Sincerest wishes for a holiday season filled with happiness for you and those you love and a new year overflowing with joy, prosperity and peace.

Russ Burns, Business Manager,
and the Local 3 officers
For The Good & Welfare
By Russ Burns, business manager

In 75 years, Local 3 has always persevered

It is with regret that I must inform this membership that a group of disgruntled former staff and members of Local 3 has filed a vicious, libelous and highly offensive lawsuit against our local union and the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE).

Since this administration took office in 2006, we have made transparency and accountability our top priorities by publishing the local’s financial reports quarterly and Health and Welfare disbursements semi-annually. (You can read them this month on pages 4 and 5.) We have also established an elected Bylaws Committee and maintained a frugal budget. We have worked hard to prove that Local 3 has nothing to hide by willingly sharing the good news and the bad about our funds, the economy and our work picture. We have made every effort to invest our monies wisely and have made some difficult though necessary Plan changes to our Pension and Health and Welfare Funds to ensure their solvency. We have also been available and forthright in responding to members’ concerns.

The accusers knew that if they had issues about any financial transaction, etc., they could request a meeting with any of the officers and review the books. The fact that they chose not to do this, or even advise the officers or Executive Board of their concerns, makes it clear that their agenda is a political one and that their plan is to undermine the positive gains we have made.

Rest assured – we will not let that happen. We will not run, and we will not hide. We will deal with these outrageous charges in the same transparent way that we have dealt with everything else. Clearly, this handful of members is using the legal arena to further their own political agendas.

It is unfortunate that instead of keeping their false accusations “in-house,” they have chosen to make false claims for all to see at a great cost to the membership (lawsuits are not cheap) and to the public’s perception of unions. We are prepared to do everything possible to make these accusers pay for the resources the union will have to use to win this case.

You may start to hear things about this lawsuit in the field or in the media. I ask that you contact your union staff immediately for clarification and the facts. I also ask that you keep reading your Engineers News and visiting the union’s website, including the Members Only section, at www.oe3.org.

Please remember why this union is great. We are embarking on our 75th anniversary next year, and in that timeframe, this local union has weathered world wars, financial depressions and recessions, internal strife, heated internal and external elections and much more, and through every bit of adversity, we fight back harder than before. Remember what this union means to you, and do not let false accusations tarnish your allegiance to this great organization.

Speaking of this union’s great history, you will find information in this edition about next year’s 75th anniversary celebration, which includes a special event at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom on June 28 and a commerorative edition of the Engineers News. More details will be forthcoming. You don’t want to miss the fun.

As we celebrate our history, we can also celebrate the fact that it seems we are coming out of the Great Recession. Don’t take my word for it – ask your fellow members. Some say they’ve worked more hours this year than several previous seasons combined!

They also say that more work has lasted longer into the offseason than in previous years. This equates to more money coming into our funds. Through September, our Pension returns were at about 12.2 percent net, which is the highest return reported since 2007. We also have reserves in our Health and Welfare Funds, which are faring better than Plan changes implemented earlier this year. Our surveyors are experiencing an economic recovery of their own, as their department has signed 80 new agreements so far this year and their hours are up by 22 percent. (You can read their report on page 7.)

As the year winds down, it’s good to note that big projects are on the books for 2014, including lots of water-infrastructure jobs, bridge demos and more private work.

Please be safe out there, as the winter months mean more driving time in the dark and inclement weather. Please also enjoy your families during the holidays. Family, including your big union one, is what matters most at this time. Best holiday wishes to you all, and here’s to a great 2014.
Help us help you on federal prevailing-wage survey

First of all, I want to wish you all happy holidays this season. Hopefully you are able to spend some quality time with family and friends, and if you are working, hopefully you’re getting some good hours!

Though this is the slow season for many of us, your staff in California has been heavily focusing on the U.S. Department of Labor’s (DOL’s) Davis-Bacon residential wage survey, which will impact residential construction in the following counties: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, Tuolumne, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake and Mendocino.

As I mentioned in October’s column, we were able to extend the survey-data-collection period by six months, meaning the survey will take into consideration residential work performed between Jan. 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013.

All counties have been asked to provide the rates paid during this 18-month timeframe by March 21, 2014. The more union data we report to the DOL, the better chance we have of protecting and even raising current Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) rates, including fringes. (A wage survey like this has not been conducted in California since 1986.) Keep in mind that only four of the 21 counties in question have current CBA rates and those are in jeopardy too. If we fail to provide sufficient data and the non-union provides more, the lower rates may prevail, lowering rates for all of us.

To be as successful as possible, we have teamed up with other unions/crafts affiliated with the California State Building Trades Council and the Northern California Basic Crafts Alliance to pool together our resources. We have also been looking at how unions in other states were successful in protecting a prevailing-wage rate when a survey was conducted, such as those in Indiana. We will be pulling permits, checking dispatch records and Dodge reports and working with our contractors to get the most data possible. Believe me, we will leave no stone unturned, because every wage reported can help.

To those of you working in these rural counties, there are some key things you can do to help. Call your district office if you worked on a residential job during the timeframe mentioned above. These are projects that include the construction, alteration or repair of single-family homes, apartments or buildings of no more than four stories high. Work may include site work, parking, utilities, streets and sidewalks. Even if the job started before the time period in question or finished after, it may qualify. Don’t hesitate to call your hall with any questions about this and potential jobs that you worked on.

As I mentioned earlier, the more data we can provide, the more accurate the survey will be and the more effective we will be at protecting and perhaps improving our prevailing-wage rate.

Thanks for all of your input on this and in other areas. We are only as strong as your participation. Please know that we are always here working for you!

Again, happy holidays to you and yours.
Third Quarter 2013 Financial Results

Growth in our nation’s economy accelerated during the third quarter of 2013, with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increasing at a 2.8 percent annual rate. While this was only a slight increase over the second quarter’s 2.5 percent increase, it was better than the 2.0 percent growth rate forecast by most economists and was the largest increase since the third quarter of 2012. Nevertheless, breaking down the numbers showed underlying weakness in the economy, as growth was mostly driven by business-inventory restocking and state- and local-government spending. Business investment, consumer spending and exports all declined during the third quarter. With uncertainty in the economy and government’s inability to show compromise, businesses remained reluctant to invest and hire new employees and consumers remained cautious in their spending. Inflation, however, remains subdued, interest rates are low and gasoline prices continue to fall.

During the third quarter of 2013, the pace of job growth slowed moderately, with 490,000 new jobs created. The government sector added 33,000 jobs, as state- and local-government hiring more than offset declines in federal-government employment. The private sector created 457,000 new jobs, with 18,000 in the construction industry. Nationally, the unemployment rate for September 2013 decreased to 7.3 percent from 7.6 percent at the end of June 2013. Within Local 3’s jurisdiction, unemployment results were mixed. From July 2013 to August 2013(1), California’s unemployment rate increased from 8.5 percent to 8.9 percent, while Hawaii’s rate fell from 4.5 percent to 4.3 percent and Nevada’s rate fell from 9.6 percent to 9.5 percent. Utah’s unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.7 percent.

During the third quarter of 2013, Local 3’s membership increased by 45 members, resulting in a Year-To-Date (YTD) membership loss through September 2013 of 368 members or 1.06 percent. Total membership as of September 2013 stood at 34,079.

Financially, third quarter 2013 results showed a net income of $54,203 for Local 3. Revenues came in at $11.4 million – a 3.5 percent increase over the same period in 2012. Expenses were $11.4 million – up 20 percent versus 2012. YTD through September 2013, revenues stood at $30.5 million – $1,072,000 (3.6 percent) above the same period in 2012. YTD expenditures through September 2013 stood at $32.8 million – a $2,057,000 (6.7 percent) increase versus 2012. Overall, Local 3’s net loss was $2,277,844 during the first nine months of 2013. Revenues continued to benefit from increased window-dues and supplemental-dues receipts, reimbursement of 2012 political costs from the union’s statewide Political Action Committee (PAC) and organizing grant funds from the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE). Expenses rose primarily due to increased employment costs, higher per-capita tax payments to state and local building trades organizations and higher 2012 Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program costs paid in 2013. Overall, YTD financial results through September 2013 were slightly behind budgeted expectations ($338,767).

However, Local 3’s membership can rest assured that its union’s finances remain solid. From September 2012 to September 2013, on an “all funds” basis, Local 3 has increased its reserves from $61.7 million to more than $62.2 million. Since the end of 2006, on an “all funds” basis, Local 3 has steadily grown its reserves from $53.1 million to more than $62.2 million as of September 2013 (an increase of more than $9.1 million).

As of September 2013, construction hours throughout the local’s jurisdiction continue to be mixed, with California’s hours up and Hawaii, Nevada and Utah’s hours down. Across all jurisdictions, YTD construction hours for 2013 remain on par with 2012. Survey hours once again continue to be the bright spot, with 2013 hours up more than 20 percent versus 2012.

(1) State unemployment rates for September 2013 not available due to government shutdown.
Commentary (Third Quarter 2013): The U.S. stock market had another great return period in the third quarter, with the S&P 500 Index up 5.2 percent for the quarter and 19.8 percent Year-To-Date (YTD). Smaller cap stocks did even better, with the Russell 2000 Index up 10.2 percent for the quarter and 27.7 percent YTD. Despite this run-up, price/earnings ratios are reasonable (forward P/E for the S&P 500 at about 15 times), inflation is low and earnings growth is still increasing modestly. Non-U.S. equity also had a great third-quarter rally with the MSCI EAFE Index increasing 11.5 percent. On the bond side, rates moved down slightly following the market's over-reaction in the second quarter to rumors of the Federal Reserve slowing its bond-buying. Lower rates in the five- and 10-year part of the yield-curve provided a 0.57 percent return for the Barclays Aggregate Bond Index in the third quarter, but the index is still down 1.9 percent YTD. The mortgage-backed component of the Barclays Aggregate Index experienced significant duration-extension from 3.25 years at the beginning of the year to 5.5 years, as mortgage rates have jumped. High Yield bonds held up well, as they have shorter durations and higher yields to protect against price declines. Hedge Fund of Funds were not immune to rising rates or the equity retrenchment in June, but early indications are the HFRI HFOF composite will be up for the quarter and in the 5 percent or more range YTD. Real estate continues to have good cash returns along with modest appreciation, and the NCREIF ODCE Index is estimated to be up another 5 percent or more for the quarter.
Both sides of the aisle

Every now and then I hear a member ask if we’re bound to one particular political party or another. Most often the concern centers around whether Local 3 is supporting a candidate via endorsements, campaign contributions, putting up signs, etc. who might be against the union’s interests but represents a certain party. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Local 3 has always made it a commitment to work in a non-partisan fashion at the local, state and federal levels throughout our four-state jurisdiction. Our guiding principal is to work for and on behalf of our members. We look for and are willing to work with politicians of any political party if they will support and work on behalf of our issues. We work with “both sides of the aisle” – Democrats and Republicans – and occasionally an independent.

Don’t get me wrong – we contribute money and give endorsements to plenty of Democrats but not exclusively. This bipartisan approach was developed and honed to perfection at the national level by the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE). Our Washington, D.C. leaders and staff have lobbied, worked with and supported congressional members on both sides of the aisle for a long time. This is one of the major reasons there is still a national prevailing wage. (Too bad the current, dysfunctional Congress couldn’t keep this approach!)

After seeing success at the national level, Local 3 decided long ago to take this pragmatic approach to politics – an approach that gets things done. Let me give you some examples.

In Utah, the Republican Party controls the state Legislature and the state executive branch. However, Democrats dominate city councils and mayoral positions in and around Salt Lake City, so we endorse and work with politicians from both parties at the local and state levels – those who will support job safety, infrastructure development, education and training, etc. In a state like Utah, we have to work with both sides of the aisle if we want to get anything done.

In California, where Democrats control both houses of the state Legislature, every statewide elected office, both U.S. Senate seats and the majority of congressional seats, we do the same thing. In the left-leaning, coastal districts north of San Francisco, we helped get Republicans elected at the supervisory level in Mendocino and Sonoma counties and in city-council races in Petaluma. These elected officials are committed to working with us on local issues that benefit our members.

We also supported Assembly Bill (AB) 410 because it would help keep surveyors and technical engineers covered by prevailing wages on design/bid/build projects. Unfortunately, this legislation was opposed by a number of powerful groups in Sacramento. Looking for a way to insure its passage, Local 3 Technical Engineers Senior Business Agent John Rector approached state Sen. Anthony Cannella, a Republican from Modesto, to help push the legislation through the Senate. Cannella came through for us by helping get the bill through the critical Senate Transportation Committee and passed on the Senate floor. Ultimately, AB 410 was signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown, but it never would have made it to his desk without the help of Cannella.

Next time you hear someone complaining about union contributions or endorsements always going to a particular party, let them know we have to work with a broad spectrum of politicians to get things done. We don’t care what letter comes after their name!
Talking with the Treasurer

By Steve Ingersoll, treasurer

Tech News

An update on apprenticeship programs and safety

By John Rector, senior business representative

Time doesn’t stop or wait for anything or anyone

Looking back at 2013, it was a very busy and productive year. District Meetings, picnics, Semi-Annuals, apprenticeship graduations – there is always something going on within Local 3. It’s hard to believe the year is almost over.

This year brought a lot of great moments. As your newest officer, I got the opportunity to travel throughout our jurisdiction and attend the District and Retiree Meetings, seeing some old friends and meeting new ones. It was nice to hear about all the work going on in Northern California, from skyscrapers to subdivisions. Hopefully, as California gets busier, the rest of the country will follow. The future looks good in our other three states too, with a lot of very skilled apprentices graduating from our different programs.

We did have some very sad times in 2013 with the loss of some good brothers and sisters who will be deeply missed.

Next year will be filled with its own challenges, from Northern Nevada having its Master Agreement negotiations to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the never-ending political season. We ask all members to stay involved and help elect labor-friendly politicians who support collective bargaining, prevailing wage and the issues that affect our industry.

With 2013 in the rearview mirror, I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead in 2014. Be safe on the job, as we want you to make it home at the end of your shift. I look forward to serving this great membership in the new year.

Talking with the Treasurer

By Steve Ingersoll, treasurer

An update on apprenticeship programs and safety

By John Rector, senior business representative

The Testing and Inspection Apprenticeship Program currently has 110 active participants.

Earlier this year, it was inaccurately reported in the local news that a land surveyor was killed on a project on Mare Island; the Local 3 member was actually working as a gradesetter. Modern surveying technology allows us to work alone, and sometimes that means working right in the mix of a project surrounded by moving equipment. Let us not forget to be aware of our surroundings on the jobsite, wear the proper safety equipment, make good eye contact with the equipment operators and avoid any task that could be deemed unsafe.

We wish you a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to another great year in 2014.
Another year has passed, meaning we are another year older and, more importantly, another year farther away from 2008. Looking back on this past year, things started to look better and turn around for some of our members, but for others, it was the same old doom and gloom. As is my nature, I will focus on the positive and build on that as I go into 2014. The negative can be improved upon and turned around.

Who made this year better, or at least tried? Who continues to be a pain, or as we say this time of year, a Scrooge? Who gets a Christmas card, and who gets a piece of coal in their stocking?

The city of Fremont gets a Christmas card, because officials there came into negotiations with a positive attitude after four years of takeaways and negative negotiations and sincerely wanted to give something back to their employees. Rio Vista also gets a Christmas card for giving back to employees after years of takeaways. Sierra County, however, gets a piece of coal, because county officials insist on doing almost everything wrong and still haven’t figured out how to handle employees. Plumas County is another coal-receiver for the same reasons. Zone 7 and Alameda County get Christmas cards, because they worked at giving back to their employees after years of no raises and cuts. (I think Alameda County could have been more generous, like it was with the County Administrator’s Office (CAO), but at least it gave something back.) Santa Rosa gets a big, old piece of coal, because, as has been its practice over the past few years, officials went into negotiations with more cuts and furloughs, even though the city has a positive cash flow and reserves in its coffers. The city continues to beat its employees down, even though employees have made concessions over the past years.

Alameda County Courts gets a piece of coal, because the negotiator was difficult to work with for no reason other than just wanting to be difficult. Scotts Valley Police Department also gets coal, because it just can’t seem to do an internal-affairs investigation the right way. The city of Greenfield gets a piece of coal, because no one could figure out how to have a chief of police who serves only the city of Greenfield and its citizens. I’m going to go out on a limb and give El Dorado County a Christmas card, because it appears, at the time of this writing, that the county is going to give something back to our members after years of takeaways and no raises. The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and the county’s elected officials are still overpaid for the size and population of the county, but it is the giving season, so why not? The Olivehurst Public Utility District and its entire board of directors all get coal in their stockings, because the district is top-heavy and really does not care about its employees. It throws away good employees and is simply a training ground for other utility districts. Lake County also gets a piece of coal, because the Board of Supervisors gives raises to management but refuses to improve salary and benefits for our members. (It’s really dysfunctional.) Oakdale Irrigation, with its $45 million in reserves, always wants the employees to give something up, while it insists on taking anything away that it can. Obviously it gets coal too!

After much reflection and thought, this next person and his associates do not get a piece of coal in their stockings, but instead, we need to get a Caterpillar 793c with a 240-ton capacity and deliver a whole load of coal to San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed and his posse – San Bernardino Mayor Pat Morris, Santa Ana Mayor Miguel Pulido, Anaheim Mayor Tom Tait and Pacific Grove Mayor Bill Kampe – for their Pension Reform Initiative 2014, which they filed with the state attorney general in October. It appears Reed wants to turn all of California into the mess he created in San Jose. With Measure B, he decimated the San Jose Police Department by 250 officers, single-handedly raised the city’s crime rate and destroyed employee morale. You could say Reed has given everyone a gift that lasts all year long.

To my members, merry Christmas and happy New Year’s. No matter what holidays you celebrate, enjoy them with family and friends. See all of you in 2014.

Finally, a raise

By Prudence Slaathaug, business representative

In 2006, County Employee Management Association (CEMA) members received a 1 percent wage increase. Little did the 1,500 represented employees realize that there would not be another increase for seven years. For two of the intervening years, members contributed millions of dollars in concessions to the county of Santa Clara. Houses were lost, college educations were delayed and savings were depleted. Yet the amount of work increased, as work was spread among fewer employees. The Great Recession resulted in a massive loss of purchasing power and a shift of wealth out of the middle class and into the top tier of the economy.

While all workers faced similar fates, public employees were attacked for their pensions and benefits that had been negotiated over the years. The next generation will have smaller pensions and income security, while wages for current employees will continue to erode because of the recession and the rising cost of health care. Public employers had a variety of responses to the financial crisis and the attack on pensions. Cities like San Jose engaged in open warfare with unions, unilaterally imposing wage and benefit cuts. Stockton declared bankruptcy. BART embraced an effort to make concessions permanent after unions bailed out ailing general funds during the downturn.

The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and its administration took a more balanced approach. Unions conceded an amount that averaged between 5 and 7 percent of the general fund over two years. With that revenue, the county avoided layoffs during the worst years of the downturn and continued to provide vital services to residents who were hit hard by the loss of employment, health care, housing, etc. Employee health care and pension benefits that had been financed over many years by foregoing wage increases were protected.

As the economy began to emerge from the recession, the county and CEMA bargained to return the concessions given during the Great Recession and for a modest raise of 2 percent. The county has also started to add employees back to the workforce to enhance the safety-net services.

Negotiations were not easy, as the role of the employer will always be to hold down and/or cut the costs of doing business. However, in the larger context of how public employers responded to the recession, Santa Clara County stands out as an example of one that looked ahead and beyond the immediate opportunity to take undue advantage of its workforce. The county will slowly recover without the lasting scars and negative consequences experienced by employers turning on their own workforce.
It appears the economy is coming back and not a moment too soon! Most public employers in District 60 are enjoying the improvement as witnessed by the salary increases they are giving themselves instead of their employees who work in the streets and public-works yards making necessary repairs to public-owned property or in the office having contact with the citizens they are responsible for. Apparently, the managers think it’s more important to give themselves salary increases to compensate for the hard times when they couldn’t get what they thought they deserved. Maybe there will be some increases for the employees after management officials get through taking their piece of the pie and there are still a few crumbs left.

An example of this double standard is what’s going on in negotiations with the Housing Authority of Butte County. In the latest successor agreement, employees are expected to pick up more of the health-insurance premiums. Management officials stated that they have to pick up the same increase, which is true. However, what they failed to disclose until we pushed was that the employer has been paying the entire amount of their insurance premiums until now. To show “fairness,” the managers received a salary increase equal to what was being paid for them, and from this point forward, management will pay the same amount as the employees. No salary increase was given to the employees to offset this increase. It’s just more money coming out of their pockets. (Management officials also got an increase to their pensions.) This is all legal – and unethical. It sure makes it hard for morale within the company to be anything higher than the “cow pie” that management officials threw at employees.

As I mentioned, maybe management officials will eventually do the right thing for their employees – and if you believe that, please come and see me. I have a bridge for sale.

The North State, year-to-date

By Art W. Frolli, business representative

Many of the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) negotiated last year only carried a one-year term. This resulted in multiple contracts opening for successor negotiations this year.

Contracts with the city of Corning were successfully negotiated last December for the Corning Police Officers, Management and Dispatchers, but the term was only for one year, which means they’re open for negotiations again.

The city of Corning Miscellaneous Employees’ MOU differs by six months from the other city bargaining units. These members received a one-year agreement with a 2 percent increase to their base salaries. In addition, they also agreed to a classification and salary-equity study. (Classification and equity adjustments were made to a portion of the employees’ salaries, ranging from 2 to 10 percent.)

The city of Weed agreed to a three-year term in which its employees moved from an inferior health-care plan to the California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS) one and the city’s contribution increased by $25 toward the payment of their premiums. In addition, our members received a base-salary increase of 2 percent in the first year and increases in the following two years based on the growth of the General Fund from the previous year, with a guarantee of at least a 1 percent increase each year.

In Tehama County, our members did not fare as well. All of the bargaining units agreed to start paying part or all of the employee portion of their CalPERS pensions except for ours. The county would not budge on making our members assume these payments, so we focused on making the transition as painless as possible. We negotiated a three-year term in which our members contribute 3 percent each year for a total of 9 percent of their base salaries and receive 2 percent and 1 percent salary increases for a net loss of 6 percent at the contract’s end.

In the city of Dunsmuir, an agreement was made for a long-term MOU that extends through June 30, 2017. For each year of the contract, our members will receive an increase to their salaries not less than the Consumer Price Index West (CPI-W) schedule for urban and clerical workers. (This year it was 1.7 percent.) In addition, the city agreed to match the employees’ contributions to their 457 retirement plans up to 2 percent of their base salaries.

Negotiations with the city of Crescent City on behalf of the Police Officers’ Bargaining Unit were drawn out due to a change in the city manager’s position. However, a three-year MOU was negotiated. The contract required our members to assume the cost of their CalPERS pensions over a three-year period at the rate of 2.5 percent the first and second years and 2 percent the third year for a total of 7 percent. Our members will receive a 1 percent increase to their base salaries each year of the contract, which will result in a 4 percent net loss at the contract’s end.

The city of Susanville Fire Fighters, Public Works and Miscellaneous Employees were previously represented by our Reno office and are new to me this year. I am pleased to say that we were able to negotiate a two-year MOU for all three of these groups that provided a 2 percent salary increase each year. The city also agreed to pay any increases to their health-care-premium costs.

In the city of Mt. Shasta, the Police Officers Unit and Dispatchers Unit accepted a two-year successor agreement in which they received a 3.5 percent increase to their base salaries each year, while assuming the same amount of payment toward their CalPERS pensions. In addition, the city will contribute an additional $75 to their health-care flex-benefit cafeteria plans each month starting the first year and an additional $75 a month the second year for a total increase of $150 per month.

We recently completed negotiations with the city of Arcata and settled for a two-year MOU. Our members received a 1.5 percent increase to their base salaries along with a one-time payment of $350 for the first year of the contract and a 1 percent increase to their base salaries along with a one-time payment of $350 in the second year.

Negotiations in Siskiyou County on behalf of the Trade Craft Bargaining Unit have arrived at an impasse. At the time of this writing, we are waiting to enter into mediation.
Happy holidays to you and your family. As we close out 2013, we have many things to be grateful for. This year has proven to be one of recovery for many. The job market, coupled with the resurgence in the housing market, shows an economy that is bouncing back. At OE Federal, the strong leadership of our board of directors and management team is allowing us to continue to grow and become financially stronger than in previous years. But we wouldn’t be standing strong without you. The loyalty and support of our members are truly the legs we stand on.

Together, we have made 2013 a productive year for OE Federal. We were able to offer historically low auto- and real-estate-loan rates, which helped our members save money. We are happy for those of you who were able to afford a new home or vehicle. Our staff also worked extremely hard to develop new products and services that increased our member base. To all of our new members, thank you, and welcome to our family.

As we enter our 50th year of service, the outlook for OE Federal is fantastic, and we are poised to be stronger in 2014. We are excited to roll out new products and services like our Mobile Deposit, designed to make your life a little easier. While we grow and change, our main focus will be as it has always been – to remain fully committed to our members and their families who have entrusted us with their finances.

Thank you for choosing OE Federal as your financial institution. We are honored that you, our union brothers and sisters, have placed your trust and finances with us. We appreciate you and your family. If you’re not currently a member and are tired of being treated like a number, give us a try. You’ll see the difference that is OE Federal. We treat you like family, because to us, you are family. If you are currently a member and one of your immediate family members wants to join, call (800) 877-4444 or visit www.oefcu.org or any local branch to learn more.

GIVE THE PERFECT GIFT

To friends and family this holiday season.

A VISA Gift Card from OE Federal is the perfect gift for friends and family. Plus, save money with no purchase fees* on VISA Gift Cards from November 1st – December 31st.

Call or visit our website for more information!

Wishing you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

OE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
(800) 877-4444
oefcu.org

*$3.00 Purchase Fee waived until December 31, 2013 for VISA Gift Card. Monthly inactivity fee of $2.95 after 12 consecutive months of inactivity. Lost/stolen replacement card fee of $5.00. Other fees may apply. Offer valid November 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013. Gift Cards are issued by Metallbank. For Terms and Conditions visit www.myprepaidbalance.com and enter your Gift Card number to retrieve the Terms and Conditions.
Next year is full of training opportunities – don’t miss out!

We are pleased to announce the Rancho Murieta Training Center’s (RMTC’s) tentative 2014 training schedule. Whether you’re a journey-level operator looking for some upgrade-training or an apprentice going through your steps, we have something for you! Call the RMTC at (916) 354-2029 for more information.

Tentative 2014 Training Schedule

Please note: All dates are subject to change. Additional classes to be determined based on interest and need.

January
6-17 – Supplemental Related Training (SRT)/Journey-Level Training (JYN)*
9 – Hazmat refresher (Redding)
11 – Hazmat refresher (Rohnert Park)
17 – Hazmat refresher (Eureka)
20-31 – SRT/JYN*
28 – Hazmat refresher (Alameda)
30 – Hazmat refresher (Morgan Hill)

February
3-4 – SRT/JYN*
8 – Hazmat refresher (Stockton)
18-28 – SRT/JYN*
22 – Hazmat refresher (Rohnert Park)

March
3-April 26 – Probationary Orientation Period (POP) (no JYN)
8 – Hazmat refresher (Sacramento)
15 – Hazmat refresher (Fresno)
29 – Hazmat refresher (Alameda)

April
5 – Hazmat refresher (Stockton)
12 – Hazmat refresher (Morgan Hill)
28-June 20 – POP (no JYN)

May
POP continues

June
23-Aug. 22 – POP* (no JYN)

July
POC continues

August
POC continues

September
2-12 – SRT/JYN*
15-26 – SRT/JYN*
29-Oct. 10 – SRT/JYN*

October
3-24 – SRT/JYN*
27-Nov. 7 – SRT/JYN*

November
10-21 – SRT/JYN*

December
1-12 – SRT/JYN*

* Equipment classes to be determined.
* Journey-level operators must meet minimum eligibility requirements to qualify for JYN.

Field Perspective: What the members are saying

Why did you switch from working non-union to working union?

“My dad was an Operating Engineer and just retired. He let me know how good it was.”
– David Dozler, apprentice

“I got a better opportunity working out in the field.”
– Clay Bushey, apprentice

“Better wages. Benefits. My grandfather was an Operating Engineer, and I wanted to follow in his footsteps. He tried to get me in, but he couldn’t at the time.”
– Mark Fitzgerald, 25-year member

“I got lucky. I was working for a company that was non-union that turned union. I went in on it, and I’ve been here ever since. …I’m glad I made the switch.”
– Bill Silacci, 15-year member

“Better health and welfare, retirement.”
– Mark Brady, 12-year member

Rancho Murieta Training Center
for apprentice to journey-level operators
By Tammy Castillo, director of apprenticeship

December 2013 | 11
The 1920s were tough on unions

As we review significant periods in the history of U.S. labor, there are patterns or cycles in our economic system that are clearly identifiable. The 1920s marked a period of drastic decline for the labor movement. Union membership and activities fell sharply in the face of economic prosperity and anti-union sentiments from both employers and the government. Unions found it much harder to organize strikes. In 1919, more than 4 million workers (or 21 percent of the labor force) participated in about 3,600 strikes. In contrast, about 289,000 workers (or 1.2 percent of the labor force) organized only 900 strikes in 1929. As we have discussed here, during the previous 25 years, many important advances were made in workplace safety and working conditions and small improvements were made in compensation. Most often, the determining factor in obtaining improvements was working people’s willingness to withhold their labor in the face of horrific conditions.

During the 1920s, as the coffers of the elite class grew, so did greed. Resources were devoted to political influence, which led to anti-labor legislation. Employers across the nation led many successful campaigns against unions and working people, such as the “American Plan,” which sought to depict unions as “alien.” Advertising campaigns that were supposed to promote the nation’s “individualistic spirit” were ultimately used to criticize concerted activity. Sound familiar? Some employers, like the National Association of Manufacturers, used Red Scare tactics to discredit unionism by linking them to subversive activities. (The Red Scare has traditionally been the most effective tactic to dismantle powerful movements within the U.S., used over and over again in our brief history.)

U.S. courts were also less hospitable to union activities during the 1920s than in the past. In this decade, corporations used twice as many court injunctions against strikes than in any comparable period. Union tactics that had proven effective in years past were outlawed. However, the practice of forcing employees (by threat of termination) to sign yellow-dog contracts that said they would not join a union was not outlawed until 1932.

Unprecedented prosperity for the very rich was enjoyed in the 1920s like no other time before or since, up until the last five-year period (2008-2013). The labor movement declined during the prominence of the 1920s. Unbridled greed would drive the country into the Great Depression. Capital requires labor in order to prosper, and as prosperity grows, greed takes over, resulting in domination by the elite class until the working class is forced to fight back in order to survive. As working people’s conditions slowly improve and their lives become more comfortable, they are able to enjoy diversions and recreational activities. This helps the rich profit and influence the thinking of the masses as well as political and legislative entities. And so goes the ebb and flow.

The battle continues.
Fringe Benefits
By Charlie Warren, director

Christmas greetings

We would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season. It was good to see so many of you at the meetings this past year – we always encourage and appreciate your input regarding the benefit plans.

We wish continued good health to you and your family. We would also like to offer our condolences to those of you who lost a loved one this year. We recognize it makes the holidays particularly difficult. We encourage those who can to pick up the phone and call a friend during this time. Drop by the home of one of your fellow Operating Engineers and talk about old times. A hopeful spirit encourages many.

Thanks to our officers, district representatives and staff for their dedicated work and a special thanks to our Retiree Chapter Chairmen: Ephraim Bergau, Brian Bishop, Curtis Brown, Alban Byer (emeritus), Leon Calkins, Leo Cummings, Mario Dumlao, Bill Marshall, Norman Morell Jr., Gary Morthole (emeritus), Myron Pederson, Jack Russo, Jack Short, Norman Smith, Randy Stage, Larry Summerfield, Del Surette, Robert Toscano, Marin Vallejo, Denny Wright and Bob Yturriaga.

Pre-Retirement Meetings
Pre-Retirement Meetings start next month. Members 50 years of age and over will receive a postcard reminder of the meeting in their area, though members of any age are welcome to attend. We encourage you and your spouse to familiarize yourselves with all aspects of your retirement benefits, as they have a direct bearing on your financial security.

Please check the schedule below to find the meeting in your area.

Pre-Retirement Meetings
All meetings convene at 7 p.m.

SACRAMENTO
Tuesday, Jan. 7
Operating Engineers’ Building
3920 Lennane Drive

AUBURN
Wednesday, Jan. 8
Auburn Recreation Center – Lakeside Room
3770 Richardson Drive

YUBA CITY
Thursday, Jan. 9
Hampton Inn
1375 Sunsweet Blvd.

STOCKTON
Tuesday, Jan. 14
Operating Engineers’ Building
1916 N. Broadway Ave.

FREEDOM
Wednesday, Jan. 15
VFW Post 1716
325 Digital Drive

MORGAN HILL
Thursday, Jan. 16
Operating Engineers’ Building
5298 Clayton Road

CONCORD
Tuesday, Jan. 21
Centre Concord
5298 Clayton Road

ROHNERT PARK
Wednesday, Jan. 22
Operating Engineers’ Building
6225 State Farm Drive

OAKLAND
Thursday, Jan. 23
Operating Engineers’ Building
1620 South Loop Road
Alameda, CA

BURLINGAME
Tuesday, Jan. 28
Transport Workers Union Hall
1521 Rollins Road

NOVATO
Wednesday, Jan. 29
Novato Oaks Inn – Redwood Room
215 Alameda Del Prado

FAIRFIELD
Thursday, Jan. 30
Centre Concord
5298 Clayton Road

FRESNO
Wednesday, Feb. 12
Operating Engineers’ Building
4856 N. Cedar Ave.

REDDING
Thursday, Feb. 20
Operating Engineers’ Building
20308 Engineers Lane

EUREKA
Tuesday, Feb. 25
Best Western Bayshore Inn
3500 Broadway St.

RENO
Tuesday, March 11
Operating Engineers’ Building
1290 Corporate Blvd.

SANDY
Wednesday, March 12
Operating Engineers’ Building
8805 S. Sandy Parkway

Retiree Post
Retirement is big for big family man

Some people didn’t think that 34-year member Manuel Morales would ever be able to retire! After they found out he had 11 kids, they’d warn, “You’re going to work until the day you drop dead.”

But Morales has proved them all wrong.

The former Ghilotti Construction foreman officially called it quits a little over a year ago, and he and his wife of 37 years, Cecilia, have been enjoying retirement ever since.

“It’s been great,” he said. “Look at me: I’m 61, and I’m not waiting for me to drop in a hole!”

So, how did the District 10 member do it?

“If you stay focused, practice good work ethics and safety … have a lot of respect for the boss and employees, you can do it,” he said.

Morales joined the union early, said he was never laid-off in his career and did “whatever needed to be done,” he explained. Together, this helped him get the hours he needed and made it possible for him to retire when he did.

“Unions are very good for the working class, and if it wasn’t for that, it would be like Mexico – you have the filthy rich and the dirt poor,” he said.

Now, Morales is able to focus on the really important things in life – his family, which includes five sons and six daughters who range in age from 9 to 35.

“The highlight of my life is listening to the kids at the dinner table,” he said, explaining that four of his kids still live at home. “I’m just so fortunate, and I feel very lucky.”

We wish continued good health to you and your family. We would also like to offer our condolences to those of you who lost a loved one this year. We recognize it makes the holidays particularly difficult. We encourage those who can to pick up the phone and call a friend during this time. Drop by the home of one of your fellow Operating Engineers and talk about old times. A hopeful spirit encourages many.

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A lot of people think Unit 12 only consists of the brave souls who work on the treacherous roadways for Caltrans, keeping our state highways clean and safe for us to travel on. However, Unit 12 is more than just those working in the Cone Zone.

The Unit 12 Crafts and Maintenance Division of Local 3 is comprised of members who work for the state of California in one of 45 classifications within 14 different departments across Northern California. Members work for the Department of Water Resources as Heavy Equipment Mechanics (HEMs) and utility craftsmen, keeping our water flowing, and for the California Highway Patrol (CHP) as Commercial Vehicle Inspection Specialists (CVISs), ensuring that the commercial vehicles on the road, and those who drive them, are safe. You will also find Unit 12 members working in the State Parks and Recreation Department as equipment operators and HEMs, keeping our state parks clean, safe and beautiful for us to enjoy. And you might be able to catch a glimpse of one of our heavy-truck drivers working in a facility run by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, delivering supplies to the kitchen or hauling away the garbage that is generated in our state prisons.

These are only a few examples of what our Unit 12 members do on a daily basis to keep the state of California safe and operational for our residents and visitors.

Please remember to Slow for the Cone Zone and give our Caltrans brothers and sisters a “brake” when you see them working on our highways. Be safe, and have a wonderful holiday season.

Unit 12 members play many roles
By Carl Carr, business representative

Local 3 Unit 12 Director Travis Tweedy recently finished a long round of negotiations with the state of California, and though the members did not receive everything they wanted, they did see some increases.

“You have to give to get,” said Shop Steward Carl Boling, who has been a Local 3 member since 1994 and currently sits on the bargaining committee. Boling has seen firsthand how complicated working with the state can be and is glad to have Tweedy, a seasoned negotiator, on his side.

“He’s been nothing but great,” Boling said. “Any questions I’ve had, he’s been nothing but helpful.”

Tweedy, an 18-year member, started his career working in the mines and at an ammunition depot in Nevada. He joined the Local 3 staff in 1998 and currently oversees Unit 12, which represents state employees who work for departments such as Caltrans, the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and many others.

Tweedy is the liaison between these members and the state and values the delicate balance between the two.

“I believe that there needs to be a balance between management and the working men and women,” he said. “Without the Union and Labor there would not be any balance. It is important to me that employers are living up to our contract rules and laws.”

Since negotiations wrapped up, Tweedy said he is focusing on a few key areas.

“We are currently looking to address some classifications’ pay issues and hope to get more in-line with the private sector,” he said. “We are also working to get Caltrans some safety retirement.”

Tweedy’s approach in negotiations and daily business is a level-headed, soft-spoken one, according to Job Steward/Department of General Services Operator Samuel Catalin.

“He’s the most level-headed guy in the room, and you need that balance,” Catalin said. “He’s not real outspoken, but what he does say is well-thought-out and well-reasoned.”

Catalin explained that state politics are complicated.

“These guys [union officials] know their stuff … labor law. I’m glad we have people like this [Tweedy] working for us – knowledgeable and who can remain calm under fire.”

Catalin is also impressed by the amount of time Tweedy dedicates to the membership.

“He puts in tremendous hours,” he said. “There’s not much life outside of it.”

“I try to do the best job I can for the members,” said Tweedy. Whether it’s reversing terminations, representing members in workers’ compensation cases or staying up all hours of the night to get the best possible contract for his members, Tweedy is the right man for the job.

Staff Spotlight: Travis Tweedy

From left: Unit 12 Director Travis Tweedy talks with President Carl Goff.

If they looked like this...
would you be more careful?
Local 3 is dedicated to giving our young people the opportunity to succeed.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS
Two scholarships of $10,000
Two scholarships of $7,500
Two scholarships of $5,000

MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS
25 scholarships of $1,000

OE3 Scholarship applications are available at the local’s district offices, Credit Union branches and online at www.oe3.org. Applications will be accepted from Jan. 1, 2014 to March 31, 2014. See full rules online. Please call Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan’s office at (510) 748-7400 if you have any questions.
All aboard! The Fairfield/Vacaville Train Station project has pulled into the Hall, and Operating Engineers are jumping on.

Foreman Tim Zottola, Excavator Operator Dave Wertanen and Loader Operator Mark Alire went to work for Mountain Cascade last summer on the utility-relocation portion of the project, laying 4,200 feet of 27-inch clay sewer pipe and 4,800 feet of 16-inch waterline. Operators Toby Wright and Rodney Detlefsen were on the job to help for Arrow Construction. Across the street, another crew was tasked with moving all Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), AT&T and Kinder Morgan lines.

And that's just the beginning.

Once this phase is completed, which should happen by the end of this month, construction will begin on the Peabody overcrossing at the railroad tracks between Vanden Road and Huntington Drive.
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Once this phase is completed, which should happen by the end of this month, construction will begin on the Peabody overcrossing at the railroad tracks between Vanden Road and Huntington Drive; then on the station itself. This will include a passenger platform, a pedestrian/bicycle underpass, a bus-passenger plaza and transfer area, a well-lit, landscaped parking lot and bike lockers, among other things. Operators will also relocate a section of railroad track to make room for the new overpass.

Catching up with Alire last month, he said he and a condensed crew were working nights to finish the tie-ins in the middle of the street without major traffic concerns. The crew should have returned to day shifts just recently.

This project is part of Fairfield's master plan to promote a pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use community. The new train station is expected to encourage and improve train usage for local residents and visitors, which will help minimize traffic delays and congestion through the city. The job will also help Local 3's work hours, as it will utilize operators through early 2015. The new station will open the following year.

What's next?

Upcoming work on the Fairfield/Vacaville Train Station project includes:

- Constructing the Peabody Road overpass
- Building a passenger platform, pedestrian/bicycle underpass and bus-passenger plaza and transfer area
- Providing well-lit and landscaped parking, video surveillance, bike lockers, automated electronic signs with train arrivals and bus and train ticket machines
- Local road work
- Track work
HAWAII | 1075 Opakapaka St., Kapolei, HI 96707 • For all branches, call (808) 845-7871

Rail contracts to be slowly released for bid

As of August’s work hours, this has been a flat year. However, since the rail project started in September, we should recover in the last quarter and surpass last year’s posted hours. The good news is that the rest of the rail contracts will be awarded in the new year and into 2016. The other contracts awarded or scheduled to be are as follows:

- An on-call construction contractor(s) job went out to bid in November for $85 million.
- The airport utilities relocation from the stadium to the airport will be out to bid this month for $25 million.
- The West Oahu Farrington Highway/Kamehameha Highway stations (nine of them from Kapolei to the stadium) will be out to bid in February for $150 million.
- The Pearl Highlands parking structure and ramps (a design-build with ramps connecting to I-2) will be out to bid in March for $175 million.
- The Airport and City Center Guideway, including the City Center utilities, will be out to bid in July for $745 million.

- The Airport stations (four of them from the naval base to the Middle Street Transit Center) will be out to bid in November for $60 million.
- The Dillingham and Kakako stations (eight of them from Kalihi to Ala Moana) will be out to bid in August 2015.
- The University of Hawaii-West Oahu Park and Ride, including the H2 ramp, will be out to bid in March 2016 for $10 million.

Dck pacific construction is 45 percent into its portion of the state’s Honolulu Airport modernization project. The company received a contract worth $77 million that consists of the demolition of the Hawaiian and Aloha air cargo facilities, construction of a parking lot and the new cargo and maintenance facility. All of this represents work on Oahu until 2017 and beyond.

On behalf of Business Manager Russ Burns and the District 17 staff, we wish all of you a safe and joyous holiday season.

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

Technically challenging railroad job finished on time, under budget

As winter begins and work starts to slow down, make sure you do all you can to be ready for next year. Consider calling the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTCT) to see if there are any classes going on that will expand your knowledge or improve your skills so you have more work opportunities in the coming year. There is also some pipeline training that the International is providing at the RMTCT this winter and into spring. More information and applications can be found at the Hall.

One job of interest in our district is the Union Pacific Railroad trestle-rebuild that McGuire and Hester completed just off Hwy. 99 in Ripon. To get it done, Stroer and Graff had to first drive all of the pilings for the new bridge section right next to the old trestle while keeping it open, so the trains could continue to run. Bigge was also onsite, flying all of the iron for the cross supports on the pilings. All of this activity was going on as McGuire and Hester was building a fill at the other end of the trestle with rock that was brought in on rail cars. Then came the last eight days of the job, when crews needed to tear down the old and install the new. Once again, the trains could not be stopped for very long, so crews would have about eight hours each afternoon to remove all of the ballast rock, cut out the rail, tear down an old section of the trestle, install the new bridge section and rebuild the rail so trains could run when they were done. Bragg Crane and Rigging had two cranes on hand—one to remove the old trestle once it was cut free and one to install the new bridge sections on their supports. This went on for the first four days. It was then time for McGuire and Hester to finish the fill. Crews had to work under the same time requirements, tearing out the old rail, filling to grade and installing new rail, so that trains could run at the end of their shifts. It just goes to show you how our members are able to work safely and efficiently to finish a technically challenging job on time and under budget.

One of the things pushing a lot of the other work in the district is the return of private-sector jobs. River Islands is one of those projects, located west of I-5 and north of I-205. Encompassing nearly 5,000 acres, River Islands will eventually be a community of 11,000 homes, a town center and an employment center with thousands of jobs for local residents. It has 500 house pads that were done earlier this year by River Islands. It has 500 house pads that were done earlier this year by Mountain Cascade and another 500 that are going out to bid this year.

DeSilva Gates and Mozingo have been working on a couple of projects in Manteca that will eventually be about 400 lots. There are about 1,600 house pads planned for the next three years in Manteca. DeSilva has now moved over to Mountain House to work on 500 pads. With all of this work, it will hopefully keep lots of our members busy, as they build out these projects over the coming years.

Some of the other projects going on in the district include the Hwy. 99 project from Manteca to Arch Road with Bay Cities and C.C. Myers; the Hwy. 99 Arch Road to Hwy. 1 project with Myers and Sons and Granite; the $23 million Sonora Hwy. 108 bypass that Teichert and MCM are joint-venturing on; the I-5 widening in Stockton with R&L Brosamer, Case Pacific and West Coast Welders; and the $10 million project on Hwy. 88 just east of Clements with George Reed and Myers and Sons.

With all of the work that has been done this year, it looks like we are well on our way to a full recovery. Remember that if you are on the out-of-work list this winter, your registration is good for 84 days, and then you need to renew it. Have a safe and fun holiday season, and we will see you next year.

Mike Lepiane works for Bragg on the trestle-rebuild project off Hwy. 99.

From left: Brian Casjens and Jerry Setter work for Bragg on the trestle-rebuild project in Ripon.
Our apprentices are working

It is hard to believe that winter is upon us. Now is the time to tune up your skills and check with the dispatcher to see what journey-level upgrade classes are being offered. As many of you know, you must complete an eight-hour refresher course for your Hazmat certification every year, and we are offering that class on Jan. 1. We also have a few other classes on the books, so please call the Hall to see what's available.

At the time of this writing, the work picture is not looking as good as we would like, but we are optimistic that things will pick up with jobs bidding in early spring. J.F. Shea is the apparent low bidder on the Hwy. 299 at Bella Vista job for just over $21.5 million. Steelhead Constructors picked up a few small jobs. S.T. Rhoades picked up its share of work as well. Northwest Paving picked up several small chip-seal jobs and is staying busy. Stimpel-Wiebelhaus and Holt are also keeping members working.

There is lots of talk about raising Shasta Dam, but there is some opposition, so please keep in touch with us on this matter. We may need to rally our troops to attend some upcoming meetings.

Please keep our Unit 12 brothers and sisters in mind, as they work in severe weather conditions to keep the roads open and safe for us and our families as we travel during the holiday season.

We have been very good at keeping our apprentices working, so if you see them on the job, please take the time to share what you can with them, as they are our future. Make us proud by helping them become a strong force for Local 3.

Your District 70 staff would like to thank you for your support and wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. We look forward to seeing you in 2014.

MORGAN HILL 325 Digital Drive, Morgan Hill, CA 95037 • (408) 465-8260 District Rep. Manuel Pinheiro

Project Labor Agreement voted in by Watsonville City Council

Watsonville City Council voted almost unanimously to begin drafting Project Labor Agreement (PLA) language that green-lights all construction projects within city limits that are $600,000 or greater and include three trades or more. A PLA is an agreement between parties, such as the city of Watsonville and the building trades, that requires all construction to be performed by union members.

What this means for our rank-and-file members is union jobs! PLAs also create opportunities for our organizers to sign agreements with non-union companies that are traditionally opponents of PLAs, prevailing wages and equal playing-field environments. Non-union companies that want access to work have to comply with the PLA language. The $600,000 threshold is very low for a PLA. In fact, it is an unprecedented amount to be agreed upon, and the city of Watsonville has created a unique scenario in Northern California. Our agents are also building-trades delegates who sit at the “round table” with other trade unions. In solidarity, we not only network and sanction pickets but also look for potential political candidates who share our union concerns and ideals. Working with the Central Labor Council, the building trades and our members, phone banking, precinct walking and educating the public have paid off, and now we have Watsonville City Council members who support our agendas.

The process works when we all work together.

The membership really stepped up this year and made a difference by not only helping with elections but also with policing our work. The phone calls we get from members about problems on the job are extremely helpful. We need your eyes and ears to help keep your seats filled with Operating Engineers. Please keep the phone calls coming!

Private work has grown in huge proportions, especially in Santa Clara County. DeSilva Gates, Independent Construction, Robert Bothman Inc., Lewis and Tibbits, Sanco Pipeline, Duran & Venables and Pacific Underground Construction are just some of the companies that are around almost every turn on some new housing project, and every indication points to this continuing next year.

On the public-works side, RGW is almost finished on Hwy. 1 in Santa Cruz, and Granite Rock has progressed with the concrete barrier job on Hwy. 17 and should be near completion in March. Also, Cordon Johnson is on Hwy. 17, working on a shoulder project north of the summit.

Skanska-Shimmick-Herzog Joint Venture (JV) is in its second year on the BART extension project. The project stretches to nearly eight miles and will, in the near future, have more than 600 employees working at one time for Skanska-Shimmick-Herzog and its long list of subcontractors, which includes A&K Railroad Materials, Inc., Rosendin Electric, Ferma Corporation, Fonseca/ McElroy Grinding Co., Inc., Granite Rock Company, Hayward Baker, Inc., Hillside Drilling, Inc., Stroer & Graff, Inc., Blue Iron, Inc., CF&T Concrete Pumping, Cad-Con Pumping, Inc., and Cleveland Wrecking Company, just to name some. A major part of the BART extension corridor is to be developed with new construction.

Underground Construction, which signed with the National Pipeline Agreement, has finished the project on East Capitol in Milpitas yet continues work in Monterey County.

If you do end up on the out-of-work list, make sure you communicate with your dispatcher and take advantage of the down time. Take a gradechecking class or renew your Hazmat or Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) certifications. Maybe get a Class A license or improve your skills. Insure that you don’t miss any work because of a glitch.

Our staff wishes you and your families a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year’s. May you have a dispatch in your stocking and a big payday in the new year!
How California unions stay strong

District 20 hopes you and your family had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. As Christmas and the new year quickly approach, we thought it would be interesting to reflect on unionism in 2013. Across our great country, unions are under attack. Right-to-work states seem to be popping up all over, and union membership is down to an all-time low of only 11.3 percent. But that’s not the case in California.

California’s union membership rose from 17.1 percent in 2011 to 17.2 percent in 2012, and 2013’s numbers should be stable or slightly higher. Why is California unionism holding strong and not under attack? Don’t be fooled by the numbers; California unions held off a huge attack in 2012 by the name of Proposition 32. And those same billionaires and corporations who led the attack will surely not give up. This past year, even cities and municipalities attacked union men and women by blaming them for their budget troubles. For some reason they think it’s OK to take from those who have worked and fought hard for what they have. So, how do California unions rise above it all?

First, we band together in solidarity. Public- and private-sector unions, labor councils and building-trades councils walk side-by-side in these battles. Those billionaires, corporations, cities and municipalities can’t put the same impassioned boots to the ground that unions can. They may be able to spend millions of dollars on commercials and hire people to walk through a neighborhood, but when good people ask good questions about what they see and hear, they can’t answer like union members can. They have no stake in the game. All they have is greed.

Second, it’s politics. Politics are a huge part of the puzzle. A lot of people don’t like politics, because it’s a game we don’t always seem to understand. But understand this: It’s important to our local and this district that those who serve in government at any level, regardless of their party, understand what matters most to our membership. Work! The District 20 staff and our Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) volunteers have spent countless hours over the last several years engaged in the game of politics. Some politicians understand the game and play by the rules; some don’t. In District 20, we won’t support those who don’t. Your Political Action Committee (PAC) is made up of rank-and-file members who are elected by you. They understand what matters most to you and yours.

The last and most important piece of the puzzle is education. Not everyone has the time or desire to research every measure, proposition and candidate on a ballot, but knowing who and what you’re voting for is important. Educating not only our own members but other union members and politicians about what working men and women value is crucial. Earning a living wage and having excellent health care along with a pension are just some of what we value. When you have questions, don’t hesitate to call the Hall and ask about the local’s position. Or better yet, attend your quarterly District Meetings and bring those questions and/or comments. Speak to your District 20 PAC members. Together, we can and will help, even if it means educating ourselves on your behalf.

Let’s look forward to a brighter, stronger and more educated 2014. Remember: Solidarity, politics and education. Stand up, and stand together. Speak up, and speak together. Ask, and ask together. We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year’s!

Facebook has plans for an all-union-built housing community

The latest big project to start in San Francisco is the construction of the three stations for the Central Subway. General contractor Tutor-Perini will excavate two stations and mine the third. Subcontractor Valverde is currently portholing for utility relocation in advance of the mass excavation.

In San Francisco’s Presidio, McGuire and Hester is working on street improvements with operators William Lee, Johann Berg and John Murphy. Also on the job is Auston Fitzjarrald, who is working for F3 Land Surveying.

A & B Construction has big dig-outs all over the city, with good excavator operators like Niall O’Brien, Arik Gheno and Gerrald Cunningham. These guys are working hard to stay ahead of Avar, which is performing the drilling and shoring.

O.C. Jones is performing some major excavations in the Bay View area for Willie Brown Middle School. This is a project under our earlier Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for 2006 bond-measure work with the district. Ricky Bushnell is operating the 345 Cat. Also on the project is M.K. Pipelines, which has Operator Wayne Ferrare installing all of the underground utilities.

There is all kinds of utility work going on in the city. Signatories include ARB, Precision Engineering and Synergy Project Management, just to name a few. These companies are replacing old utilities throughout the city, so slow for the cones and watch out for your brothers and sisters working hard every day.

In San Mateo at the Bay Meadows development, crews are creating a new home for The Nueva School. This nationally recognized, independent school serves high-ability students and emphasizes integrated studies, creative arts and social-emotional learning. Proud to be working on this project are Juan Camacho Zapeta from Preston Pipelines, who is installing all of the underground utilities, and Tobin Vannier from Maxim Crane Works.

In Pacifica, Andrew Jordan is working with Ranger Pipelines to install storm drains on the cliffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean. What a beautiful place to work!

In Menlo Park, the Facebook campus moves forward with Berkel and Company Contractors, Inc. installing the auger piles. This portion of the job will keep up to 20 Operating Engineers busy for the next few months. Also on the job is Jos. J. Albanese, which is performing the grading and site work, and McGuire and Hester, which will have three crews starting up and will keep a dozen Operating Engineers busy through the winter. Facebook also has plans for an all-union-built, $120 million 394-employee housing community. The 630,000-square-foot rental property is another project that will keep our members busy for a long time.

The District 01 staff wishes all of our members a joyful and safe holiday season and a prosperous 2014!
Longtime signatory contractor Argonaut Constructors (established in 1957) is working in one of the oldest sections of Santa Rosa, replacing the aged underground infrastructure and the water, sewer and storm lines, which have long exceeded their design life. For this job, Argonaut brought in some of its top operators, like 18-year member Jeff Lawson, who said digging around utilities is just part of being an Operating Engineer. Then there’s 30-year member Randy Forestier, who said about digging in this neighborhood, “It is so old, you don’t know what you are going to pull up.” Eleven-year member Brian Torri is glad to see this kind of work going on this late in the season after the last several years. Eighteen-year member Kevin Douglas likes operating a John Deere loader and stays busy all day running material to the various excavations. Fifteen-year member John Elbert is, in his words, an everything-operator. He will jump on any piece of equipment to help get the job done. With this kind of attitude and skill from these Operating Engineers, Argonaut Constructors will be successful for another 57 years.

We would like to remind everyone to visit “Santa,” our 28-year member Michael Say, at the Coddingtown Mall and to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year’s.

The Hall is here to assist our members, so, as always, feel free to contact us or stop by with any questions you may have.

Cat-and-Can Operator Chris Biagi works for Knife River Construction at the Oroville Airport.

Operators work on the longest road track in America

Greetings from the staff at District 60. We would like to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year. Take a moment to look back on the past year, and be thankful and proud of what we accomplished.

With the change of seasons, we have entered the slow time of our industry, but this offers the opportunity to take advantage of training at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC). To find out about these opportunities, call the training center at (916) 354-2029. Also, if you are on the out-of-work list, don’t forget to call or stop by the Hall before your expiration date, which occurs every 84 days.

We have had multiple projects with a variety of work in our district this year. From bridge work by contractors such as MCM Construction, Viking Construction and Golden State Bridge to paving projects by DeSilva Gates, Lamon Construction, Knife River, Ranger Pipelines and Teichert, we have enjoyed work in both the public and private sectors. We have also had a couple of housing tracts start, and Siri Grading and Paving started the third phase of the Thunder Hill Raceway, which, when completed, will be the longest road track in America.

As we prepare to embark on the 75th anniversary of Local 3 this coming year, the work picture looks promising, with many projects bidding in the spring and some that will be picking up again.

Along with the beginning of the new year comes a new round of Pre-Retirement Meetings. Members often ask questions about when they can retire, how much their retirement is worth and how they file for their Pension. See page 13 for the Pre-Retirement Meeting closest to you. Can’t make it to the meeting or have other Fringe Benefits questions? Representatives from the Trust Fund and Fringe Benefits Department make monthly visits to the district offices. Call the Hall to schedule an appointment.

With 2013 now behind us, it’s time to look ahead at 2014 politics. We are always looking for volunteers to help us in our political arena. Many people are turned off by politics, because of words such as “taxes” and “government shutdown,” to name a few. But what we, as union brothers and sisters, need to remember is that government helps our industry thrive. Government, whether it’s at the local level with our county supervisors or on the larger scale with our president, helps provide the opportunity to put you to work. We all need to work together to fight for our union wages and vote against charter cities that aim to do away with prevailing wage. We need everyone to stand together to fight the non-union companies that undermine everything the union stands for, such as safety, decent wages and the right to bargain for a fair contract. Contact the Hall to find out how to sign up on our Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) volunteer list, and let us all work together.

The Hall is here to assist our members, so, as always, feel free to contact us or stop by with any questions you may have.
Several signatories work on Reedley job

As the year comes to an end, we reflect on the many projects we were fortunate to have in our district to keep our members working. These members were not only able to add something to their pocketbooks but also to their future in the way of working toward retirement. Some of these jobs included the Hwy. 180 braided-ramp project, the Hwy. 180 extension project near Sanger and a number of projects along Hwy. 99.

After reflecting on the past, what comes next? What work is “on the books”? At the time of this writing, Myers & Sons has begun a $13 million project in Reedley for the city, performing a bridge replacement on Manning Avenue along the length of Kelly’s Beach. The project is expected to have a completion date of around October 2015. The job will include several subcontractors and suppliers. Flatiron Electrical Group will perform the electrical work, Fresno Concrete Construction Inc. has the minor concrete portion, Granite Construction has the AC paving and underground work, Cemex will furnish the ready-mix and Central Valley Engineering and Surveying will stake.

Agee Construction and Brake Parts Inc.’s Chowchilla plant are also keeping our members busy.

Of course, the High-Speed Rail project is still much anticipated, and the district has been preparing for its start by attending meetings to discuss things such as dispatch procedures and meeting primary contacts.

We continue to encourage everyone to get as much training as possible during the offseason. Gradesetting classes will once again be offered in the Fresno District starting in February. Feel free to contact the Hall now to place your name on the list. More information will follow as the classes near.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

From left: Richard Coronado, Braden Coonce, Scott Wilson and Jarrod Coonce work for Agee Construction.

Mormon Island Dam is big source of work

It has been a long time coming, but finally, the work we have been waiting for has returned to District 80. Our signatory contractors picked up quite a bit of work in the second and third quarters of 2013, and we are finishing the year with more work than we have had in the last four years. We are anticipating 2014 to be gangbusters!

The work that is winding down for the winter and the work that is on the books for 2014 (already awarded to our signatory contractors) will help our brothers and sisters get off to a great start next season, including our apprentices, who will have a long season of training.

Suulutaag, Inc. broke ground on the $46 million Mormon Island Auxiliary Dam. This project requires site preparation, the implementation of safety measures, clearing and erosion and water-runoff control. Work also consists of importing 450,000 cubic yards of processed filter (sand) and gravel drain material to reinforce the existing earth dam and will run year-round to catch up with the material stockpiled from the excavation of the new spillway at the Folsom Dam. This project will run year-round to catch up with the material needed for the production of the select fill that will be used to reinforce the existing Mormon Island earth dam.

Kiewit Infrastructure West has moved in on the $25.5 million fourth phase of the Folsom Dam modification project and will be working continuously throughout the coming year. The company will need a lot of support to keep this project on schedule and moving toward the anticipated completion date of sometime in 2017.

Congratulations to Myers and Sons Construction for being awarded the $29 million Silva Valley Parkway project in El Dorado Hills. This project has been long-awaited to help relieve the traffic congestion on El Dorado Hills Boulevard and Latrobe Road. It consists of new bridge work and improvements to access the existing shopping centers.

George Reed, Inc. started the $6 million Hwy. 99 and Twin Cities Road improvement project in Galt, where crews will replace the on- and off-ramps, upgrade the bridge and provide better access to existing properties, along with underground utilities, storm drains and signals.

As the work season winds down, remember to check in with the Hall and to get on the out-of-work list. Also remember to renew your registration. Registration on the A and B list is valid for 84 days. Registration on the C list is valid for one calendar month and requires members to contact the Hall on or after the first working day of each month to put their names back on the list. For more information on A-, B- or C-hire status, please refer to sections 04.07.01 through 04.07.04 in the California Job Placement Regulations (JPR).

This year has proven to be a strong one for our members, and 2014 has the potential to help our members get back to where they want to be.

The staff at District 80 wishes you and your families a safe and happy holiday season. See you in 2014.

Holt Mechanic Tim Webb, a 20-year member, was injured in a motorcycle accident on his way to work in mid-October. He is now paralyzed from the chest down. Donations can be made to an account under his name at the OE Federal Credit Union to help his family deal with medical and rehabilitation costs. Any donations are appreciated.
Master/Private Agreement up in June

From Reno

Winter is upon us and work has slowed, but there are jobs that should start after the first of the year. Granite Construction will begin the second phase of the South East Connector along with the Hawthorne Airport. The company is finishing work on I-80 near Winnemucca and at the Snyder Avenue Bridge in Carson City. Q&D Construction is still working on the sewer interceptor in Reno along with other projects in the area.

With a new year just around the corner, we would like everyone to start thinking about the 2014 Nevada Master/Private Agreement, which is up at the end of June 2014. We will start scheduling meetings after the first of the year to get input from the membership.

Please remember that late night will be on the fourth Wednesday of the month through March. This is a good time to make any phone-number or address changes. Also, make sure to re-register on the out-of-work list every 84 days, and contact the training center at (775) 575-2729 or address changes. Also, make sure to re-register on the out-of-work list every 84 days, and contact the training center at (775) 575-2729 to schedule any classes for Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or any other training you would like or may need.

The Nevada offices will be closed the day before Christmas and Christmas Day as well as New Year’s Day.

From Elko

Highway work in the Elko area has slowed for winter. Mine work will continue in Northern Nevada through the winter, with N.A. Degerstrom working at the Argenta Mine in Battle Mountain and the Robinson Mine in Ruth along with other projects in Elko and Eureka counties. Ames Construction has small crews working at a number of projects. Q&D Construction will start working on the Carlin Tunnels in the spring, and Granite will continue work on Hwy. 93 at Lages Junction. Road and Highway Builders was awarded a $19 million project in September, and work should get started early this spring.

Upcoming training

*All class dates are subject to change*

January 2014

- 23 – C-list testing
- 3 – Eight-hour MSHA refresher
- 6-9 – Construction Equipment Operator (CEO) apprentice training
- 8-9 – OSHA 10 certification
- 10 – GPS rover
- 10 – Journey-level upgrade
- 13-16 – CEO apprentice training
- 16 – First Aid/CPR/AED certification
- 17 – Journey-level upgrade
- 17 – Operator Qualification Certification (OQC) pipeline training
- 20-22 – 24-hour MSHA certification
- 20-23 – CEO apprentice training
- 20-24 – Heavy Duty Repair (HDR)/Lube Service Tech (LST) apprentice training
- 24 – Journey-level upgrade
- 24 – GPS dozer
- 25 – Eight-hour MSHA refresher
- 25 – National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) practical exam
- 27-30 – CEO apprentice training
- 27-30 – Crane apprentice training
- 28-30 – Rigger/signal person certification
- 31 – Journey-level upgrade

Pipeline project employs about 120 members

This has been a better year than anticipated. Projects have finished up on time and under budget. We want to thank our members who have worked on these projects, many of them in rural areas of the state. It takes a dedicated group of people to work away from home, family and friends for days and sometimes weeks at a time.

W.W. Clyde & Co. completed the Southern Parkway project in St. George, the pipeline project in the mouth of Parleys Canyon and the Fairview Lake Dam project before winter set in.

Snelson continues to work on a 16-inch product pipeline in eastern Utah that has kept about 120 Operating Engineers working six days a week. Heavy rains washed out sections of the ditch, but the project has moved forward. The efforts and skills of the operators on this project have not gone unnoticed.

Work at Kennecott Utah Copper continues to keep a large number of our District 12 members employed, including members who work directly for Kennecott as well as members employed by Ames Construction, W.W. Clyde & Co., Granite Construction and Kiewit Infrastructure West.

Road and Highway Builders is also staying busy.

As Local 3 members, we need to stay on top of our game. Now is the perfect time to get your Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), MSHA refresher, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Hazmat training completed. The Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) will be offering a variety of training classes in the upcoming months, and we encourage our members to upgrade their skills. Please contact the JAC at (801) 664-6934 to sign up for training. See schedule at right.

Please remember to register on the out-of-work list if you get laid-off. Members with A- or B-hiring status need to renew their registration at least every 84 days, while members with C-hiring status must call in on the first of each month to stay on the list.

The staff would like to thank all of the members and their families who volunteered their time and efforts to help us get worker-friendly candidates elected.

On behalf of the Utah staff, have a great holiday season and a happy new year.

Richard Wilson works for Road and Highway Builders.

Jason Christianson works for Snelson.

Keith Collard works on the Fairview Lake Dam.
Big events ahead; mark your calendars!

We're in the winter months now, and work has slowed down considerably.

We are anxiously anticipating the start of the $300 million project that was awarded to Chicago Bridge and Iron at the Humboldt Bay Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Power Plant in Eureka. The project should last five years and will require many operators with specific skills.

We had several short projects that kept one or two operators employed. The Salt River restoration project employed several apprentices in Ferndale through October and into November. Wahlund also had a few smaller jobs that kept operators working.

Mercer-Fraser kept many operators busy through the harvest and beyond, as the company prepared for the wet weather in Humboldt and Del Norte counties.

The biggest news for District 40 is our move from Fifth Street to our new offices in the Labor Temple at 840 E St. The OE Federal Credit Union also moved with us.

We would like to express our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Grover Bowman who passed away on Aug. 31, 2013. Many in District 40 knew Bowman, and he will be missed.

We would also like to congratulate Jerry Seales who celebrated 40 years in the Operating Engineers in September.

This is the time of year when we start to remind everyone about the upcoming District 40 Crab Feed. This year, our event is on Valentine's Day weekend. This is the perfect way to spend time with that special someone and see what our area has to offer. The Crab Feed is on Feb. 15 at the Elk's Club in Eureka.

No-host drinks start at 4:30 p.m., and dinner goes from 5 to 7 p.m. Tickets are $30 per person, $25 for a Retiree and spouse and $20 for Retirees. We hope to see you all there.

Also mark your calendars for an eight-hour Hazwoper-refresher class on Jan. 17. This will be our first large meeting in our new location. The class size is limited to 20. Non-members (Laborers, etc.) may attend for a $100/per person fee payable upon entry into the class. The class will start at 7:30 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. Please contact the Hall to sign up.

We would like to wish you all a happy and safe holiday season. Please drive safely, and we’ll see you next year.

FAIRFIELD

2540 N. Watney Way, Fairfield, CA 94533 • (707) 429-5008
District Rep. Dave Harrison

Annual toy run held Dec. 14

It has been a good year on the west side of District 04, as we had a lot of work with plenty of hands staying busy. Redwick Construction took care of some roadwork on Military West in Benicia, and Team Ghilotti completed a 42-inch storm drain for Lake Dalwigk in Vallejo. Ghilotti Brothers should be near completion on the Devlin Road extension in American Canyon but is still staying busy in Jameson Canyon on Hwy. 12. Be careful traveling through the canyon, because the lanes are very narrow with lane changes and congested traffic. Ghilotti Construction is moving forward with the Solano County side of the canyon and is now building access roads over the hill for Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) and local ranchers. This project should continue well into 2014.

Styar Industries’ Napa and Lake Herman quarries have been busy keeping all of the contractors in the area supplied with rock and asphalt. The ferry-maintenance facility should be moving out at Mare Island, and the Oxbow dry bypass project for flood control in Napa should be gearing up as well. In the Napa Valley, Harold Smith and Son has seen an abundance of work and is still moving, weather permitting. In 2014, the west side of District 04 should have some good work and keep hands busy throughout the year.

On the east side of Solano County, Top Grade has a small subdivision and detention basin project worth about $1 million in Vacaville. Standard Pacific is the developer for the project. DeSilva Gates will be working on the Gold Ridge Unit 10 project in Fairfield with signatory contractors J&M Inc. and R. E. Maher. Potholing began in October with the re-grading of existing lots and miscellaneous site development. The $9 million shoulder-widening job on Hwy. 12 between Fairfield and Rio Vista has been postponed. (This project was slated to start on Dec. 1.) Bay Pacific Pipeline out of Novato is waiting on pipe delivery to start its $2.7 million east-west water-transmission pipeline. This is the third segment of the line, which Bay Pacific has already potholed. This looks like a good winter project.

Cranes continue to stay steady around the Bay Area with day-to-day and ongoing project work. Refineries are running their fall/winter turnarounds, with maintenance being the main focus. There are planned projects in the works for the area refineries, but we must first get through the permit process. Since the governor signed Senate Bill (SB) 54, starting in 2014 and going forward, the look of these refinery turnaround may drastically change with the new prevailing-wage and apprentice requirements. It should be very interesting to watch this new law unfold and great for all construction unions.

Dredging has been very busy with Dutra running three rigs in the Bay and working in the Richmond Harbor area and in Oakland. Vortex is in the Sacramento River, working to maintain the Sacramento and Stockton deep-water channel. Dixon Marine has three jobs going in San Francisco, Hamilton Field (Novato) and Alameda. Manson is in the Oakland shipping channel performing yearly maintenance. The Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2013 was passed recently, which is good news for the marine-construction and dredging industries. It provides funds to the Army Corps of Engineers to spend on the infrastructure and maintenance of our coastal and inland waterways. This is the first time that Washington, D.C. has passed a WRRDA spending bill since 2007.

Don’t forget to come out on Saturday, Dec. 14 for District 04’s Ninth Annual Pancake Breakfast and Motorcycle Toy Run at the Veterans Memorial Building in Suisun. Breakfast starts at 8 a.m. and is free with a new toy donation. We hope to see you all there!

Apprenticeship Spotlight

Third-step Crane Apprentice Zach Sinclair is working for Summit Crane. He has his Certification of Crane Operators (CCO) and Class A licenses. Owner Curt Postuma said he could not ask for a better apprentice.

Project Manager Bobby Horner said Sinclair always goes above and beyond what is asked of him. Sinclair started as a Heavy Duty Repair (HDR) mechanic apprentice with Summit and switched over as a crane apprentice. He volunteers with the Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program.
Honoring membership service

Business Manager Russ Burns, the officers and Executive Board congratulate the following members with 51 years and more of membership. Local 3 also has 3,462 35-year Honorary Members with gold cards and about 300 members who will receive a 50-year timepiece next year. Our 50-year members will be announced in the July 2014 Engineers News. Operating Engineers Local 3 wishes all of its members and their families happy holidays and a prosperous new year.

Meetings & Announcements

December 2013 | 25
DISTRIBUTION OF MEETINGS
All meetings convene at 7 p.m.

DECEMBER 2013
No meetings scheduled.

JANUARY 2014
No meetings scheduled.

FEBRUARY 2014
4th  District 04: Suisun City
     Veterans Memorial Building
     427 Main St.

4th  District 30: Stockton
     Operating Engineers’ Building
     1916 North Broadway Ave.

5th  District 40: Eureka
     Labor Temple
     808 E St.

5th  District 50: Clovis
     Veterans Memorial District
     808 Fourth St.

5th  District 70: Redding
     Operating Engineers’ Building
     20308 Engineers Lane

5th  District 80: Sacramento
     Operating Engineers’ Building
     3920 Lennane Drive

6th  District 10: Rohnert Park
     Operating Engineers’ Building
     6225 State Farm Drive

6th  District 60: Marysville
     Friday Night Live
     301 Fourth St.

6th  District 90: Morgan Hill
     Operating Engineers’ Building
     325 Digital Drive

15th  District 01: Burlingame
      Transport Workers Union
      1521 Rollins Road

15th  District 20: San Leandro
      Sheet Metal Workers
      1720 Marina Blvd.

19th  District 11: Reno
      Operating Engineers’ Building
      1290 Corporate Blvd.

20th  District 12: Sandy
      Operating Engineers’ Building
      8805 S. Sandy Parkway

24th  District 17: Hauula
      Hauula Elementary School
      54-046 Koolau Road

TOWN HALL MEETINGS
December 2013
4th  District 11: Elko
     Mine Meeting: 6 p.m.
     Operating Engineers’ Building
     1094 Lamoille Highway

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

January 2014
8th  District 11: Elko
     Mine Meeting: 6 p.m.
     Operating Engineers’ Building
     1094 Lamoille Highway

22nd District 11: Elko
     Construction Meeting: 6 p.m.
     Operating Engineers’ Building
     1094 Lamoille Highway

February 2014
12th  District 11: Elko
     Mine Meeting: 6 p.m.
     Operating Engineers’ Building
     1094 Lamoille Highway

25th  District 17: Maui
     Meeting: 7 p.m.
     Maui Arts and Cultural Center
     One Cameron Way, Kahului

26th  District 11: Elko
     Construction Meeting: 6 p.m.
     Operating Engineers’ Building
     1094 Lamoille Highway

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

Notification – district office business hours
Please note that for 2013 there are new hours for “late night.”

In Hawaii: December’s “late night” will be the first and fourth Mondays of the month to accommodate members in paying their dues prior to suspension.

Office hours:
Monday-Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Designated late nights: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
(All remaining Hawaii dates: Dec. 2 and Dec. 23.)

In California, Utah and Nevada: There will be no “late night” this month due to the holidays.

Office hours:
Monday-Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Designated late nights: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION
Thank you!

The OE3 Scholarship Foundation would like to thank Louis Santellanes and Vernon and Karen Baumbach for their donations to the Scholarship Foundation.

The Scholarship Foundation is able to help young people further their education due to contributions such as this from our members and their loved ones. Contributions can now be made online at www.oe3.org/about/scholarship/donation.html.

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

MEETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
2014 Political Action Committee Election

Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan has announced that in accordance with Article X, Section 10 of the Local Union Bylaws, the election of Political Action Committees (PACs) will take place at the first District Meeting of 2014 in each respective district. No Member shall be eligible for election, be elected or hold the position of PAC Member:

1. Unless he or she is a Member in good standing in the Parent Local Union and a registered voter (with proof of current voter registration) in the District where he or she is seeking nomination;
2. Unless he or she was continuously a Member of the Parent Local Union for not less than two (2) years next preceding his or her nomination;
3. If he or she is retired, is an Officer of or is on the payroll of the Local Union or a related entity;
4. If he or she is an Owner-Operator or a Contractor;
5. No Member shall be nominated unless he or she is present at the meeting, or unless he or she has filed prior to the meeting with the Recording- Corresponding Secretary or District Meeting Secretary on the day of the meeting before the meeting commences, a statement in writing, signed by him or her, to the effect that he or she is eligible to be a PAC Member and will accept the nomination if nominated.

Please see page 28 for the schedule of meetings at which these elections will be held.

Proof of voter registration for Political Action Committee nominees

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

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 $150.745-7440).

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 October 2013 and have been determined eligible for Honorary Membership effective Jan. 1, 2014.

- Lorne Achtymsichuk
- Jon Ammerman
- Guillermo Bravo
- Jard Campbell
- Thomas G. Card
- James E. Caumiant
- Dan Chamblain
- Raymond K. Ciriaco
- Manuel Farinha
- James Fernandez
- Alex Flores
- Kenneth Hayes
- Kenneth Kagy
- Melvin Kalahiki
- Raymond B. Kallikkan Sr.
- Matthew Kanhai
- Donald K. Keawe
- Julian Lee
- Roy D. Luallin
- James Matsumura
- Edward McMahon
- Carl Meadows
- Charles J. Merrill
- Raymond Ramirez
- Lea Rasmussen
- Donald Roller
- Dean Smith
- Carl Swafford
- Stan Swital
- Oscar Vera
- Wallace D. Wiekum
- George Yamashita

DECEASED DEPENDENTS

- Butler, Glenn
- Wife of Butler, Calvin (dec)
- 09-13-13

- Cullen, Twyla
- Wife of Cullen, Bernard (dec)
- 09-17-13

- Duarte, Margery
- Wife of Duarte, Arthur (dec)
- 09-10-13

- Harmon, Emily
- Wife of Harmon, Yuel
- 09-19-13

- Hartley, Donna
- Wife of Hartley, Jack
- 09-04-13

- Haskins, Cloma
- Wife of Haskins, James
- 09-20-13

- Lee, Iris
- Ex-wife of Lee, Norman
- 10-03-13

- Nakachi, June
- Wife of Nakachi, Donald (dec)
- 09-14-13

- Nunes, Barbara
- Wife of Nunes, Alan (dec)
- 09-04-13

- Shiraki, Betty
- Wife of Shiraki, Edward
- 09-22-13

DEPARTED MEMBERS

Albert, Kenneth
Reno, NV
District 11
08-21-13

Bruglia, Richard
Seaside, CA
District 90
09-17-13

Cruz, Manuel
Newark, CA
District 20
09-20-13

Diaz, Joe
Kurtistown, HI
District 17
09-17-13

Gann, Clyde Sr.
Vallejo, CA
District 04
09-18-13

Gardner, David
Dublin, CA
District 20
08-23-13

Gohier, Thomas
Waianae, HI
District 17
08-29-13

Hagie, Bobby
Graton, CA
District 10
09-25-13

Hay, Jack
North Highlands, CA
District 80
09-23-13

Hunters, Thomas Jr.
Columbia, CA
District 20
09-06-13

Jermain, Lisa
Sparks, NV
District 11
08-21-13

Miller, Terry
Springville, UT
District 12
09-17-13

Minchey, Henry
Washington, UT
District 12
09-03-13

Nakata, Isaac Sr.
Lihue, HI
District 94
09-04-13

Ohashi, Ernest
Honolulu, HI
District 09
08-13-13

Perry, Richard
Springfield, OR
District 99
09-06-13

Post, Henry
Ogden, UT
District 12
08-15-13

Risso, Richard
Napa, CA
District 04
09-30-13

Robello, John
Honolulu, HI
District 17
09-11-13

Rodriguez, Joe
Hayward, CA
District 20
09-12-13

Silva, Alvin
Newman, CA
District 30
09-08-13

Standlee, Bob
Ahwahnee, CA
District 50
09-18-13

Teves, Edward
Aromas, CA
District 90
09-09-13

Tyrol, William
Boise, ID
District 99
09-05-13

Watson, Garin
Millbrae, CA
District 01
09-05-13

Welsh, Lyons
Hasula, HI
District 17
09-02-13

Williams, Tim
Redding, CA
District 70
09-10-13

Butler, Glenn
Wife of Butler, Calvin (dec)
09-13-13

Cullen, Twyla
Wife of Cullen, Bernard (dec)
09-17-13

Duarte, Margery
Wife of Duarte, Arthur (dec)
09-10-13

Harmon, Emily
Wife of Harmon, Yuel
09-19-13

Hartley, Donna
Wife of Hartley, Jack
09-04-13

Haskins, Cloma
Wife of Haskins, James
09-20-13

Lee, Iris
Ex-wife of Lee, Norman
10-03-13

Nakachi, June
Wife of Nakachi, Donald (dec)
09-14-13

Nunes, Barbara
Wife of Nunes, Alan (dec)
09-04-13

Shiraki, Betty
Wife of Shiraki, Edward
09-22-13

Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3

1532 421
1161 150
1774 600
1440 657
1785 897
5589 427
2093 076
1181 768
1545 312
1547 360
1256 967
1586 167
1571 595
1709 780
1750 048
1597 776
1785 717
1655 412
1620 045
1511 656
1785 897
1440 657
1166 678
1774 460
1768 962
1716 644
1161 150
1532 242

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Fraternally yours,
Jim Sullivan
Recording-Corresponding Secretary
Happy holidays! As we reach the end of the year, it’s a good time to reflect on our health and how we have used our health-care benefits. Looking back can give you an idea of what you are doing right and what could use a little improvement.

Are you in better or worse health today than this time last year? Was there anything you could have done to improve your health, such as lose weight, quit smoking, cut back on alcohol or take advantage of your preventive-care benefits?

The Trustees want to help our participants and their families attain better, healthier lives at affordable costs. Below are a few ideas on how to do that along with important information about your benefits that could help you save money in the year ahead.

Centers of Medical Excellence (CME) – better care, less costs

The following information pertains to eligible participants (except those in Utah) who are enrolled in the Comprehensive Medical Plan.

The Trust Fund currently uses Anthem Blue Cross CME – the highest quality facilities – for certain types of surgical procedures and services. Starting Jan. 1, 2014, cardiac care, spinal surgery and treatment for complex and rare cancer must also be performed at a CME-designated facility.

CME provide significantly better outcomes and more cost-savings for you and the Trust Fund.

If you receive care for any of the above services from a non-CME facility, you will be responsible for 100 percent of those costs.

Colonoscopies, arthroscopies and cataract surgeries

Outpatient surgeries like colonoscopies, arthroscopies and cataract surgeries can be more expensive when performed in an outpatient hospital versus an Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC).

ASCs are modern health-care facilities that focus on providing same-day surgical care, including diagnostic and preventive procedures. They provide a more convenient alternative to hospital-based outpatient facilities and have a strong track record of quality care and positive patient outcomes.

If you receive care for one of the following procedures in an outpatient hospital setting, your reimbursement will be limited to the amounts listed below:

- Colonoscopy $1,500
- Arthroscopy $6,000
- Cataract Surgery $2,000

You will be responsible for any amount above these payment limits.

If your surgeon believes that it is medically necessary to have one of these procedures done in an outpatient hospital setting, an exception would be granted and the payment-limits would not apply. You still have the same access to providers but will save money when you use a recommended ASC.

Having surgery? Being referred to a specialist? Need lab work?

Below are a few tips to make these experiences successful and affordable.

- Always confirm that providers are in the Anthem Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) network, so you don’t have to pay more.
- When you make an appointment, ask if the doctor participates in the Anthem PPO network. You can also call the Trust Fund Office at (800) 251-5013 or (510) 433-4422 to confirm that a provider is in the network.
- Visit Anthem’s website at www.anthem.com/ca to locate a participating network provider. Click on the “Find a Doctor” link, and then select the type of provider and location you’re looking for.
- If your doctor recommends care that requires the services of several different providers or that you receive services from another provider or facility altogether, be sure to ask whether the provider is in the Anthem PPO network.
- When you need laboratory or pathology tests performed, ask your doctor if you can use a Quest Diagnostics, Inc. (Quest) or Laboratory Corporation of America (LabCorp) facility. For help finding the nearest facility, visit Anthem’s website or contact Quest or LabCorp directly by phone or website:
  - Quest: (800) 377-7220, www.questdiagnostics.com
  - LabCorp: (888) 522-2677, www.labcorp.com

Visit the Trust Funds’ website at www.oe3trustfunds.org for more information about health and Pension benefits. You can also call the Trust Fund Office at (800) 251-5014 or (510) 433-4422.

Your health, your money

Give the gift of EDUCATION

Providing financial help to college students may be the best gift you can give them, as an education will benefit them well into their future. It may benefit you too! A year-end charitable donation may provide you a tax break.

There are a variety of ways to contribute: Cash gifts in any amount; merit sponsors and memorial and honor gifts; bequests; and securities. For more information, call Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan at (510) 748-7400 or visit our website. You should also consult your financial advisor for tax advice.

Donate quickly and easily at www.oe3.org. Click on the “Scholarship” link, and then the “Donations Online” link.

FOR SALE: Set of Maxxis water-bag containers. Super insulation. Made for a 5-gallon water can with storage space plus oodles of storage space everywhere. Purchased last February for $2,069.99 (down from $2999.99), (503) 428-5488 or lloydph@johnscott.com. Reg# 1235351.

FOR SALE: 2002 Polaris ATVs, both are 700 Sportman’s, less than 50 hours on time on either one, just as nice as new ones. Also included is a Triton Aluminum Trailer with a storage box. $10,500 OBO for the entire package. Call John at (925) 955-1164. Reg# 2249577.

FOR SALE: Legal-sized file cabinets. 80 each. (916) 202-6198. Reg# 2369355.


FOR SALE: Bass fishing boat, aluminum, 90 hp evinrude motor push button control at each seat, two raised seats and cockpit pits. Two fish finders, new cover. $950. New tires. 20 hours in the water. 35 hours on boat. (503) 671-4485 or (503) 701-2842 or porscharon@aol.com. Reg# 0336937.

FOR SALE: 1992 GMC, half-ton pickup, 8,000 original miles. Custom Corvette rear end. All leather interior. Beautiful sound system. Too much to list. $12,500 OBO or trade. (707) 495-4415. Reg# 4067168.

FOR SALE: ½-acre lot with septic system permit and water available in Camanche, Calif. (209) 277-2449 or (209) 419-3104. Reg# 1087730.


FOR RENT: 2 bd/2 ba ocean-front newly remodeled condo in Maui. Condo is right on the ocean at Sugar Beach in Maalaea Bay. Full kitchens, laundry. Sleeps six. (707) 480-4121. Reg# 0939949.


ESTATE SALE: Custom-built wheelchair. It was priced at $1,480.90. $30,000 OBO. Have the seat to go with it, never been used. (520) 648-3266. Reg# 0782948.

FOR SALE: A set of very good proto combination wrenches from size 1-15/16 up to 2-1/2 inches. Total of 22 wrenches. (530) 477-1782. Reg# 1440503.

FOR SALE: Even Brake by Mancini. This is for putting on your tow-care behind your motorhome. It works off the car’s 12-volt battery. Includes all books and attachments. (530) 1445650.


FOR SALE: 2001 Honda Trail 90 complete, 100 years old. Three-burner. $245. (510) 357-1853 or (510) 352-2167. Reg# 047706.

FOR SALE: Ranch-style home on 0.90 acre in Keizer, Ore. Grow all the garden you will ever need and enjoy the privacy and towering trees. Built with Redwood and tile in kitchen and baths. Easy-care home has metal roof, private well, 50-16-by-16 RV storage plus oodles of storage space everywhere. Purchased last February for $2,969,999 (down from $2999,999), (503) 428-5488 or lloydph@johnscott.com. Reg# 1235351.

FOR SALE: 2011 North Ridge 340DQ fifth-wheel trailer. 37 length with four slide-outs. 2 bd/1½ ba, two ACs, Cummins Onan, 1238 sq ft, 60” flat screen TV, 36” refrigerator and dishwasher, central vacuum, lots of extras. Fully self-contained. Also: 2005 GMC, SLT 1-ton dually, 75,000 miles. Duramax Diesel 6.6 L, Allison transmission, 60” flat-screen TV, long-bed, fifth-wheel hitch. Loaded. Will sell trailer separate or together for $82,000. (209) 890-7777. Reg# 1963705.

FOR SALE: 1990 Delta boat with 90 HP Suzuki outboard Yamaha motor that mixes the oil and gas as it runs. Two downriggers, two fish finders, life vests, oars and net. Electric trolling motor and spare battery. Has full cover. Original price new: $2,000. Also: Still have a lot of tools left from my days as a mechanic – will sell separately. (916) 489-1227. Reg# 1130290.

FOR SALE: 33 1/3 record collection. About 4,600 records from the ’50s to mid-’70s. Lots of rock, country, jazz, blues, etc. (530) 223-4388 or (530) 510-1534. Reg# 0827031.

FOR SALE: 2000 Tahoe by Thor travel trailer 27R1, 87,500 OBO. (530) 497-5300. Reg# 1490348.

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Nothing says holidays like family

Gradesetter Charlotte Ledbetter, who is working on the Willits Bypass, was raised right! Both of her parents are also Local 3 members, and she’s keeping the tradition alive. Her father, Haskell Ledbetter, was a mechanic before retiring in 2009, and her mother, Marsha Ledbetter, was an operator. Charlotte also has a cousin in Local 3.

From left: First-step Apprentice Hannah Holden actually got her mother, 31-year member Jane Lea, a job on a levee project near a subdivision in Stockton. Lea said she is learning from her daughter, who has proven to be a company favorite. “I am the assistant to the assistant engineer,” said Lea. This mother-daughter pair give teamwork a whole new meaning.

Cameron, an avid Engineers News reader, is one of Local 3’s biggest fans, as he “reads” the paper cover to cover every month and has his own subscription! His great-grandfather, the late Clifford “Pescadero Pete” Lawrence, was a 57-year member and gave his entire collection of construction equipment to his little shadow. Today, Cameron’s room is decorated in tractors, excavators and trucks – a true apprentice!

Brantlee Allen Brohman may not fit into his safety vest yet, but if his father, five-year member Michael Allen Brohman, has anything to do with it, little Brantlee will one day wear it with pride. Michael is an excellent operator and grew up watching and operating equipment, since his grandfather, the late Douglas Bert Marsing, joined Local 3 in 1950 and his father is also an operator. Michael has much to share with his young son!

Sixty-year member Dwaine Pierzina, above, attends a recent Semi-Annual Event. His father, the late Alos Pierzina, and his brother, the late George Blair, right, were also longtime members and worked together on a job in the Bay Area in the 1950s.