheeler Army Airfield for \$15.3 million. This job will place 35 to 50 brothers and sisters to work.

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

### Coming together for America's Cup

As part of the upgrades being done along San Francisco's waterfront for the upcoming America's Cup, **Bragg Crane** was contracted by **Dutra** to move sections of a breakwater dock from its fabrication yard in Antioch to the Sacramento River, where **Dutra** could use a barge to move the sections into place. **Bragg** used its own heavy trailers to move the 240,000-pound sections from the yard to the river's edge, where they then had to be moved to water deep enough for them to float. **Bragg's** new 500-ton Grove hydraulic crane operated by **Steve Cooper** and **Jake Burns** could not make the lift without help, so they called **Sheedy**. **Danny Siebert** and **Tim Adams** traveled from San Francisco with **Sheedy's** new 500-ton Liebherr hydraulic truck crane. With both cranes sharing the load, they were able to reach the water safely. **Dutra** Tugboat Captain **Jeremy Biggs** and the crew of the *Trojan* were able to unhook the cranes and move the sections out to the Bay.



*The crew of the Trojan, run for Dutra by Jeremy Biggs, works with Sheedy operators Danny Siebert and Tim Adams and Bragg Crane operators Steve Cooper and Jake Burns to move sections of a breakwater dock into place.*

In other areas of District 04, **O.C. Jones** is still working on the I-80 scale-relocation project and **Ghilotti Brothers** and **Ghilotti Construction** continue on the Jameson Canyon Hwy. 12 widening. These projects will continue through 2013. **Ghilotti Construction** is also doing streetscape work in downtown Vallejo.

Upcoming work going out to bid soon includes Jepson Parkway, the I-680/Hwy. 12 interchange and another flood-control phase off Pearl Street in Napa. It looks like work will keep rolling in District 04.

Before the work really gets going this summer, you should consider signing up for forklift certification, especially if yours is about to expire or has recently. Forklift cards must be renewed every three years and are required on most jobsites. Call the Hall to sign up. The more certifications and qualifications you have, the more likely you are to get called out for work.

Beginning in April and throughout the summer, the district office will be open until 8 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Don't forget to take advantage of these late nights to take care of your union business. We hope to see you all at the Semi-Annual Meeting on March 17 at the Solano County Fairgrounds.



## Projects in Merced, Goshen, Reedley

We have lots of work going on right now. **Papich** is working on a \$16 million project on Road 80 near Goshen and will start a \$34 million project on Hwy. 99 near Hwy. 198 and a bridge repair on Avenue 184 at Hwy. 99 near Tulare. **Granite** is working on a \$22 million job on Hwy. 99 in Madera and will start an \$18 million job in Lemoore at Hwy. 198 and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue. **Agee** has a \$2.1 million job near Reedley on Manning Avenue. **Emmetts** has a \$15.8 million job in Goshen at Hwy. 198 and Plaza Drive along with a bridge replacement near Three Rivers. The company also has a \$10 million project coming up in Tulare at Bardsley Avenue and the railroad. **Teichert** and **FCI** have teamed up for a \$66 million job south of Merced on Hwy. 99. **Security Paving** has two jobs worth \$43 million each on Hwy. 99 – one in

Madera and one south of Merced. **W.C. Maloney** is also working. **Viking** is doing \$15.1 million worth of bridge work on Avenue 416 near Reedley. **MCM** will start a \$40 million job on Hwy. 99 from Avenue 7 to Herndon Avenue near Fresno. **RGW** has three jobs in Merced – two along Hwy. 99 and one on Hwy. 140. **Diablo** continues work on a \$34 million job near Kingsburg on Hwy. 99.

Dispatcher **Jody Recek** reminds you all to renew your registration within 84 days, so you don't fall off the out-of-work list. We have heard that money has been approved to start buying parcels for High-Speed Rail, so be ready!



Richard Dickinson works for W.C. Maloney on Hwy. 99.



Michael Root works for W.C. Maloney on Security Paving's Hwy. 99 job in Merced.

## Apprentices learn about Local 3

Spring is around the corner, and hopefully, by the time you read this, work will be picking up in District 12. It's been a long, cold winter, and our members are looking forward to returning to work.

**Bragg Crane** and **Mountain Crane** have refinery work lined up in the Chevron and Tesoro refineries that will keep the cranes and our members working. They also stayed busy through the winter with crane-rental, as a number of jobs continued in the Intermountain area. **Shurtleff & Andrews** kept its cranes working through the winter at the Lindon Lakeside No. 2 Power Project and should continue to do so into 2014.

**W.W. Clyde** picked up a 21-mile, \$15 million paving job on I-70 and a \$17 million section of the Southern Parkway in Washington County. **Geneva Rock Products** picked up paving and slurry-seal work throughout our jurisdiction.

**PNK Constructors** will have about 10 Operating Engineers working on the Echo Dam seismic retrofit and spillway reconstruction this year. The start date depends on the snow pack we receive in the mountains. Our signatory contractors are also bidding on a \$32 million dirt job at the Kennecott Copper Mine.

January's annual apprentice meeting, held at the Laborer's hall this year, was a learning experience for all 37 apprentices who attended. Utah Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) Administrator **Jeff Anderson** and Joint Apprenticeship Training Center (JATC) Secretary **Keira Nielson** spoke to the group before they broke into smaller groups for classes with the Utah staff.



Apprentices listen as the Utah District staff explains all the benefits of belonging to Local 3.

District Rep. **Justin Diston**, Dispatcher **Doug Pitcher**, Organizer **Paul Lundell**, business agents **R.J. Peery** and **Brandon Dew** and JAC Trainer **Rick Bringham** discussed work ethics, the Pension, insurance, vacation pay, dues, organizing, timecards, politics and other union and apprenticeship rules and regulations. The meeting ended with a group session. Rec. Corres. Secretary **Jim Sullivan** explained that becoming an Operating Engineer is a lifetime commitment and encouraged the apprentices to get involved in the union and the negotiations of their contracts and to understand the importance of organizing, because some of them would become foremen, supervisors and staff members someday. He thanked the apprentices for coming to the meeting and enforced that they are our future.

### Upcoming Training

*All class dates are subject to change*

#### March 2013

- 1 – C-list testing
- 4-7 – Crane apprentice training
- 4-7 – Construction Equipment Operator (CEO) apprentice training
- 8 – Journey-level upgrade
- 11-13 – 24-hour Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)
- 11-14 – CEO apprentice training
- 14 – First Aid/AED/CPR
- 15 – Eight-hour MSHA refresher
- 15 – Journey-level upgrade
- 18-19 – Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
- 10
- 18-21 – CEO apprentice training
- 20 – GPS dozer
- 21 – GPS dozer
- 22 – Operator Qualification Compliance (OQC) journey-level upgrade
- 25-28 – Crane apprentice training
- 25-28 – CEO apprentice training
- 29 – C-list testing
- 29 – Journey-level upgrade
- (April 1 – C-list testing)

If you are interested in signing up for these classes, want to know about April training information or have any questions, please call (801) 664-6934.





# 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](http://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](http://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

DISTRICT MEETINGS

All meetings convene at 7 p.m.

MARCH 2013

No meetings scheduled.

APRIL 2013

No meetings scheduled.

MAY 2013

6<sup>th</sup> District 17: Kapolei  
Operating Engineers' Building  
1075 Opakapaka St.

7<sup>th</sup> District 30: Stockton  
Operating Engineers' Building  
1916 North Broadway Ave.

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

8<sup>th</sup> District 50: Clovis  
Clovis Veterans Memorial District  
808 Fourth St.

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

9<sup>th</sup> District 60: Marysville  
Marysville Elks Lodge  
920 D St.

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

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

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

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

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

16<sup>th</sup> District 01: Burlingame  
Machinists Union  
1511 Rollins Road

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

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

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

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

March 2013

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

6<sup>th</sup> District 11: Elko  
Mine Meeting: 6 p.m.  
Operating Engineers' Building  
1094 Lamoille Highway

13<sup>th</sup> District 11: Elko  
Construction Meeting: 6 p.m.  
Operating Engineers' Building  
1094 Lamoille Highway

April 2013

3<sup>rd</sup> District 11: Elko  
Mine Meeting: 6 p.m.  
Operating Engineers' Building  
1094 Lamoille Highway

10<sup>th</sup> District 11: Elko  
Construction Meeting: 6 p.m.  
Operating Engineers' Building  
1094 Lamoille Highway

10<sup>th</sup> District 12: Layton  
Dinner: 6 p.m.; Meeting: 7 p.m.  
Davis Conference Center  
1651 N. 700 W.

11<sup>th</sup> District 12: Price  
Lunch: 1 p.m.; Meeting: 2 p.m.  
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites  
838 Westwood Blvd.

13<sup>th</sup> District 12: St. George  
Lunch: Noon; Meeting: 1 p.m.  
Staheli Family Farm  
3400 S. Washington Fields Road  
Washington, UT

May 2013

1<sup>st</sup> District 11: Elko  
Mine Meeting: 6 p.m.  
Operating Engineers' Building  
1094 Lamoille Highway

5<sup>th</sup> District 17: Maui  
Meeting and picnic: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
VFW Hall  
1136 Ulunui Drive, Kihei

7<sup>th</sup> District 17: Kauai  
Meeting: 6 p.m.  
Kauai Beach Resort  
4331 Kauai Beach Drive, Lihue

8<sup>th</sup> District 11: Elko  
Construction Meeting: 6 p.m.  
Operating Engineers' Building  
1094 Lamoille Highway

8<sup>th</sup> District 17: Kona  
Meeting: 7 p.m.  
Courtyard Marriott  
King Kamehameha Hotel  
75-5660 Palani Drive

9<sup>th</sup> District 17: Hilo  
Meeting: 7 p.m.  
Hilo ILWU Hall  
100 W. Lanikaula St.

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 84<sup>th</sup> 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 84<sup>th</sup> 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 January 2013 and have been determined eligible for Honorary Membership effective April 1, 2013.

Robert Fernandez	1689683
District 17: Hawaii	
Donald Franke	1745673
District 20: Oakland	
Michael Geister	1225634
District 01: Burlingame	
Kenneth Goulardt	1142736
District 20: Oakland	
John Heing	1750014
District 10: Rohnert Park	
Dwight Higashi	1466890
District 17: Hawaii	
David R. Hill	1584195
District 04: Fairfield	
Jimmie Ivie	1719636
District 12: Utah	
Larry Lewellin	1364692
District 11: Nevada	
Salvador R. Puente	1262951
District 50: Fresno	
Jeff E. Roy	1742637
District 20: Oakland	
Richard Seely	1711196
District 40: Eureka	
Donn H. Steffen	1523009
District 20: Oakland	

Service pins

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







### 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.

### Go paperless

#### Engineers News online option available

Members who would rather read their award-winning *Engineers News* online instead of receiving it in the mail can go paperless. This format will save the union printing and mail costs and will cut down on waste.

If interested, please send an e-mail to [gopaperless@oe3.org](mailto:gopaperless@oe3.org) with your name, mailing address and union registration number.

### Questions about your Annuity?

#### Ask the expert!

The Annuity “expert” is Jeff Breininger, the investment advisor for participants in the Annuity Plan. He can answer your questions about which investments are best for your particular situation and goals. His advice is free and confidential. You can call him at (800) 543-9087 or (510) 486-2467. You may also visit [www.ibenefitcenter.com](http://www.ibenefitcenter.com) to manage your investments online.

### Notification – district office business hours

Please note that for 2013 there are new hours for “late night.”

*In California, Utah and Nevada, “late night” will be as follows:*

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

Office hours:

Monday-Friday: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Designated late nights: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

*In Hawaii, “late night” will be as follows:*

- November-March: Late night will be the fourth Monday of the month.\*
- April-October: Late night will be the second and fourth Mondays of the month.\*

\*In March, June and December, late night will be the first and fourth Mondays of the month to accommodate members in paying their dues prior to suspension.

\*In May, late night will be the second Monday of the month.

\*In September, late night will be the first Tuesday and fourth Monday of the month.

\* In October, late night will be the first and third Mondays of the month.

Office hours:

Monday-Friday: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Designated late nights: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

(All remaining Hawaii dates: March 4, March 25, April 8, April 22, May 13, June 3, June 24, July 8, July 22, Aug. 12, Aug. 26, Sept. 3, Sept. 23, Oct. 7, Oct. 21, Nov. 25, Dec. 2 and Dec. 23.)



- 2 Pools with poolside movie screens
- 6 Whirlpools
- 8 Bars and Lounges
- Casino Royale
- Rock Climbing Wall
- Spa and Fitness Center
- Theater with Broadway-style Shows

## Cruise to ALASKA with OE3

*Sail on Royal Caribbean's Rhapsody of the Seas, roundtrip from Seattle Aug. 16-Aug. 23, 2013 (seven nights)*

All OE3 members, Retirees, their families and friends are invited on an exciting vacation to Alaska's spectacular Inside Passage on the luxury Rhapsody of the Seas ship that includes everything from two main pools to more than 15 bars, lounges and specialty restaurants. Your participation benefits the OE3 Scholarship Fund, as a tax-deductible contribution is included.

Prices\* start at:

Inside Cabin – ~~\$867~~ \$819 PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

Oceanview Outside Cabin – ~~\$1,069~~ \$999 PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

Oceanview Balcony Cabin – \$1,849 PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

Any cabin category can be booked through OE3 Cruises and be included in our Group. Deposit is \$500 per cabin and is fully refundable until final payment is due May 31, 2013.

**Call (888) 713-0441**

**for more information and reservations**

\*Prices subject to change at any time. They are guaranteed at time of deposit. First come, first served. Rates for third and fourth persons sharing a cabin are available; US tax will be added at final payment. Terms and Conditions apply. To view ship information, go to [www.rccl.com](http://www.rccl.com)

You can now donate online!  
Go to [www.oe3.org/about/scholarship/donation.html](http://www.oe3.org/about/scholarship/donation.html).

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 thought possible. These gifts help build the strength and future of the Scholarship Foundation and allow the donor to experience giving the gift of a lifetime. The Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Foundation offers a variety of ways to contribute:

- **Cash gifts in any amount to the general Scholarship Fund.**
- **Merit sponsors and memorial and honor gifts.** You can contribute to the Scholarship Foundation in the memory or honor of a loved one, friend or colleague or to commemorate a special occasion. The Foundation will acknowledge your gift to the person(s) you designate and provide written acknowledgement 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.

**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.

DEPARTED MEMBERS

Anders, Ronald McCloud, CA District 70 12-25-12
Avery, Preston Cupertino, CA District 90 11-24-12
Avilla, James Roseville, CA District 80 12-18-12
Badarello, John Castro Valley, CA District 20 12-10-12
Barlow, Gibson Woodland, CA District 80 12-17-12
Bayer, James Vernal, UT District 12 11-14-12
Crain, Travis Clearlake Oaks, CA District 10 11-28-12
Darcy, Felix Yuma, AZ District 99 12-15-12
Etheridge, Don Snelling, CA District 50 11-28-12
Fortney, John Pukalani, HI District 17 11-14-12
Grock, Donald Reno, NV District 11 12-05-12
Harmer, Orval Orem, UT District 12 12-14-12
Headings, Earl Dixon, CA District 04 12-15-12
Humphers, Harold El Sobrante, CA District 20 12-20-12

LaPointe, Lloyd Antioch, CA District 20 12-30-12
Martinez, Ralph Redding, CA District 70 12-08-12
Peters, Michael Concord, CA District 20 12-30-12
Peterson, Duane Lehi, UT District 12 11-25-12
Reeves, Billy Oakdale, CA District 30 12-05-12
Speck, Philip Suisun City, CA District 04 12-28-12
Thornton, John American Fork, UT District 12 11-30-12
Tudino, Henry San Lorenzo, CA District 20 12-21-12
Wood, Don Fallon, NV District 11 11-25-12
Wright, Norman Gridley, CA District 60 12-13-12

DECEASED DEPENDENTS

Adams, Helen. Wife of Adams, Dee (dec) 12-06-12
Akasaki, Chiyoko. Wife of Akasaki, Jerry (dec) 12-15-12
Bianchi, Barbara. Wife of Bianchi, Harold (dec) 12-23-12
Bussman, Julie. Wife of Bussman, Marcellus (dec) 10-26-12

Dayton, Norma. Wife of Dayton, Newell (dec) 12-18-12
Elnick, Vicki. Wife of Elnick, Alan 12-14-12
Henry, Tracy. Wife of Henry, Robert 12-21-12
Hill, Karen. Wife of Hill, David 12-31-12
Hill, Ruth. Wife of Hill, Loyce (dec) 12-02-12
Jackman, Antionette. Wife of Jackman, John 12-20-12
Jones, Virginia. Wife of Jones, Homer (dec) 12-17-12
Kaili, Octavia. Wife of Kaili, Joseph 12-17-12
Lombardo, Ann. Wife of Lombardo, Vincent (dec) 12-13-12
Lunt, Patsy. Wife of Lunt, Jack 11-25-12
Presley, Rita. Wife of Presley, Donald (dec) 12-02-12

Smith, Ethel. Wife of Smith, Garry (dec) 12-28-12
Teczon, Judith. Wife of Teczon, Ben 11-30-12
Williams, Carol. Wife of Williams, Bill 10-03-12
Zablosky, Lorry. Wife of Zablosky, Michael 06-16-12



# Meet your Bylaws Committee members

## District 01 Burlingame: Ken Oku

Years in Local 3: 40

**Experience:** Retired operator, foreman and superintendent; served as business agent, assistant district rep., district rep., union Trustee, trustee of the OE3 Health and Welfare Trust, Pension Trust and Affirmative Action Trust and member of the Best Practices Committee and OE Federal Supervisory Committee; attended the Harvard University Trade Union Program



**Reason for being on this committee:** "To participate in governance of our local union and help keep our Bylaws up-to-date and relevant, so, as an organization, we can continue to grow as leaders in the Organized Labor community."

## District 04 Fairfield: Jack Short

Years in Local 3: 57

**Experience:** Served as business agent, safety rep., director of safety and member of the Bylaws Committee, Election Committee, International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Safety and Health Committee and Cal-OSHA committees



**Reason for being on this committee:** "Just to still be a part of this great organization."

## District 10 Rohnert Park: Patrick O'Halloran

Years in Local 3: 38

**Experience:** Retired gradesetter and operator; served as business agent and member of the Market Area Committee, Grievance Committee, Political Action Committee (PAC) and Executive Board



**Reason for being on this committee:** "To insure that any change to the Bylaws is to the benefit of the members of Local 3."

## District 11 Reno: Dan Venters

Years in Local 3: 24

**Experience:** Retired steward and chief steward; served as business agent, contract-compliance officer, public-employee business agent and member of the Election Committee and Newmont Gold Co. contract-negotiating committee; acted as lobbyist at the Nevada Legislature



**Reason for being on this committee:** "I am compassionate about serving my union and my brother and sister members. Therefore, I believe my years of experience negotiating contracts, handling grievances and fighting arbitrations will benefit the union and its members."

## District 12 Salt Lake City: Mike Holliday

Years in Local 3: 34

**Experience:** Retired superintendant, operator and steward; served as member of the Grievance Committee, Political Action Committee (PAC) and Election Committee; has five family



members who also belong to Local 3

**Reason for being on this committee:** "Want to stay involved with my union and give back. They [Local 3] mean a lot to me and my family. I owe them a lot of gratitude."

## District 17 Kapolei: Joseph Trehern

Years in Local 3: 42

**Experience:** Retired operator, foreman and job steward; served as dispatcher, business agent, business agent/organizer, district rep., union Trustee and member of the Local 3 trucking-industry advisory committee



**Reason for being on this committee:** "I look forward to working with the committee members to find ways and means to develop a more positive union image and make every effort to improve on our union requirement of quality representation for all members."

## District 20 Oakland: Roger Chavarin

Years in Local 3: 29

**Experience:** Retired gradesetter and foreman; served as instructor at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTTC)



**Reason for being on this committee:** "I want to serve so as to continue to give back to this union and its members all that it has given me and my family."

## District 30 Stockton: Greg Flanagan

Years in Local 3: 29

**Experience:** Retired operator; served as organizer, business agent and member of the Election Committee



**Reason for being on this committee:** "Wanted to be on this committee to serve our members and make needed changes for the betterment of this union."

## District 40 Eureka: Brian Bishop

Years in Local 3: 41

**Experience:** Retired operator; served as dispatcher, business agent, safety rep., district rep. and member of the Bylaws Committee



**Reason for being on this committee:** "Bring the Bylaws inline with what Local 3 members want to see, within the guidelines of the International."

## District 50 Fresno: Larry Wayne Braden

Years in Local 3: 50

**Experience:** Retired job steward; served as member of the Grievance Committee, Executive Board and Bylaws Committee

**Reason for being on this committee:** "I think it's my duty to be involved. The old-timers before me built this great union; the Retirees know we had to fight for everything we have. My health is good, so I'm going to contribute my part."



## District 60 Yuba City: Duane "Flip" Imhoff

Years in Local 3: 15

**Experience:** Served as member of the Political Action Committee (PAC)



**Reason for being on this committee:** "The decisions that are made by the Bylaws Committee have their greatest effect on active members. I feel as an active member that it is my duty to be involved in those decisions."

## District 70 Redding: Jerry L. White

Years in Local 3: 41

**Experience:** Retired Heavy Duty Repairman (HDR); served as instructor at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTTC), dispatcher, apprenticeship coordinator and business agent



**Reason for being on this committee:** "To help my union in its struggle to protect its members."

## District 80 Sacramento: Del Surette

Years in Local 3: 35

**Experience:** Retired Heavy Duty Repairman (HDR); served as instructor at the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Job Corps and Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTTC) and member of the Political Action Committee (PAC); named Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) Volunteer of the Year four times, Retiree Volunteer of the Year and, with his family, Democratic Party of Sacramento County's Grassroots Volunteers of the Year



**Reason for being on this committee:** "Unions are strong because members participate in this very Democratic process. I want to participate."

## District 90 Morgan Hill: Kevin Brown

Years in Local 3: 27

**Experience:** Retired Heavy Duty Repairman (HDR), batchman and loader operator; served as member of the Election Committee and Bylaws Committee

**Reason for being on this committee:** "I am in debt to Local 3 and all its members. Unions have had a very positive influence on my life, and I want to give back what I can."



# Retiree takes his workout to another level

By Jamie Johnston, associate editor

Exercise doesn't have to be boring. Just look at Retiree Jay Uhalt.

About 10 feet in the air, the former operator flies over the western tip of Sherman Island near Rio Vista, Calif. at about 30 miles per hour on nothing but a thin board, a kite steering his route.

The sport is called kitesurfing, and it's anything but drab. This extreme water sport has been described as a combination of wakeboarding, windsurfing, surfing, paragliding and gymnastics. A kite attached to a surfboard-like platform harnesses the power of the wind to propel a rider across the water. Uhalt compares it to waterskiing "with a kite" and tries to do it every day that there's wind. Last year that meant more than 200 times by late September, and in 2011, he went 225 times. Each time out, he typically gets in between 20 and 25 miles.

"I use it as a kind of exercise and for the enjoyment of it," he said.

There are benefits to both. Kitesurfing not only strengthens the arm and leg muscles as a person struggles to hold on to the kite and balance at the same time, but it also boosts hand-eye coordination and requires a lot of concentration to stay on course. When a person gets airborne, according to reports, "the air from higher elevations is a wonderful feeling and can offer a wonderful workout for your lungs and blood circulation." Catching air can also create a sense of excitement, because it releases endorphins in the brain and makes a person feel happy. A healthy dose of clean, outside air is always beneficial and can help energize the mind.

However, kitesurfing can be dangerous if you don't know what you're doing.

"I always recommend they take professional lessons to learn the basics," Uhalt said of beginners. "People who do the best at kitesurfing do snowboarding or surfboarding."

A former windsurfer himself, Uhalt made the switch to kitesurfing about six years ago, because "it is easier on the body and more exciting."

"The kite has a lot of power," he said. "Generally, the faster you're going, the higher you'll go." Uhalt has gotten up to speeds of 34 mph. (The world record is around 60 mph.)

Since retiring in 2003, Uhalt says kitesurfing has actually gotten easier. Yes, he's older – 63 to be exact – but he has more free time.

"There is world-class wind at Rio Vista, and I spent much of my time off in the summer there," he said about his days as an active loader, dozer and excavator operator out of the Stockton District.

Today, he and his wife, Marla, live there. Though they call it "Little Baja," there's nothing quite like the "real" Baja, so they travel there often. Marla, however, doesn't surf.

"She's a kite widow," her husband explained.

Instead, Uhalt goes out with a group of guys known as the Fossil Express, "because we either have gray hair or no hair."

While they may be on the "old" side, these retirees are proof that exercise can be fun at any age.



## Sunscreen is important

Obviously, kitesurfers watch the wind carefully, but they also must watch out for the sun!

Retiree Jay Uhalt admits he wasn't always conscious of the sun's harmful UV rays.

"I was outside all the time," he said of his younger years. "People didn't know about sunscreen. ... My whole construction career, I was outside at work and I was outside at play. I maybe didn't wear enough or re-apply enough."

Because of that, he now has spots on his face that are pre-cancerous. He regularly sees a dermatologist and has had to have some of the spots taken off.

Today, he always wears sunscreen, especially on his face and arms, pointing out that it's even easy to get burned through a cab window.

In addition to sunscreen, "wear long sleeves!" he tells his fellow operators. "Since retiring, I have had several treatments for pre-cancerous skin problems, so you young guys: Use plenty of sunscreen."



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

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FOR SALE: Rolair model 8422HK30 9 horsepower two-stage two-cylinder portable gas compressor. \$350. Also: Lasemark LM800 Series Electronic Self-leveling Dual-Grade Rotary Laser. New. \$550. Call Jim in Antioch. (925) 706-7847. Reg# 2398654.

FOR SALE: Case Loader Backhoe 580B. Good condition. \$5,500. 1973 International 1-ton flatbed dump truck. \$1,500. Livestock rack for pickup. \$75. (916) 663-3537. Reg# 0676326.

FOR SALE: (By original owner) 2002 Centurion ski boat. Avalanch 22' V-drive. Merc Roiser 350, 315 horsepower. Low hours. Great shape. Lots of extras. \$25,000 OBO. Also: 2001 Thor Hurricane 34' motorhome. Ford V-10 gas engine. 4,020 miles. 12' pop-out, large bathroom, two roof AC units. 5 kw generator. Hydraulic leveling system. Sleeps six. Great condition. \$33,000 OBO. (510) 303-5228. Reg# 2380873.

WANTED: Old Wild brand double right-angle prisms. Will pay top dollar. (775) 772-2028. Reg# 2286014.

FOR SALE: Consul propane gas refrigerator CB 2426. 7.8 cubic feet. 57" high by 24" wide by 27" deep. \$600. Livermore, Calif. (925) 373-7330. Reg# 1535217.

FOR SALE: Four grave plots all together in Oak Hill, San Jose, Calif. Will sell for \$2,500 each or \$8,000 for all four. (918) 715-6799 or (918) 843-0283. Reg# 0745039.

FOR SALE: '72 Ford 351 Cleveland, aluminum intake manifold and water pump. Chrome valve cover. Mild Cam - Hedman headers billet aluminum pulleys. More than \$3,000 in parts. \$1,800 OBO. Also: Six Goodyear 245/70/19.5 load rang F tires (70 percent tread left). \$75 each. Call Jeff at (510) 303-5228. Reg# 2380873.

FOR SALE: 1998 35' Airstream Motorhome: Freightliner chasis, air ride suspension, 300 Caterpillar 3126 engine, six-speed Allison md. 3060 transmission, 6 kw Onan diesel generator 400 hours, 16' slideout, satellite dish, washer/dryer combo, two roof air conditioners, backup camera, catalytic heater, solar panels, inverter, tow package. Excellent condition. 58,000 miles. Second owner. \$30,000. Call Bill at (510) 793-4904. Reg# 0867016.

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-6-231 already mounted in frame, numerous parts included. Located in Winnemucca, Nev. (775) 421-6436. Reg# 1904048.

FOR SALE: John Deere 450 loader with hydraulic ripper. Serial# T0450BB140132. \$10,000. (916) 487-4846. Reg# 0486295.

FOR SALE 1000 Trails membership. 50 nights free camping per year. \$2,000 including transfer and dues until 4/01/13. (714) 846-6096 or (714) 287-6275. Reg# 0868839.

FOR SALE: Collector's shotgun. L.C. Smith. Double barrel. Hunter Arms. About 100 years old. Original condition. \$925. Call Roger at (707) 425-7690. Reg# 1494162.

FOR SALE: 3 bd/2 ba home on two-plus acres in K Falls, Ore. All fenced, underground irrigation, shop (4,500 square feet). All insulated, power, small shop (400 square feet). House remodeled in 2002 with new addition. \$305,000. Call Frank at (209) 604-3014. Reg# 2275457.

FOR SALE: Tompson Contender with two barrels. One .45 and one .44. Located in Arizona. (209) 969-7690. Reg# 0782724.

FOR SALE: 2004 Ford F250 XLT Super Duty, 6.0 Liter Power Stroke Direct Injection V-8 Turbo Diesel, 4X4, four-door, long bed, camper shell. 83,500 miles. Clean, great condition. \$19,000. Negotiable. In Redding, Calif. (530) 640-1153. Reg# 1332587.

FOR SALE: Two burial plots in Olivet Cemetery, Colma, Calif. On a level area in this well-maintained cemetery. Location is Section K, Lot 1183, Graves 1 and 2. Currently, burial plots at Olivet Park are selling for \$8,000 each; we will sell the pair for \$8,500. (650) 728-9298. Reg# 1107333.

WANTED: U.S. and foreign coins. Free appraisals for Retirees. Call Gerry at (408) 226-0729 (evenings). Reg# 1225584.

FOR SALE: 1994 Layton Skyline travel trailer, 26', sleeps eight, good condition. Burner stove and oven, microwave, double door, refrigerator and freezer, double sink, air conditioning and heat, dinette, full bathroom with shower and tub, outside shower. Fully self-contained. Lots of storage. Non-smoking. Two propane tanks, electric hook-up. Large living room slide-out. Built-in TV antenna. Full awning. Stabilizing jacks. \$4,000. (530) 293-3526. Reg# 1192170.

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 trailer. (801) 569-1613 or e-mail tyrant2zzandra@q.com and I'll send a picture. Reg# 2344593.

FOR SALE: 33-1/3 record collection. About 4,200 albums. Lots of rock, country, jazz, blues, easy listening. Take all for \$3,500. (530) 223-4388. Reg# 0827031.

FOR SALE: Leica Disto D8, used once. Comes with instruction manual, carrying case, target plate and Leica Tri 100 tripod with carrying case. \$878 value for \$700 OBO. (209) 772-2864. Reg# 1948540.

FOR SALE: Camper shell: Fiberglass, lined, with keys, insulated, sliding windows, fits short-bed pickups. \$350. Call Bob in Stockton. (209) 210-7455. Reg# 1510977.

WANTED: Smith & Wesson pistol, model 53 - 22 Rem. jet. Bob in Stockton. (209) 210-7455. Reg# 1510977.

FOR SALE: 1989 Holiday Rambler Aluma-Lite XL Ford 460 V8. New engine with only 2,340 miles. Self-contained, 25' long with trailer brakes set up. In very good condition. It's been in a garage most of the time when not in use. Driver side door. \$10,000 OBO. (530) 695-1899. Reg# 0983116.

FOR SALE: Coke machines from the '60s. They take money and get ice cold. Working condition. Call for information and price. (209) 401-7997 or (209) 339-8049. Reg# 2292849.

FOR SALE: Sterling National Thousand Trails membership. 50 nights free camping nationwide. Lots of benefits to this level membership. \$2,000 OBO plus transfer fee. Call for details. (707) 337-8443 (daytime) or (707) 935-7222 (evenings). Ask for Debbie. Reg# 2033175.

FOR SALE: 1998 23-foot Wilderness 5th wheel travel trailer. \$5,500. (707) 703-9912. Reg# 2072199.

FOR SALE: Snap-On Southern Thunder Racing Theme rolling cabinet and top chest. Good condition. \$6,500. Willing to negotiate. (719) 649-8578, bontonrulla@yahoo.com or (775) 934-1899. Reg# 1804351.

FOR SALE: 1956 Thunderbird. Removable hard top. Pearl white. Black and white interior. Has 351 Windsor engine, C4 transmission. No bumper guards. No fender skirts. \$30,000. Negotiable. (530) 824-3707. Reg# 1661023.

FOR SALE: Vintage 1961 30' Cruiser built by Norwalk. Beautiful all-mahogany wood has Twin Chrysler straight 6 engines, sleeps six, electric toilet and sink, Kitchenette with two-burner stove, refrigerator and sink. Full back canopy with windows, electric anchor wrench, auto starter for 110v generator. Runs great. Excellent for overnight fishing and sightseeing. Berthed in Stockton, Calif. No trades. (209) 470-7029. Reg# 1774822.

FOR SALE: Ranch in the Okanogan Highland. 2 bd, large den. 1,500 square feet. Gas, wood stove, two stories, two-car garage, tack room, barn, hay sheds, stable for horses, sheep shed and pen, chicken pen, pig pens, 35.55

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) 486-0830. Reg# 1770647.

FOR SALE: Watch fobs DW-15, D6-9u cable dozer, D9L and D11T, a few others available. Call Mike at (707) 996-8097. Reg# 1768903.

FOR SALE: Retired field mechanics tools: 1/4" drive through 3/4 drive U.S.S. and Metric chrome and impact sockets. Snap-On and Mac. Ratchets, extensions, breaker bars, torque wrenches. Combination wrenches U.S.S. and Metric. Screwdrivers, pliers, hammers, etc. Too much to list, plus a new roll-around toolbox with top box. Great start for apprentice mechanic. No reasonable offer refused. (415) 559-6500. Reg# 1986429.

FOR SALE: 2004 Dodge Ram 2500 Heavy Duty 32,000 original miles. Very clean. Non-smoker. Original owner. Sun roof, tonneau cover, sprayed bed liner, running boards and tow package. \$17,500 OBO. (925) 864-2647. Reg# 2072275.

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

FOR SALE: 4,000 Ford 4-cylinder gasoline tractor. Three-point hookup. Has a 1-yard loader. Good tires. Has a new pump for pasturing and new tachometer. Runs good. Set up for tilt scraper. \$3,000 OBO. Also: Air compressor with Honda engine. Two tanks set up for painting. Double hook-up. \$300. (916) 991-1530. Reg# 0486196.

FOR SALE: 14' traveler 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' vacation trailer or house trailer. (916) 991-1530. Reg# 0486196.

FOR SALE: 1979 Ford Bronco in excellent shape. Cream yellow/root beer. Garaged, all stock except radio. Mileage: 85,500. \$8,500. (408) 847-4913. Reg# 2026998.

FOR SALE: Burial plot in Lawncrest Cemetery in Redding, Calif. Plot, vault and opening/closing package deal. \$3,000. (Lawncrest price for same is \$5,385.) (530) 243-0801. Reg# 0674918.



# Gas-to-energy plant first of its kind in Nevada

Story and photos by Dominique Beilke, art director

Now your curbside garbage can return as electricity for your home! Local 3 members employed at Waste Management’s gas-to-energy power plant at the Lockwood Landfill are learning all about this renewable-energy process.

The Reno, Nev. plant, which went online a year ago, uses 60 vertical wells to collect methane gas and pipe it back to the power plant, where it is used as fuel to run two Cat V20 generators. This energy is then sold back to the utility company to power more than 1,800 homes (3.2 megawatts of electricity)!

The worksite is built out of cells made of buried layers of garbage, the majority of which is collected from Washoe County (Reno and Sparks). Some is also collected from Douglas County, Lyon County, the South Lake Tahoe area and a few California communities, such as Sacramento and Grass Valley.

Organic materials like food and yard-waste decompose to create a gas comprised of about 55 percent methane, which can be converted to energy. The process is one big chemistry project, but it only works when our Operating Engineers play their part by following a plan to build a bench system out of the cells that will maximize the overall life of the landfill. Dozer operators push truckloads, about 22 tons each, of trash into the 100-by-200-foot cells, where it is then compacted. It takes about two weeks to fill an entire cell. Once filled, the cell is covered with soil and a new one is started next to it.

There’s literally tons of trash onsite – crews work with about 2,200 tons per day – but you’d never know it. According to 15-year Operator Joe Brooks, “it’s a supermarket of smells,” but none of them bother him at all.

With only a handful of operators working onsite, it is important for them to learn how to operate everything, from the haul truck to the excavator.

The plant is the first of its kind in Nevada and should be running for decades.

“Following the plan, we have 30 to 40 years of life with the current footprint. We are working on expanding with the acreage we already own, and that could take us out to 100 years,” said Foreman Steve Nichols.

Now that’s job security!



From left: Joe Brooks and Bill Mandeville work at the Lockwood Landfill, loading material used to cover the completed cells.



Operator Joe Gardella.



From left: Mike Smyth and Foreman Steve Nichols.



From left: Haul Truck Operator Mitch Gallagher covers a completed cell while Shannon Allen compacts trash in the new cell.