

ENGINEERS

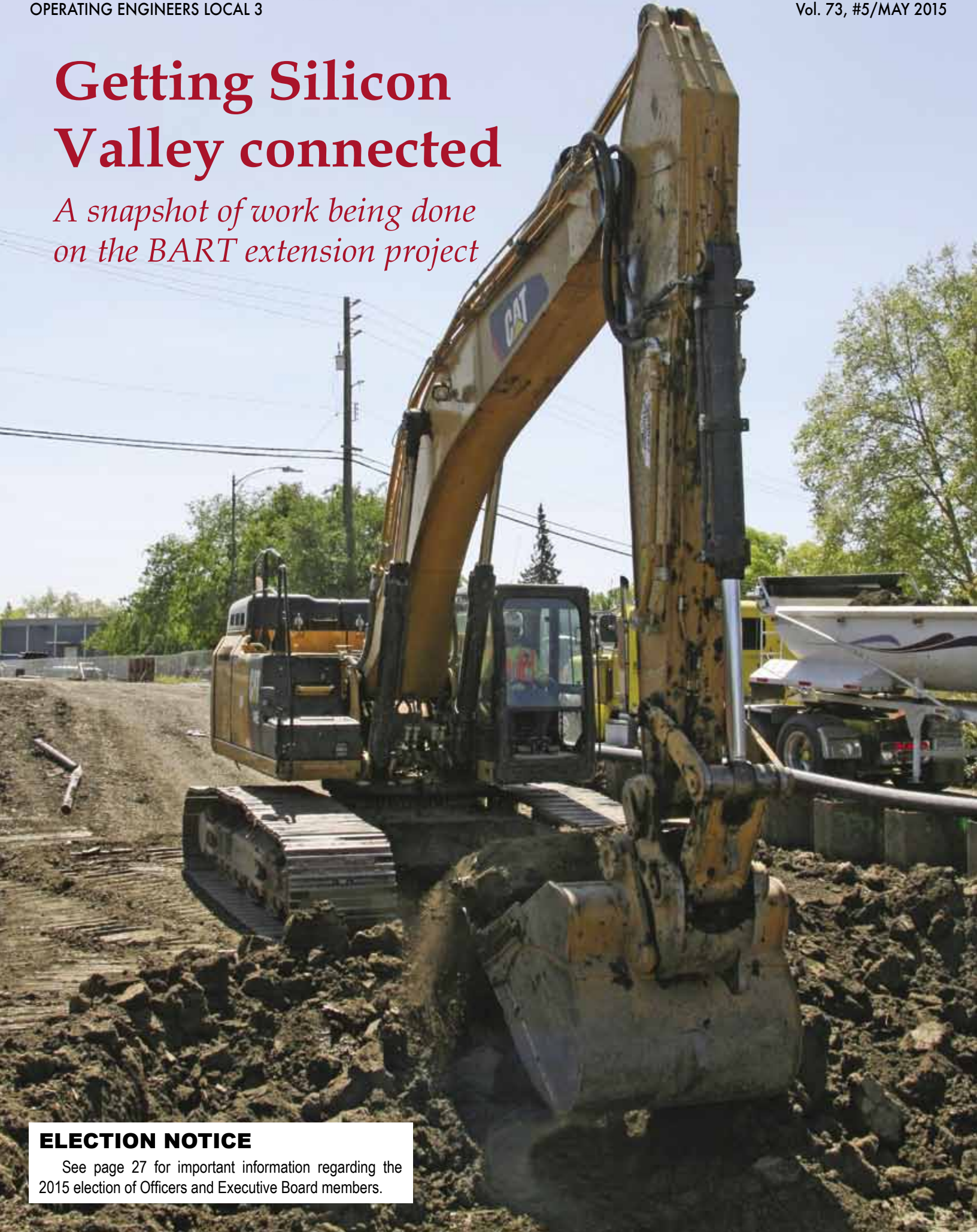
NEWS

OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 3

Vol. 73, #5/MAY 2015

Getting Silicon Valley connected

A snapshot of work being done on the BART extension project



ELECTION NOTICE

See page 27 for important information regarding the 2015 election of Officers and Executive Board members.



FROM THE DISTRICTS



PAGE 21

There's plenty of work in District 60's Sutter and Yuba counties, including some upgrades on the Linda Wastewater Treatment Plant with Myers and Sons' Operator Roger Vorderbruggen, above. Read about other projects in the district and a few new journey-level operators.



PAGE 23

Did you know that more than 40 percent of construction workers are baby boomers who may retire soon? Read all about some of Fresno District 50's well-known boomers as well as the operators who will one day fill their seats, such as Apprentice Mason Wilkins, above.

NEW THIS MONTH

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EVERY MONTH

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OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL UNION NO. 3

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
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| Dan Reding | President |
| Pete Figueiredo | Vice President |
| Jim Sullivan | Rec. Corres. Secretary |
| Steve Ingersoll | Financial Secretary |
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For The Good & Welfare

By Russ Burns, business manager

Battle-ready

This Memorial Day, I hope we all take a minute to thank our military brothers and sisters who have devoted and sometimes even sacrificed their lives for our freedom. We can never really pay them the debt of gratitude they are owed.

Though we are not currently involved in a military conflict on our own soil, there are political battles being fought every day to defend America's working class. At the time of this writing, there are 13 states that have pending right-to-work legislation and 18 states with pending repeals of prevailing-wage laws. In March, Nevada's governor signed into law Senate Bill (SB) 119, which exempts construction school projects from prevailing-wage laws. Please read this edition for more information about this legislation, and call your district office or visit our website at www.oe3.org for ways to contact the politicians who think gutting the rights of workers will somehow help the economy. If they get a million calls and e-mails, you better believe they will listen. Big business owners and corporate CEOs are the only folks who get money out of these deals – as if they need more of it!

Within our own industry, other battles are being fought. The non-union and even union members from other crafts are continually sneaking onto our equipment and essentially breaking the law. They should thank us for the work we've secured, but instead, they steal from us. Every minute our iron is operated by someone other than an Operating Engineer is a minute toward wages and benefits that *we all lose*. Don't let it happen. It could be your job next, so call your agent. (You can remain anonymous.) We can't fix it, if we don't see it. To those who do take the time to make a call, believe me, it is time well spent.

Fighting for a prevailing wage in outlying counties is another battle of ours, and most recently, it is a battle we have won. See an important update in this edition about how our surveyors' total package in several outlying northern California counties has increased by more than \$45 an hour thanks to our diligent focus on the rates paid there. This is a huge victory for us.

Organizing the non-union is yet another ongoing challenge. As our Organizing Department staff members will tell you, theirs is an uphill battle. They must provide encouragement and support to workers who want to be organized, while these workers face threats from their employer.

Our organizers must also persuade non-union companies to leave the dark side and come to the light of what the union can do for their business and their workers' morale. Organizing Director Bruce Noel's column (see page 7) is an uplifting account of what happens when workers maintain the courage it takes to see the process through and get organized. Nearly 60 workers from Waste Management did just this, and the details are a testament to the strength of our organizers and this great union.

Why is Local 3 so great? In this month's edition, you'll see a big range of diversity, as we highlight some of our Caltrans Unit 12 mechanics and parts specialists, a retired Korean War veteran, an elevator operator, a few apprentices and several law-enforcement officials. Our members are skilled professionals in many different capacities. Their contributions to this organization benefit every one of us, because as they succeed in their fields, so does their union!

This edition also highlights some diverse jobs, such as a much-needed recycled-water pipeline project in Fairfield District 04 that was secured thanks to the passage of the Water Bond last year and the \$7 billion Silicon Valley BART Extension project in Morgan Hill District 90. Whether our members are laying miles of pipe or extending miles of a rail-line, their work is a necessary part of economic improvement within the communities and infrastructure systems they improve. Check out the rest of the work within our jurisdiction in this month's District Reports.

Contract negotiations have started or are about to start for much of our industry, including the Unit 12 agreement and the Testing and Inspection agreement. For those of you affected, please keep in contact with your district office and consider attending a pre-negotiations meeting or joining your negotiations committee. Your input is invaluable. Ultimately, we are always negotiating for our membership. Therefore, there are always ways you can get involved.

Again, please remember to thank a veteran this month and during the other 11 months of the year. I look forward to seeing you at the next round of District Meetings. Schedules for these meetings and much more, including many upcoming picnics, can be found in the Meetings and Announcements section. Don't miss an opportunity to get involved in your union.

Russell Burns



News & Notes

By Dan Reding, president

Stand together and protect our work

At the time of this writing, we just had our March Semi-Annual Meeting, and I want to thank everyone who came out. I had a lot of members tell me it was one of the best Semi-Annuals they have been to. Business Manager Russ Burns gave what I thought was one of his best presentations. He covered a lot of issues and gave a lot of good information to the members.

The Semi-Annual Meetings and regular District Meetings are a great way to find out what is going on with your union. We always make it a point to be at these meetings a good hour before they start, so we can walk around and talk to the members. We encourage members who have questions or hear any rumors to catch us before the meeting. Most of the time we can talk one-on-one to answer questions or dispel any rumors.

During the Good of the Order portion of the Semi-Annual Meeting, one member made the statement that the Incentive Program we put into place was hurting the Pension. In reality, the program saves the Pension Plan money by encouraging members to work longer before drawing their Pension. Since this member may not be the only one who misunderstands how the Incentive Program really works, we are telling our staff to start talking about it more at the Pre-Retirement Meetings.

Another member asked about other crafts doing our work. It's a sad truth that we are constantly fighting to protect our work instead of working together to fight the non-union and increase union work for everybody. Unfortunately, their idea of organizing is raiding other crafts' work. It's getting to the point that we file grievances. Some we win; some we lose. A lot of times the other craft will claim jurisdictional, a tool of the trade, and an arbitrator won't rule and will want to kick it back to the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE). By the time we get a decision, the job is long-gone.

We get told all the time that members won't call the union hall to report other crafts doing our work because they are afraid if it's found out who called, they will get run-off the job. The problem is that every hour another craft runs our equipment, not only are our members not working, but money is not going into our funds that benefit our members (Pension, Health and Welfare, etc.). If we don't get calls and can't be on every job every day, then members need to start standing together and telling the Operating Engineers foreman who allows another craft to do our work that we are not going to tolerate it. Every operator on that job must send the message to the company that the union is all of us, and together we will protect our work.

Be safe!

OE3.ORG

Want more Operating Engineers news? Visit Local 3's website at www.oe3.org for some exclusive features we **only** post online.

Nevada workers under attack



You see it in the news. You hear it on the radio. You read about it here. Nevada's workers are under attack from anti-union extremists wielding power at the state capitol. What can you do? Plenty! Click on the "Nevada Under Attack" button on our website's home page for details on at least five things you can do *right now* to let Nevada's politicians know they need to change their tune on working people's issues if they want to keep their jobs. The page also has information on how you can keep up-to-date with the latest developments regarding workers' issues in Nevada.

Photo galleries



Whether at a jobsite, a charitable event or a graduation ceremony, Local 3 members like Jeremiah Figueroa, above, are always building friendships, connecting with their communities and creating memories. Perhaps you posed for the camera or noticed one of our photographers taking snapshots at a jobsite or event. Have you ever wondered where those moments caught on film went? Some of them may have ended up in the *Engineers News*, but many of them make it onto our website as well. Click the "Engineers News" tab at the top of our home page and browse our online photo galleries. It's likely you'll find some great shots of friends, family or a jobsite you worked on. You may even come across your own photo!



Facts and Figures

By Justin Diston, Treasurer

Learning from history

The legislation exempting school construction projects in Nevada from prevailing-wage laws (Senate Bill 119) is just the tip of the iceberg. More on this bill and others which gut worker protections and rights in Nevada can be found on our website at www.oe3.org. However, such laws don't just affect Nevada. Anti-union laws are being crafted or voted on *right now* across the country and our jurisdiction. To counteract this, we must understand the past. Let's begin by examining Nevada and Utah's labor history, since these are right-to-work states.

The pioneers who first settled the Salt Lake Valley in the 1840s played a huge role in Utah's labor history. Many had organized trade organizations in Illinois or had been involved in trade guilds on the East Coast. Once in Utah, they again organized and became the basis for the frontier's first labor unions.

Labor enjoyed the support of the entire community in settling the frontier. As the economy grew, however, disagreements over low wages and poor working conditions led to major conflicts between business and labor.

Many were seduced into believing the anti-union movement was about freedom of choice. By the 1920s, anti-union policies and practices were widely adopted, and employers' power increased. People soon realized anti-unionism had created less freedom, not more, and anti-union sentiment declined. Its supporters reacted by using powerful rhetoric about "rights," and the term right-to-work was born.

Nevada shared much of the same history as Utah, with significant clashes between labor and business during the 1940s. As in Utah, many business leaders began to lobby for right-to-work legislation. Until that time, most right-to-work laws existed in the South, where a history of slavery, segregation and low wages had created immense inequality that benefited a wealthy minority. In 1951, Nevada ratified right-to-work legislation by the slimmest of margins (50.6 percent), and Utah soon followed in 1955.

After Nevada and Utah became right-to-work states, workplace representation sharply declined, as did wages and the power of working people. In contrast, the anti-union movement gained momentum, defeating attempts by voters to repeal right-to-work laws.

The next target was worker protections, and by 1982, Utah lost its prevailing wage. Research later found that savings to the state due to the repeal had been insignificant, while on average, worker earnings declined by \$1,477 a year.

Ultimately, right-to-work legislation and the repeal of prevailing wage laws did not benefit state and local governments or taxpayers. The only benefactors were the wealthy business interests backing the legislation.

This is what is in store for working people in Nevada and across the country if we don't fight back by getting involved in politics.

In 2014, there were 12,915 volunteer hours for the Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program. With 35,000 members in Local 3, there is plenty of room for improvement. Imagine what we could achieve if each one of us gave active support to policies and elected officials that would, in turn, support us. Elected officials from both parties would not hesitate to further the interests of working people, and constituency would become more important than ideology.

Let's learn from our history. We all must get politically involved if we are to avoid the mistakes of the past. Call your district office to see what is needed right now.

Political Perspective

By Mark Kyle, director of government affairs

United we must stand

Political activity on the part of Local 3 and its membership is essential. Consider two examples of what we accomplished in 2014. With our support, California voters approved the \$7.5 billion Water Bond, and voters in Alameda County passed Measure BB, both of which will not only result in jobs for our members, but in much-needed improvement and maintenance of California's infrastructure.

Despite a lot of good news last year, labor suffered some key losses nationally. The majority power in Congress now lies in the hands of politicians who support an anti-worker agenda already playing out in individual states. These include attacks on working people in Nevada and the right-to-work (for less) plague sweeping the country.

As for this year, there is plenty of political work to be done throughout our jurisdiction. Workers in Nevada remain under an all-out attack, making it more important than ever for members to stand up and make their voices heard. Our members will also need to be heard in Hawaii on permitting and entitlement processes for special construction projects, and in Utah, where there will be important local elections as well as upcoming gas tax bills important to our industry. In California, we will have special elections, important county measures and the upcoming San Francisco mayoral election, all of which will impact our members.

We also have the vital task of laying the groundwork this year for 2016, which will include the presidential race, as well as crucial Senate races in California and Nevada. There will also be ballot measures and elections for state legislators next year. As a union, we must be prepared.

Our officers and staff are working with our member-elected Political Action Committees (PACs) to identify candidates who align with the interests of our membership, researching voting records of public officials and organizing phone banks and precinct walks. Local 3 will also be keeping the membership informed and up-to-date on political issues that affect them. This will include mailings, slate cards and political updates on the OE3 website (www.oe3.org).

Members can do their part by participating in Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) opportunities and discussing the issues with others. Reach out to family and friends and let them know the good that unions do for their members and communities. If you have any questions, contact your district office.

Social media can be a great resource in countering the anti-union propaganda being put out by anti-worker organizations. These entities have a financial interest in diminishing the say working people have at the workplace and at the ballot box and have mobilized an all-out assault on American workers. Unfortunately, there are plenty of politicians, lobbyists, talk radio hosts and cable news shows willing to take their side (and the paycheck that comes with it).

However, all the money in the world loses its power when the working people of America organize to protect their rights and privileges. As Samuel Gompers once said, "Where trade unions are most firmly organized, there are the rights of the people most respected."

The outcome of our efforts begins today. If everyone, staff, members and our families, works together from this day forward, we can stop the national attacks on the middle class and labor.



Fringe Benefits
By Charlie Warren, director

How to read your
Pension statement

For all Pension Plan participants: Your Pension statement provides important retirement information. Below is a guide to reading your statement:

Item 1 shows the number of hours reported for you for the Plan year indicated. Compare these hours with your records, as they are an important factor in determining your Pension benefit.

Item 2 shows the credit earned during the Plan year and the dollars added to your Pension for the year.

Item 3 indicates your total future credits and the monthly benefit through the Plan year and payable at full retirement (age 65) or through a service pension.

Item 4 contains important messages regarding your Pension benefits.

For help with your Pension statement, please call the Trust Fund Office at (800) 251-5014 or the Fringe Benefits Service Center at (800) 532-2105.



**PENSION TRUST FUND
FOR OPERATING ENGINEERS**
1640 South Loop Road
Alameda CA 94502
(510) 271-0222

Joe Engineer
1234 Construction Rd
Engineers CA 12345

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T. Holsman L. Inouye J. Murray
P. Ruggeri T. Squeri

Social Security No.
*****-**-1234**
Birthdate
1/23/1971

Employer	Date Worked	Hours Reported	Hourly Contrib Rate	Benefit Factor	Benefit
XYZ Construction	Jan-14	106.50	\$7.00	1.250%	\$9.32
XYZ Construction	Feb-14	129.50	\$7.00	1.250%	\$11.33
XYZ Construction	Mar-14	139.00	\$7.00	1.250%	\$12.16
XYZ Construction	Apr-14	166.50	\$7.00	1.250%	\$14.57
XYZ Construction	May-14	163.50	\$7.00	1.250%	\$14.31
XYZ Construction	Jun-14	202.50	\$7.00	1.250%	\$17.72
XYZ Construction	Jul-14	152.00	\$7.00	1.250%	\$13.30
XYZ Construction	Aug-14	206.00	\$7.00	1.250%	\$18.03
XYZ Construction	Sep-14	178.50	\$7.00	1.250%	\$15.62
XYZ Construction	Oct-14	180.00	\$7.00	1.250%	\$15.75
XYZ Construction	Nov-14	210.00	\$7.00	1.250%	\$18.38
XYZ Construction	Dec-14	171.50	\$7.00	1.250%	\$15.01
Totals	1	2,005.50			\$175.50

CREDITS AND BENEFITS					
FOR YEAR ENDING 12/31/2014		ACCUMULATED 12/31/2014			
2	1.00	\$175.50	3	18.50	\$3,959.93
FUTURE SERVICE CREDITS		BENEFIT	FUTURE SERVICE CREDITS		BENEFIT
All pension credit, including past service, will be verified at the time of retirement.					
FOR YOUR INFORMATION					
4	You are Vested				

District visits

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

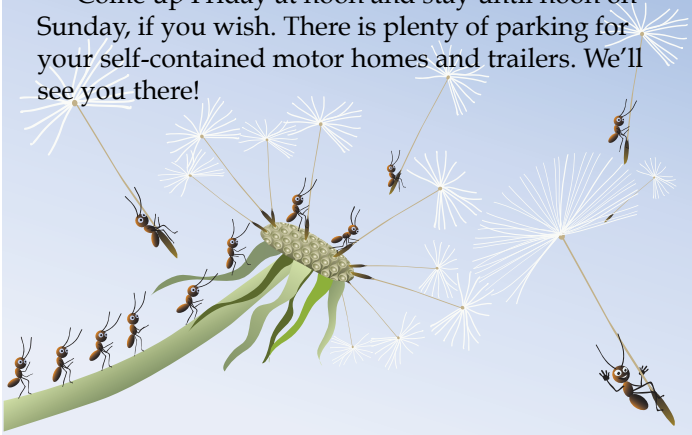
Please refer to the Fringe Benefits schedule below.

First Tuesday (May 5)	Redding
First Wednesday (May 6)	Yuba City
First Thursday (May 7)	Sacramento
Second Tuesday (May 12)	Stockton
Second Wednesday (May 13)	Fresno
Second Thursday (May 14)	Morgan Hill
Third Tuesday (May 19)	Rohnert Park
Third Wednesday (May 20)	Eureka
Fourth Tuesday (May 26)	Burlingame
Fourth Wednesday (May 27)	Oakland
Fourth Thursday (May 28)	Fairfield

Retiree Picnic

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the upcoming Retiree Picnic and Benefits Fair held at the Dixon Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 6.

Come up Friday at noon and stay until noon on Sunday, if you wish. There is plenty of parking for your self-contained motor homes and trailers. We'll see you there!



Appeal rights

Every Local 3 member has the right to appeal decisions concerning their Fringe Benefits. If you have been denied a benefit, you may file an appeal; however, it must be filed in a timely manner, and time requirements vary according to the law.

Your first step is to consult the section of your *Summary Plan Description* (SPD) booklet that relates to the type of appeal you may have. As an example, page 99 of the new California Active Health and Welfare SPD states, “If your claim is denied in whole or in part, or if you disagree with the decision made on the claim, you may appeal the decision in the manner specified below. Appeals must be submitted to the Trust Fund Office within 180 days after you receive the notice of Adverse Benefit Determination.” The SPD goes on to discuss what must be included in an appeal, types of claims, the internal appeals process and timeframes.

During our twice monthly district visits, we often assist participants in all phases of appeals, including general advice, preparation, research, format, scheduling, etc. Your appeal will be heard by an Appeals Committee made up of one union Trustee and one employer Trustee (the decision makers), and various professionals who assist the process. All appeals for Pension, Pensioned Health and Welfare, California Annuity, California Active Health and Welfare and California COBRA are heard monthly according to this process. For all trusts/funds other than those listed above, appeals are resolved at different intervals, generally during full Trust Fund Board Meetings held quarterly.

Business Manager Russ Burns, the officers and Trustees consider it very important to afford each and every member their fullest appeal due-process rights and treat each appeal as a matter of high priority.

ATPA district visit schedule

Tuesday, May 5	Rohnert Park
Wednesday, May 6	Eureka
Tuesday, May 12	Burlingame
Wednesday, May 13	Oakland
Thursday, May 14	Fairfield
Tuesday, May 19	Redding
Wednesday, May 20	Yuba City
Thursday, May 21	Sacramento
Tuesday, May 26	Stockton
Wednesday, May 27	Fresno
Thursday, May 28	Morgan Hill

Organizing
By Bruce Noel, director



No challenge too big

If you were to make a list of the hardest things a person can do, organizing could easily be in the top 10. Organizing Waste Management, one of the largest and most profitable waste operators in the county, would rank even higher. Still harder than that ... doing it twice in just over a year! That’s right, twice!

In 2013, a group of workers wanted the benefit and protection of being organized and came to Local 3 to represent them. They were strong-minded and were not going to let the company officials and the union-busters they brought in stop them. In fact, these workers were so diligent, they busted the union-busters! For Local 3 organizers, it was a very proud moment to see workers pull together the way they did. There were numerous attempts to discredit the union, but these workers fought back with facts that the company could not discredit, and eventually, the company just stopped trying. In January 2014, this special group of workers won their National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) election by a 2-1 margin.

After the election, we began negotiating with Waste Management to build a first contract, and it slowly came together. After nearly a year at the table, company officials wanted us to take their proposal to the unit. We really didn’t like it, but we agreed, nonetheless. The unit unanimously rejected the company’s proposal, resulting in another very proud moment. These workers were not willing to take the garbage offered to them by Waste Management, and they let the company know by sending us back to the table with a new proposal.

Despite the overwhelming rejection, the company tried to offer a Last, Best and Final. Local 3 responded with a request for a federal mediator. After meeting with the feds, we were able to

get a better proposal and the workers were ready to ratify. We scheduled a ratification meeting with the unit, but four days before the meeting, a couple of the anti-union workers, with the help of the union-busters, were able to get a decertification petition filed with the NLRB. This meant we now had to re-run the election. Company officials and their handful of anti-union workers must have felt that they could change some minds. They didn’t even send in the billion-dollar union-busters this time around. (They had been so undermined last time, that they just stayed home!) Company officials instead tried to convince the workers that they were going to change and treat them better and that the workers didn’t need the power to demand they be heard, because now officials would voluntarily “give them a voice.” Well, these workers didn’t need to be “given” a voice, because they got it ... by voting to become Local 3!

The new election was held on March 13, 2015, but this time the numbers were a little different. MORE workers voted YES than they did in the first election – another proud moment for the workers and organizers. Now the company must sit down and bargain with us. This time, these workers are tired of the games and want an agreement that will better their working conditions and help ensure their futures.

Our new brothers and sisters from the Waste Management (Woodland) unit, having won their second bottom-up campaign in just over one year with even more votes than the first election, just proved to all of us that anything worthwhile, no matter how hard it is, is possible. Even if that means standing up to one of the largest waste collection companies in the world ... TWICE!



From left: Waste Management members Guillermo Ramirez, Angel Ayala, Martin Pollock, Tony Lizaola, Gino Redfearn, Victor Garcia, Rosalio Santillan, Ricardo Perez, Scott Murphy, Cooter Frazier and Tim Olson recently became part of Local 3 after a tremendous organizing victory.



Public Employee News

By Rick Davis, director

Busy times!

It is spring, finally, and it was one busy winter. We completed our staff's annual two-day Winter Training in March, and it went very well. Our public employee business agents received some outstanding information and listened to some excellent lectures.

Some of the areas covered during Winter Training included updates on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the Cadillac Tax and how they may affect the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) and other insurance plans. We discussed some of our units coming under pressure by labor law firms to leave OE3 and sign up with them for representation, which is something I will address in the near future. We also received a legal update from OE3's House Counsel and watched a presentation on union organizing.

One of the best training segments was from Adams, Ferrone and Ferrone, a law firm out of Westlake, Calif., with a satellite office in Bakersfield. This is one of a handful of outside legal firms that OE3 utilizes when needed. The lecturer, Michael McGill, did an outstanding job covering investigative interviews and Police Officers' Bill Of Rights (POBOR), along with a review on meet-and-confer and Duty of Fair Representation (DFR) issues. After the initial two days of training, six of our public employee agents received another two days of training provided by the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE).

Between the Semi-Annual on March 15 and Winter Training in Sacramento the following week, it was nice to get all the public employee business agents together in one place. This does not happen very often!



New public employee Business Agent Regina Jenkins.

In other news, we recently hired two new public employee business agents in March. Regina Jenkins will work out of the Alameda office and comes to OE3 with eight years of experience working with public-sector employees. She is a graduate of Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles with a B.A. in Humanities and a third-generation Bay Area native. Prior to joining the OE3 staff, Jenkins represented San Mateo County workers with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

New Business Agent Leslie Leone will work out of our San Jose office representing our Santa Clara County Employees' Management Association (CEMA) members. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley with a B.A. in English, after which she obtained her Juris Doctorate from Golden Gate University School of Law and became a member of the California State Bar in 1999. Leone has worked with Teamsters Local 856, representing both private and public employees. She comes from a strong union family, as her father is a Local 3 member who works for the San Francisco Water Department and her mother is a Teamster.

Until next month, remember, life is short. Take quality time to enjoy your friends and family, and always be careful out there.



New public employee Business Agent Leslie Leone.

Small-town politics alive and well in the city of Rio Vista

By Darren Semore, business representative

I have the pleasure of being the business agent for the city of Rio Vista Public Works unit, which recently acquired a new city manager, Tim Chapa.

This unit entered into negotiations for 2014 with Chapa as the city's lead negotiator, and I quickly discovered that he possesses all of the qualities that people find wrong with government: dishonesty, secrecy and the ability to step on anyone who gets in his way.

Both sides presented a proposal during our first negotiations meeting. At that time, Chapa told us that the city could not afford increases of any kind due to a structural deficit. In fact, city officials wanted to cut over 16 percent from benefits. We had approximately five more meetings, but city officials never changed this original proposal, despite several changes we made to ours. Chapa continually maintained that the city was unable to give any kind of increase due to a structural deficit.

The members and the city eventually came to an impasse and entered into mediation, but still nothing changed. We were told yet again that the city needed to take from the members to fix the structural deficit. However, when we went into fact-finding, Chapa flip-flopped on everything he had said in negotiations. He hired an attorney who told Fact-Finding Panel Chairperson Ronald Hoh that it was not a structural problem, and the city had the finances to pay the members. According to Chapa, the city's stance was now based on a comparison study. The comparison study was done with random cities, two of which, Yreka and Pismo Beach, were not even close in geography or relevance.

Hoh was not interested in the fact that we had been negotiating under the false premise that the city was in a structural deficit and advised us that he was only going to focus on the comparison study conducted by the city. Our members made an offer to take a 4 or 5 percent salary increase and in turn pay 7.25 percent of the employees' share of Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). City officials not only rejected this offer but wanted our members to pay their FICA/Medicare and 10 percent of their medical. City officials also stated that the reason they rejected the PERS proposal was because they plan to take it without having to give anything back in 2018.

In the final findings, Hoh offered a 1 percent salary increase, but the members had to pay for 1 percent of FICA, 1 percent of PERS and 1 percent of Medicare on a two-year deal.

Chapa lives in Davis, about an hour from Rio Vista. He doesn't appear to have any real interest in the well-being of Rio Vista and its citizens. The Rio Vista Public Works unit is made up of loyal members of the community who demonstrate this through their hard work without any complaints. They don't deserve a city manager who doesn't have their best interests at heart.

Agreement reached for Lake County Superior Court Clerks

By Mike Minton, business representative

Things are getting a bit better for our District 60 public employees. We are currently in negotiations with the Marysville Joint Unified School District, and by the time you read this, hopefully we will have concluded negotiations. At the time of this writing, the issue is the salary increase. Currently, we have two offers on the table: A one-year contract with a 3 percent salary increase or a two-year contract with a 4 percent salary increase each year; however, we would have to give up the “Me Too” clause. The employees are a bit skeptical about giving this up, as another bargaining unit within the school district is close to settling with a salary increase that is slightly larger than what we have offered. If we agree too soon and the other bargaining unit is successful, it would cost us about 1 percent in salary increases.

We just settled some very long and often difficult contract negotiations with the Lake County Superior Court Clerks bargaining unit. One of the issues was that we had to deal with an outside entity, the Administrative Office of the Court (AOC), which is a legislative body attached to the state. Its officials don’t care at all about the employees, as they have absolutely no ties to them or the employer. The AOC oversees the trial courts and decides what they will receive. Local management has some say in the process, but the AOC runs the show for the most part. You may have seen the news about the AOC and its outside audits, which came back with a very disturbing report on how unqualified the AOC is at managing money. According to the report, the AOC has misspent and misdirected monies that should have gone to the trial courts. We had to deal with this unethical and unscrupulous organization in trying to get a contract that was beneficial to both sides. After we finally reached an impasse, both sides agreed to go to mediation. The mediator was successful in getting both sides to reach an agreement, which, ironically, was the exact same proposal we had presented several months prior and the AOC had refused. I guess they just needed to hear it from someone other than us lowly peons, as that is how the employees of the Lake County Superior Court Clerks have been treated for quite some time. Special thanks to Shop Steward Mary Martinez for her intelligent, insightful and professional approach to “crunching the numbers” and providing good arguments for our proposals, and to Shop Steward Marlene Elder for providing history as to how we got here in the first place. We could not have accomplished what we did without them.

Changes to the Porterville POA

By Fred Klingel, business representative

Someone long ago said, “The only constant in life is change,” and so it is. Not only does the Porterville Police Department welcome a change in its leadership with the in-house promotion of Eric Kroutil to the position of chief, but also a change in its Peace Officers Association (POA) leadership. Former POA president Aaron Sutherland has decided to start a new career with another law enforcement agency in Oregon, and I wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors. Other POA members have also decided to end their service on the board at this time. Thank you all for your hard work and interest in your association.

With that door closing, another door has opened, bringing in some fresh faces and new energy to the POA Board. New members include President/Detective Wayne Martin, Vice President/Officer Nathan Bray, Secretary/Treasurer/Officer Jennifer Rutledge and Sergeant-At-Arms/Officer Mark Hatch. Board members are still looking for someone for the secretary position, since Rutledge is currently performing the duties of both secretary and treasurer. This is a vibrant and dynamic team that will lead the POA for many years and grow the association into one of the best in the area.

Remembering our fallen members

By Michael Eggener, business representative

In November of 2012, Paul Roman Katuszonek, a Local 3 member and five-year veteran of the Oakdale Police Department, was killed in a tragic collision on Hwy. 132 near Modesto. The cancer survivor was on his way to work after dropping off his daughter to be babysat by his mother-in-law. Caltrans worker and Local 3 member Brian Smith was also seriously injured in the collision. In 2013, the Oakdale Garden Club planted an oak tree in Valley View Park to honor Katuszonek’s memory, but the memorial tree did not survive the recent drought. In true organizing fashion, the Oakdale Garden Club’s Bob Taylor rallied the members, and a replacement tree was obtained. On Feb. 12, 2015, Oakdale Parks Lead Man Rolando Avila and Crewmember Brandon Souza, both Local 3 members, planted the new blue oak tree in Valley View Park. To ensure the tree’s survival, Avila replaced the water supply. We honor the memory of all of our loved ones who have dedicated their lives in service to their communities.



From left: Oakdale City Public Works Department members Rolando Avila and Brandon Souza plant a new oak tree in Valley View Park in honor of Police Officer Paul Roman Katuszonek.



Porterville POA President/Detective Wayne Martin in his Crown Victoria, which some have deemed the best police vehicle ever made.



Porterville POA Vice President/Officer Nathan Bray drives a Dodge Charger patrol vehicle.



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

A guide to financial spring-cleaning

Although California’s winter felt more like spring, it’s now official: Spring is here for everyone, and everything is in bloom. This time of year is perfect to do a little spring cleaning of your home, your garage and your finances! This is also a great time to set goals and start saving for a new car, boat, vacation or even a home. OE Federal can help you meet your savings goals with the following tools.

OnTrack – personal finance

This is perfect for those who like to use the latest technology. With OnTrack, you can create savings goals online or through your cell phone. The program tracks your spending and provides reports on your progress. To use OnTrack, simply visit www.oefcu.org and log in to Online Banking.

BALANCE

OE Federal has partnered with BALANCE, a financial fitness program designed to help you “spring clean” your finances. BALANCE is great for those who need a bit more guidance or some one-on-one help. This is a no-cost service to members, and BALANCE representatives will help guide you toward your financial goals. For more information on BALANCE, visit us online.

Mortgage market

As you know, the housing market has started to improve, and that’s a great thing for you. OE Federal has its own Real Estate Department, where dedicated professionals are ready to help you get into the home you want. Whether you’re looking to finance, refinance or for a home equity line of credit, when it comes to real estate, we have the right loan for you! OE Federal recently launched its new First Time Home Buyer Program, which is specifically designed for our members. Buying your first home can feel overwhelming, but it doesn’t have to be thanks to our knowledgeable staff. If you’re in the market or have a child or grandchild looking to purchase their first home, refer them to OE Federal. Simply call (800) 877-4444 and ask to speak to a Real Estate Specialist.

For over 50 years, OE Federal’s goal has been to keep our members’ best interests in mind in everything we do. We were built on union pride and continue to honor our union principles. No matter what your needs are, we have the right product, service or solution to help continue the legacy of a 100 percent union financial institution built to serve union members.

If you or one of your immediate family members would like to join OE Federal, call us or visit our website or any local branch to learn more about how we can help you.

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Rancho Murieta Training Center for apprentice to journey-level operators

By Tammy Castillo, director of apprenticeship

Forklift and rigging/signalperson certification guidelines

Per Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations, forklift certification is valid for three years. Forklift operators must be re-certified every three years by passing both written and hands-on tests. The same tests are administered for both first-time certification as well as recertification.

Below are the guidelines for forklift certification/recertification at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC):

Forklift certification

- Two-day certification class.
- Classroom instruction includes forklift safety and basic operation videos, nomenclature, review questions and load-chart exercises and review.
- Field instruction includes basic operation of both vertical mast and rough-terrain-type forklifts: Cold iron check, machine familiarization and practice exercises.
- Must pass OSHA written test on both vertical mast and rough-terrain-type forklifts (includes nomenclature and load-chart questions).*
- Must pass hands-on, timed, proficiency test on both vertical mast and rough-terrain-type forklifts (only one opportunity to complete test).

**Must pass written test in order to take hands-on test.*

Forklift recertification

- Testing completed in one day.
- Must have proof of current OSHA forklift certification (credential entered in UME).
- Classroom instruction includes forklift safety and basic operation videos.
- Must pass OSHA written test on both vertical mast and rough-terrain-type forklifts (includes nomenclature and load-chart questions).*
- Must pass hands-on, timed, proficiency test on both vertical mast and rough-terrain-type forklifts (only one opportunity to complete test).
- No instruction on equipment but may run course a total of two times to become familiar with machine before taking test.
- Must take two-day certification training if unable to meet minimum proficiency standards for certification.

**Must pass written test in order to take hands-on test.*

Per National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) regulations, rigging and signalperson certifications are valid for five years. Recertification for both

rigging and signalperson certifications must be completed prior to the expiration date. *There is no "grace period" after the date of expiration.* Members whose certifications have expired must complete all certification requirements, including both written and practical exams.

Below are the guidelines for rigging and signalperson certifications at the RMTC:

Rigging/signalperson certification

- Two-day certification class.
- Classroom instruction includes rigging and signal safety and practice scenarios in preparation for written exams, as well as instructor-led hands-on practice for both rigging and signalperson practical exams.
- Must pass a 60-question, multiple-choice written exam and a hands-on practical exam for both rigging and signalperson certifications.
- Written exams must be completed within 60 minutes.
- For signalperson practical exam, must demonstrate proficiency in giving both hand signals and voice commands. Practical exam consists of 20 scenarios and must be completed within 30 minutes.
- For rigging practical examination, must demonstrate proficiency in pre-rigging inspection, rigging hitches, rigging connections and basic knots. Practical exam must be completed within 60 minutes.

Rigging/signalperson recertification

- Testing completed in two hours.
- Must have proof of current rigging/signalperson card.
- Must pass a 30-question multiple-choice written exam for rigger recertification, demonstrating knowledge of OSHA and American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) inspection standards and rigging hardware. The test must be completed within 30 minutes. *(There is no practical exam for rigging recertification.)*
- Must pass a 20-question practical exam for signalperson certification, demonstrating knowledge of both hand signals and voice commands. The test must be completed in 30 minutes. *(There is no written exam for signalperson recertification.)*
- If recertification is unsuccessful, candidate is given one opportunity to re-test at a later time, which must take place prior to the expiration date.
- Candidates who are unsuccessful after two attempts at recertification must take and pass the full two-day certification course, which includes a written and practical exam for both signalperson and rigging certifications.





Looking at Labor

By Pete Figueiredo, vice president

The rise of true unionism

As we continue to examine the history of the U.S. labor movement, it is extremely important to spend ample time looking at the period leading up to and through the enactment and enforcement of the Wagner Act, also known as the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). This was by far the most prolific period in American history for it's working people. The NLRA contains the following provision:

RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES

Sec. 7. [§ 157.] Employees shall have the right to self-organization, to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and to engage in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection, and shall also have the right to refrain from any or all of such activities except to the extent that such right may be affected by an agreement requiring membership in a labor organization as a condition of employment as authorized in section 8(a)(3) [section 158(a)(3) of this title].

This specific language gave rise to the peak in American working people's solidarity and power in the workplace. We previously looked at portions of the New Deal, enacted between 1933-1937, that aided the recovery of the U.S. economy, as well as portions that addressed all people being provided minimum social safety nets through unemployment, disability insurance and Social Security for retirement. Section 7 of the NLRA gave workers specific legal rights to organize and bargain, which, up to that point, had not been afforded to them.

What was the lay of the land in 1933? Strike activity had increased by 300 percent over the previous year, and union membership had swollen by three quarters of a million. In 1934, one-and-a-half million workers walked the picket line, and in 1935, another million workers struck, despite having no legal protection to protest their poor working conditions.

A result of this lack of protection was that at least 88 working people were killed while striking against employers during that three-year span.

With the passage of the NLRA, American workers flocked by the tens of thousands to form industrial unions, meaning they organized unions to represent all workers in an industry as opposed to the model developed by the American Federation of Labor's old guard, which organized along craft lines. This old model meant that different unions would represent workers doing different jobs within an industry (similar to our current situation within the construction industry, i.e. Operators, Laborers, Carpenters, etc.). The reason for the industry approach was simple; it had been proven time and again that the old craft union approach was used by employers to divide workers and fragment them into competing crafts.

Those past struggles are similar to what we are burdened with today, with trade unions actively infringing upon each other's jurisdiction (a practice often encouraged, or at least not discouraged, by employers). This model thrusts labor organizations into worker-against-worker and union-against-union battles that divert our efforts from the real mission of improving the wages and working conditions of not only our members, but of all working people. Refusal to be divided is the only proven, effective and sustainable approach to unionism. The true leverage of all working people can only be found in solidarity with one another, regardless of one's specific job classification, duties, union or affiliation.

The ultimate strength and power of unionism was captured in the simple yet astonishingly powerful phrase that became the rallying cry of workers across the country, "An injury to one is an injury to all." That phrase was the cornerstone of what is widely recognized as one of the greatest strikes and the greatest demonstration of worker solidarity in all of U.S. history: the general strike of 1934 in San Francisco, known as the Big Strike. We will examine that particular action in detail next time. Until then, the battle continues!

Surveyors win prevailing rate in outlying counties

The rates paid to surveyors in several outlying counties have been a big focus for the Local 3 staff in the past several years. In 2012, we proved to the state of California that our rates were truly the prevailing rates in Fresno and Tulare counties. Since then, we have been watching the market closely for another opportunity to petition the state and influence the prevailing wage for more counties. Last year, that opportunity presented itself. Thanks to an improving economy, the workloads of our signatory surveying companies

have increased in the counties just north of Sacramento, specifically in Butte, Nevada, Sutter and Yuba counties. With this knowledge, we gathered data proving that the union rate should be the prevailing rate for field surveyors in those counties. We submitted the data in November, and the waiting began. Five months later, we finally received the news that we were successful. As of April 2, 2015, the field surveyor prevailing rates in Butte, Nevada, Sutter and Yuba counties were increased to match our Collective

Bargaining Agreement (CBA) rates. Chief of Parties in those counties went from making a total package amount of \$20.36 to \$66.08, which is a \$45.72 per hour increase! Chainman/Rodman rates went from \$12.99 to \$60.11, a \$47.12 per hour increase! These changes will dramatically help our union and signatory employers expand and gain market share in those areas. For more information, contact Senior Business Rep. John Rector at (916) 844-4152.

Operators bring much-needed water to Napa area neighborhood

Story and photos by Mandy McMillen, managing editor

Sanco Pipelines Operator Ben Lewis had never seen anything like it. When he and his fellow crewmembers showed up on the jobsite in the Milliken-Sarco-Tolucay (MST) area east of Napa to lay five miles of recycled-water pipeline, a local resident screamed “hallelujah” and threw confetti on them.

“This lady has been begging for water,” Lewis said. “She paid \$250,000 for a [water] meter five years ago to help.”

According to Lewis, the drought has gotten so bad that the resident was using three wells and only getting dirt with a little water for her 11 acres of vineyards. The construction crew’s arrival signaled the beginning of the process to help winery owners and residents of the groundwater-deficient area finally get some relief. People who sign up to use the recycled water will recover and reuse existing water – a great way to combat the effects of California’s severe drought.

But construction crews aren’t used to getting applauded when they arrive in neighborhoods with their heavy equipment. “It’s a different deal,” said Lewis, about the warm welcome.

The 16-year member has seen a lot in his career with Sanco Pipelines, a career he has no complaints about. “I can’t remember the last time I filed for unemployment,” he said.

Fourth-step Apprentice David Owen may be a newcomer to Sanco but is just as happy as Lewis to be a part of its crew. The former house-framer didn’t want to wear a tool belt forever, so he traded it in for a hardhat and joined the Apprenticeship Program two years ago.

“I like this job and the people I’m working with,” he said.

Beyond the good hours and the good nature of the crew, another benefit of the job is its location – smack-dab in the middle of beautiful wine country. But this has its challenges, as well. Crews have to stop their work for traffic – and even horses – almost every 10 minutes. Operators must be able to excavate around tree branches, wires and phone lines and deal with difficult ground conditions, including sandstone and granite.

Overall, none of this has phased the Sanco team, since, according to 15-year member Doug Edwards, they laid 400 feet of pipe on their best day.

Also, “I get to be outdoors all day playing in the dirt,” said 10-year member John Wheelwright.

Hopefully local residents will enjoy more water (rather than dirt!) thanks to the passage of last year’s Water Bond and the work of our operators.

“This project has been 15 years in the making,” said Fairfield Business Agent Jim Riley.

At its completion, the pipeline will extend up Fourth Avenue and connect to Hagen Road and the Napa Valley Country Club and is expected to initially create 228 million gallons of recycled water during the summer. As more recycled water becomes available from the district and more residents sign up for the program, the new pipeline will be able to carry as much as 651 million gallons of water.

That’s something to celebrate!



Excavator Operator Shon Cox places a cage in the ground so crewmembers can work on the shoring.



According to 15-year member/ Loader Operator Doug Edwards, on their best day, the Sanco Pipelines crew laid 400 feet of pipe on the recycled waterline project near Napa.



Backhoe/Loader Operator John Wheelwright.



Sanco Pipelines’ veteran Operator Ben Lewis delivers a piece of pipe to the trench.

Caltrans District 3 shop members do it all

It's time they be recognized

The unmistakable blue and orange Caltrans logo is such a common sight on California highway vehicles, most drivers don't give it much thought. They don't realize that unlike their personal vehicles, which they can drop off at a nearby Jiffy Lube for a quick service, state vehicles, from Priuses to snow-blowers, must be maintained in one of 12 district main shops, and in one very specialized way.

The Heavy Equipment Mechanics (HEMs) who provide this intricate work and the Equipment Material Specialists (EMSs) who support them at the Caltrans District 3 Equipment Shop in Marysville are responsible for maintaining 1,255 vehicles used by district staff to maintain 1,491 center-line miles and 4,385 lane miles in 11 Sacramento Valley and Northern Sierra counties. They must keep the varied fleet of Caltrans vehicles running smoothly and safely so that their drivers can get their jobs done. Without them, those rolling green hills we pass in the springtime would be overgrown fire hazards and the I-80/I-50 corridor at the Nevada state line would be obliterated by winter's snow.

At the Caltrans District 3 Equipment Shop, our members can be found with their heads deep in the hood of a Ford F550, diagnosing a check-engine light, or behind a computer screen ordering a filter. The full-service shop they utilize, which includes a machine and weld shop, is particularly busy at this time of year, since the mowers or tractors must be ready for the warmer season and the winter equipment must come back for repairs.

"Everything gets destroyed in the winter," explained 22-year member Scott Coppin, who was working on a 20-year-old Wirtgen grinder when the *Engineers News* staff caught up with him.

This seasonal work is often referred to as a "bed change," since trucks get their sanders removed and dump beds put on for the spring.

While every mechanic at the District 3 Equipment Shop is capable of performing whatever is needed - "I do it all," said 40-year veteran Mechanic Paul Sandhu - they do have their specialties and unique backgrounds.

Mechanic Brad Van Bibber, who recently graduated from Caltrans' Heavy Equipment Mechanic Apprentice

Program, has a strong welding background, while Coppin grew up in his dad's fabrication shop and prefers the creative aspect of building new things. Mechanic Randall Stephens serviced 21 Hostess bread trucks in Chico before joining the District 3 crew, and Sandhu worked for Teichert until the economy gave out in 2008.

Regardless of their backgrounds, they are all gifted and have developed a specialized skill set that is very valuable and ever-evolving in response to the growing demands of new technology.

"The updated technology [we keep up with] every year is amazing," said 25-year member Steven Jones, as he emphasized how technical these mechanics' skills have become. "The training that we require now ... we have the schooling, the background, the electrical equipment."

Ordering the parts to maintain this technology is another challenge - one that Equipment Material Specialist James Wright III handles well, since he worked in the shop prior to joining the parts staff.

"I have a unique perspective," he said.

The crew he is a part of keeps busy with the ordering, processing, and accounting of parts (from paperclips to diesel engines) for 11 field locations and nine shop mechanics, so teamwork is vital.

"We have a good group of guys," said Senior Equipment Material Specialist Duane Williams, who oversees the Parts Department, where cubicles buzz with phone calls.

In the shop, Sandhu expressed the same sentiment. "We have a great crew here," he said. "This is a great place to work. ... but a little bit of money would be nice!"

With all the work they do and the variety of skills they possess, it's easy to see why.

Remember, behind those familiarly labeled highway rigs, whether they are marking lanes, removing trees near power lines or inspecting the safety of our bridges, our Caltrans mechanics and parts professionals are working hard at the state wage with a very technical skill set.

"We're not just mechanics who change parts," said Jones.

"These are the state's unsung heroes," said Yuba City Business Rep. Jeff Hunerlach.



Mechanic Jason Embree diagnoses a check-engine light on a Ford F550.



Equipment Material Specialist Bill Hunter places an order for parts at the Caltrans District 3 shop.



Mechanic Steven M. Jones recently put a new engine in one of the trucks at the Caltrans District 3 shop in Marysville.



Equipment Material Specialist Jason Nelson.



Mechanic Scott Coppin works on a Wirtgen grinder, which he repairs half a dozen times a year.



Job Steward Howard Larsen is a 13-year member.



Mechanic Brad Van Bibber.



Equipment Material Specialist James Wright III supports the shop operations and worked as a District 3 shop mechanic several years ago.



Senior Equipment Material Specialist Duane Williams oversees the Caltrans District 3 parts department.



Mechanic Paul Sandhu has been working on equipment for 40 years.



Mechanic Randall Stephens has worked at the Caltrans District 3 shop for almost three years.



David Erspamer recently finished his Heavy Equipment Mechanic Apprenticeship to become a Caltrans mechanic.



Mechanic Darryl Pietak stands next to a Caltrans transport truck.

Getting Silicon Valley connected

A snapshot of work being done on the BART extension project

By John O. Matos, associate editor

Connectivity is a word we hear a lot these days, especially in Silicon Valley, the heart of California’s technology sector. But the region recognized the need for a different kind of connectivity in recent years, one that requires the skill and knowledge of Local 3 members.

The Silicon Valley Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Extension project will extend the light-rail system another 16 miles, connecting San Jose to Fremont. It’s the largest public works project in Santa Clara County, with seven planned stations. Skanska/Shimmick/Herzog Joint Venture (JV) is the main contractor on the project, which is estimated to cost roughly \$7 billion by completion and create thousands of construction jobs. At the moment, much of that work is taking place in Milpitas.

At the site of the future Milpitas Station, a key part of the extension, Surveyor Richard Mahoney and Apprentice Robert Jagerson are laying out grids for the transit hub’s structural foundations. Mahoney has been on this project since it began in 2013, and with completion expected in 2018, there is still plenty of work to keep him and many other members busy.

“I love working outdoors on interesting projects,” said Mahoney, and Jagerson agreed. With the sun shining, the cool

Bay breeze and a clear view of green hills in the distance, it’s easy to appreciate that statement.

A short distance from where they work, member Keith Ledger has been operating an excavator, digging a foundation footing.

“There’s always something new,” he said, when asked what he liked about working on this project.

Operator Chris Smith soon asks Ledger to take over on a dozer, and he immediately climbs into the cab and is back at work.

At the other end of the same jobsite, Crane Operator James Shoemate is in the cab of a 90-ton truck crane with Oiler Leonard Smith on the ground. The two of them are rigging out another crane, lifting its sections and counterweights onto truck beds that will transport the crane to another section of the project.

Shoemate travels the area quite a bit working for Bigge Crane and Rigging.

“From San Francisco to Salinas,” he said. “Every day is different, and I like that.”

Smith agreed, there’s a lot of variety from day to day. He was taking down the Wrestlemania stage just the day before at Levi’s Stadium.



From left: Operator Florentino Balcazar works with Apprentice Daniel Perea at the site of the future Milpitas Station, part of the Silicon Valley BART Extension project.



Apprentice Robert Jagerson and Surveyor Richard Mahoney pause for a photo as they lay out foundation grids at the Milpitas Station site.



Loader Operator Florentino Balcazar cleans up the jobsite.



Oiler Leonard Smith helps rig out a crane before it is moved to another part of the BART Extension project.

With Shoemate and Smith loading flatbeds, Crane Operator Raul Pichardo backs the crane's machine deck onto a 9-axle trailer. Heavy Duty Repairmen (HDR) Roy Pickrell and Danny Green give him hand signals and make sure everything is loaded perfectly. The whole process should be done by the end of the day, said Pickrell, although, he added, "It may be a long day."

Operator Florentino Balcazar and Apprentice Daniel Perea are cleaning up another part of the jobsite with the use of a loader. Balcazar, who has been on this project for a few months, said he worked for years as a Laborer but wanted to run equipment and make a better living. He joined Local 3 in 2006, and now his son Andrew is also a member and doing very well.

"This is a good union," he said. "The people are great, and they take care of each other."

At the project's Capitol jobsite, Operator Todd Carr is using a lodrill to create wells that will dewater a trench. Once completed, the trench will allow light-rail to pass below ground level without disrupting street traffic. Carr has been working on the extension project for the past three months, and although he will soon be in Willow Creek shoring up retaining walls, he expects to keep returning to work on this project.

About 100 yards from Carr, Excavator Operator Phillip Thompson is loading up waiting trucks with spoils. He's been on this project for nine months.

"He's from the Marysville/Yuba City area," said Business Agent Randall Natale, as Thompson continued his work. "This is one of those jobs that bring people in from all over."

Work on the extension project continues at jobsites all over Silicon Valley, and each one employs many Local 3 members doing a variety of work. Once completed, the extension will play a vital role in improving the region's transportation and economy by connecting surrounding communities with this job-rich area. It will also stand as a reminder of the value, hard work and skill of our members.



Excavator Operator Keith Ledger works at the site of the BART Extension's future Milpitas Station.



Operator Todd Carr digs wells for the Capitol jobsite using a lodrill.



From left: Heavy Duty Repairmen Danny Green and Roy Pickrell work to get a crane's machine deck loaded properly onto a 9-axle trailer.

A Retiree's thoughts after retirement

Occasionally, we will be featuring a Retiree from our district, and this month we spotlight **Frank Delfino**. When asked about his fondest memories of being a Local 3 member, he said, "The medical was top of the line raising three kids with my wife **Mary**."

He noted that having three kids meant there were a lot of medical and dental expenses, "and all kinds of other things in between."

Despite a few health concerns, Delfino has been able to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The 53-year Local 3 member attributes much of this to staying healthy in his younger days and leading an active lifestyle today. He walks

at least a quarter of a mile a day and is an avid gardener. He also makes his own wine, which even his doctor likes to consume from time to time.

"Wine's not for everybody," Delfino said. "Some people can drink a little, and some drink too much!"

Delfino is thankful for his beautiful wife of 54 years and for the wonderful adventure in life they have enjoyed together.

We would like to thank Delfino for his thoughts after retirement and wish him many more good years!

In other news, Santa Rosa City Schools recently held a College and Career Day where students met with

representatives from various schools, organizations and industries to learn about a variety of career paths, including one with Local 3. OE3 representatives offered equipment simulators for students to operate and explained the options available to those interested in our trades.

Mark your calendars: District 10's Hot Cakes and Hot Rides event is on May 31! Tickets are \$5 for active members. Retirees and children 12 and under are free.

Retiree Frank Delfino makes and bottles his own wine, which he believes has contributed to his good health.



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Quarterly Trust Fund meeting approves changes in benefits

In District 17, we have our own Hawaii Health and Welfare Trust Fund. Every member who is working under a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) that provides medical services from the union and not the employer is a participant of this Fund. Our participation is through hours worked, with the employer contributing \$6.85 toward the Fund for each hour. This Fund is managed by three Trustees and two alternates from both labor and management. Trustees have the fiduciary responsibility to make decisions on behalf of the participants and to ensure the overall financial stability of the Fund.

In our quarterly Trust Fund meeting on March 3, we approved a change in benefits for those participants with the Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA). The change was a 10 percent emergency room co-payment, which averaged \$50. If the participant is admitted to the hospital, the emergency room co-payment will be applied to the hospital payment.

The following are reasons for the change and areas where we can improve:

- Emergency room visits increased to 294 visits per 1,000 members versus an average of 155. Many of these visits were considered non-emergencies, such as fevers, sprains and back and joint issues. We strongly encourage you to use urgent care as an alternative to emergency rooms, if it is not a life-threatening situation.
- Members who are on a disease management program are not taking their medications or following their programs. These include high blood pressure, where 75 percent of those with the condition are non-compliant, diabetes, where 90 percent are non-compliant and high cholesterol, where 75 percent are non-compliant. Continued non-compliance will lead to expensive alternatives and health complications that will severely restrict your ability to earn a living.
- Prenatal care is not being used. Seventy percent of complications at birth were attributed to no prenatal care. On behalf of the future Operating Engineers, we ask ALL

mothers to utilize prenatal care. It is time well-spent.

- The reserves (reserve monies in relation to operational cost) as of January 2015 were at 17.76 months. It was agreed in 2012 by the Trustees that if and when the reserves reached 16 to 17 months, we would assess the health of the Fund and make necessary changes.
- The 2014 receipts (hourly contributions) were at \$17,524,187, while disbursements were at \$22,579,404, leaving a negative (\$5,055,404) that was absorbed by the reserves.
- Hourly bank liability in 2014 was at \$2,560,941 as compared to 2013 at \$1,011,643, which represents a 153 percent increase. This is due to an increase of members working who are building their hourly bank. We see this liability tapering off in the later half of 2016.

Benefits can be restored as the Fund recovers. Increased contributions throw money at the problem but do not address it and cannot be recovered. It is the Board's intention to educate everyone and encourage all of us to utilize medical benefits in a smart and prudent manner. Be wise stewards of our health and take ownership of the benefits afforded to us. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of care.

As of this writing, **Delta Construction Corp.** is working on Geiger Road improvements worth \$12 million. These include road-widening and improvements to sewer, water drainage, electrical systems, street lighting and landscaping. **Hawaiian Dredging Construction, Inc.** started the collection on a 43-story, 397-unit tower and a six-and-one-half story 888-stall parking structure worth \$164.3 million.

In other good news, Tower Crane Operator **Donald Izumigawa**, with **Hawaiian Dredging**, recently spotted eight tower cranes up in the sky on the Ala Moana Shopping Center in Honolulu.

"You'll never see that again," the 24-year member said. "The most I've seen is four in one spot."

\$155 million in work to employ up to 200 members

In Northern California, we are concerned about the drought and what it might mean for work. Hopefully by the time this is printed, we will have received some rain and will be in better shape.

As we move into summer, it is very important to wear sunscreen and drink plenty of water, since we work out in the sun for most of the day. Take care of yourself, and remember that old saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." It really is! It may even save your life.

As for the work picture, **Q&D Construction** will continue work on the Kings Beach Core Improvements Project in North Lake Tahoe. This project is valued at \$21.3 million and should employ around 20 Local 3 hands. **Steve P. Rados** continues working from Newcastle toward Auburn on the \$18 million Placer Regional Sewer Pipeline project.

Teichert Construction was awarded the Hwy. 267 pavement rehab project from Truckee to Brockway Summit. This project should go to August and provide some hours for our members at the **Teichert** Martis Plant. **Teichert Construction** will also be repairing some of the concrete drains in the Soda Springs/Kingvale area.

Martin Brothers is working in Lincoln on the Lincoln Boulevard project replacing waterlines, paving and landscaping. **Granite Construction** will be working on Hwy. 267 from Truckee to the Sierra County line on a pavement rehab project. **MCM Construction, Inc.** has been awarded the \$5.9 million Alpine Meadows Bridge replacement project over the Truckee River,

which consists of demolition of the existing bridge, the building of a new one and the approaches.

McGuire and Hester Construction will be building a new bridge on Dowd Road over Yankee Slough in Placer County, a project valued at \$2.5 million. **RGW Construction** continues to work on the \$20 million Improving Vertical Clearance Project on I-80 from Newcastle to Magra. We signed **ACME Paving and Grading** to the Master Agreement last year, and the company will be back on I-80 near the state line doing some concrete grinding and resurfacing.

Disney Construction is working in Auburn at the wastewater treatment plant on Joeger Road. This \$6.2 million project will connect the work that crews from **Steve P. Rados** are doing from Newcastle to Auburn. **Syblon Reid** picked up another phase at the Donner Summit Wastewater Treatment Plant in Soda Springs.

Abercrombie Pipelines is working in the north Roseville area by Thunder Valley Casino installing new gas transmission lines for PG&E. **Teichert Construction**, **Lund Construction** and **DeSilva Gates Construction** all have private work projects scattered throughout the Lincoln, Rocklin and Roseville areas.

All of this work combined is worth about \$155 million and could employ as many as 200 Local 3 members this year.

Have a safe and fun-filled Memorial Day, and thank you to all who attended our District Picnic last month.

EUREKA | 840 E St., Suite 20, Eureka, CA 95501 ▪ (707) 443-7328 District Rep. Dave Kirk

Take advantage of VOTE program and be heard

The season has started slowly due to late rains but some projects finally kicked off, including **Wahlund's** job at Bear River Rancheria and **Golden State Bridge's** bridge repair at Klamath. Our Caltrans members continue to work diligently for all of us, as they make sure the roads are clear during storms and manage the trees near highways and roads.

This month, we'd like to talk about the Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program. Every election season, we encourage our members to be a part of the political process and phone bank in support of political candidates who will strengthen unions in their communities. In March, we elected our District 40 Political Action Committee (PAC) members who interview candidates and review their qualifications. We are now entering the political season, including preparation for the all-important 2016 presidential election. The interests of our membership are often overlooked, so we encourage all members to participate in holding our elected officials to their promises. Being invested in the political process can help our union and its members remain strong and vital.

The VOTE program allows volunteers to receive hourly credits that can add up to prizes. These tangible rewards are in addition to the benefits of being actively involved in the process of getting candidates elected who support labor and the need for jobs in our area. Call the Hall and be added to the list of willing volunteers for the VOTE program.

For all operators who pay their dues under the Master Agreement, there will be a wage increase as of July 1, 2015, and a corresponding increase in quarterly union dues. Please call the Hall in September to make sure your dues are paid correctly by Oct. 1.

Our next quarterly District Meeting is Tuesday, June 2 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Labor Temple located at 840 E St., Eureka. We will have our officer elections, so come and make your voice heard.

Thank you to our members for your time with us, and we hope to see you June 2.



From left: Caltrans members Jim Cook, Brennen Pedrotti, Tom Costa, Craig Watkins (in the bucket), Josh Moore and Darin Sullivan work hard to keep us safe on the roads.

Protect your work

We would like to thank all the current and new members who attended our quarterly Oakland District Meeting and the Semi-Annual Meeting.

The work forecast in District 20 is expected to be great this year. The out-of-work list was very low this winter, and that's great news for the spring work season. Dispatches have been up, and many members have worked year-round.

We recently had a state Senate election in our district, and we put our support behind **Susan Bonilla**, knowing she would help our organization greatly. Bonilla has a 100 percent voting record when it comes to union issues. Please vote for her for state Senate on May 19 in the Special Election. We would like to thank all the volunteers and members

who came out to help us with our phone banking. Great job folks! We really knocked it out.



New members are sworn-in during a recent Oakland District Meeting.

There's another issue we need to address, and that is other crafts and unions doing our covered work. It's extremely important to our organization and industry that we protect our work at all cost. We need every member and Retiree on board with this. Operating Engineers Local 3 is a first-class organization. We're one of the largest construction locals in the United States with a great history, but if we continue to go down the road of letting others do our work, our whole industry will suffer and it will be impossible for our organization to grow.

Have a safe and productive season.

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

Large housing projects underway

Work at the Stanford Hospital in Palo Alto is still going strong. The weather is holding up and getting warmer, and work is popping up all over the Stanford campus with signatories **Preston Pipelines**, **McGuire & Hester**, **Joseph J. Albanese**, **Ghilotti Construction**, and **R J & J Construction**. At the VA Hospital, **Vertical Earthworks, Inc.** is busy doing pour-in-place pile. **Valley Demo** is also onsite with **K.J. Woods Construction** doing the underground, while **Proven Management** and **A&B Construction** are busy doing the grading. There is work being done all down El Camino Real from Palo Alto to the Alameda with signatories **Tucker Engineering**, **Joseph J. Albanese**, **DeSilva Gates**, and **Ferma**. At the Apple II campus, **Ferma** has started doing more demolition work. **Top Grade/Goodfellow** is still busy running scrapers and dozers, while **Graniterock Construction** is using a good-size excavator onsite. Meanwhile, **Case Pacific**, **Conco**, **Preston Pipelines**, **Bragg Crane**, **Maxim Crane** and **Cabrillo Hoist** are all busy inside, as **Granite Construction** and **Lewis & Tibbitts** are staying busy on the outside. **Broom Service** is also providing the sweeping services.

Joseph J. Albanese is breaking ground on a \$30.8 million Donner Lofts project. This 102-unit apartment community is intended to provide affordable housing for people who earn up to \$37,700 a year, 50 percent of the area's median income, and who work in the downtown San Jose area. **Skanska/Shimmick/Herzog** Joint Venture (JV) and **Blue Iron** are doing work in Milpitas. The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) recently shut down Lundy Avenue for an extensive project and expect to keep it that way for the next nine months.

In the Gilroy area, **DeSilva Gates** and **Sanco Pipelines** started the second phase of the housing development on Santa

Teresa/Hecker Pass. Down the street, **Top Grade** broke ground for a large 300-acre housing development, which will have over 1,000 homes and over 100 acres of parks and trails. **RGW** broke ground in Morgan Hill for a new downtown parking garage. **St. Francis Electric** is completing metering lights on Hwy. 101.



Apprentice James Sanchez operates a backhoe loader for George D. Garcia, Inc.

JMB will soon complete the replacement of a sewer line on Camden Avenue in San Jose. **Mountain Cascade** is finishing the sewer replacement project on Alameda Road in San Jose. **George D. Garcia, Inc.** is working on a new housing project on Great Oaks Parkway in San Jose.

In the southern part of our district, **Granite Construction** is continuing work at the Red Barn project. **Papich Construction** is doing grinding and paving in Greenfield and working with **Sanco Pipelines** in Fort Hunter Leggett. **Graniterock** is providing some safety improvements to the center divide in Soledad. **Duran & Venables** is providing new parking areas and **Teichert Construction** is doing the new roadways for the new VA Hospital in Marina.

Remember to call the Hall or your agent if you see something wrong at a jobsite. If you are not working, please make sure your registration is current on the out-of-work list. It is going to be very busy in our district, and we will need everyone working. If you need any type of training, please call the Rancho Murrieta Training Center (RMTC) at (916) 354-2029 and see what classes are available. If you have any other questions, call the Hall and we will try to help you.

District 90 is announcing the return of our annual District Picnic at Christmas Hill Park in Gilroy on Saturday, May 16. Tickets will be available at the Hall or from your business agent. Prices are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Kids 10 and under eat free.

Unit 12 negotiations begin

We are right in the middle of a busy season with many of our hands working hard. **Steve Manning Construction, Inc.** is moving dirt at a rapid pace on the \$27 million Buckhorn project. With over one million yards to move, our hands will be getting some good hours. **Tullis, Inc.** is also in full-swing on both phases of the Lance Gulch project in Weaverville. In addition to this, the company has quite a bit of paving work on the \$5 million Bear Creek rehab, \$1.8 million worth of work throughout Plumas, Siskiyou and Trinity counties, \$2 million worth of work on I-5 and Hwy. 273 and a \$3.9 million cold-plane/Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) project near Peanut in Trinity county. **J.F. Shea Construction, Inc.** is busy with a \$4.9 million paving job on Hwy. 299 near Burnt Ranch. **C.C. Myers, Inc.** is working on the \$5.6 million bridge replacement on Hwy. 99 near Richfield, and **Tutor Perini** is keeping our hands busy on the \$125 million Antlers Bridge replacement project.

After speaking with our Unit 12 members and reading through many contract surveys, we are now at the negotiation



Unit 12 members from the Redding Cal Fire shop include, from left, Tyler DeMontigny, Danny Taylor and Dan Nelson.

table with the state. Our negotiation team will be working hard to secure a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) that reflects the needs of our brothers and sisters. Unit 12 is made up of Caltrans maintenance and mechanics, California Department of Corrections (CDC) drivers, Highway Patrol Commercial Vehicle Inspection Specialists (CVIS), fairgrounds maintenance workers and Cal Fire mechanics. Thank you, Unit 12, for the job you do. You are very much appreciated.

Congratulations to our new Election Committee chairman **Jerry White** and our Political Action Committee (PAC)

members **Brian Colla, Mike Tauscher** and **Ben Scott**, who ran unopposed.

Our Retiree Picnic will be at the Dixon Fairgrounds on June 6. It will be a lot of fun again this year, and the food will be great as always. Our District Picnic is also right around the corner on June 13 at Anderson River Park. Make sure to put these dates on your calendar!

Work safe, and stay hydrated.

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

Stand united for a fair contract

Thank you to all the members and their families who came out to our picnic last month. We hope it was memorable for all.

Don't forget to put the second quarter District Meeting on your calendar for June 4. It will be held at the new location at the Yuba/Sutter Fairgrounds Flower House Building, 442 Franklin Ave., in Yuba City. All District Meetings will be held at this location for the remainder of the year.

We need your help protecting our covered work on every jobsite you work on. No matter how small or large the project is, you are the eyes and ears of Local 3. Please call the Hall and report non-dispatched employees doing our covered work. Even if you're not sure, make the call and we will assess the situation. If there are any violations, we will get it worked out, and you can remain anonymous.

In Sutter County, **Teichert Construction** has ongoing work on the Hwy. 70/Feather River Boulevard interchange, the levee project and the Garden Highway rehab. **Knife River Construction** is working on the Chico Airport in Butte County, the Chester Airport in Plumas County and on Hwy. 20/Marysville Road to Lower Smartville Road in Yuba County. Also in Yuba County, **RGW** just started work on a wastewater pump station, while **Myers and Sons** continues work on a wastewater treatment plant. Material producers **Teichert** and **Knife River Material** continue to provide work for our members. Come in and take a look at the job board in the Hall or call and talk to Dispatcher **Richard Hobbs**.

We are currently working on negotiations for the **DeSilva Gates' Hot Plant** in Yuba County, **Granite Material Producers** in Butte County, **Cemex/Patterson Sand and Gravel**, and **Recology Yuba-Sutter**. Remember, if you want a fair contract to prevail, we must all stand together in unity.

Please note: A representative from Fringe Benefits will be in the District Office on Wednesday, May 6 and Wednesday, May 20.

Contact the Hall to schedule a time to meet with a representative. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your Fringe Benefits (Health and Welfare, Pension, death benefits, etc.), these representatives are a great resource and will assist you.

Remember to stay current on the out-of-work list, as you must re-register before the 84th day of being on it. If any Local 3 Job Placement Center (Hall) is unsuccessful in reaching an individual on the out-of-work list 10 times within a consecutive 90-day period, the individual will fall to the bottom of the list. All successful and/or unsuccessful call attempts made by any Local 3 Job Placement Center are logged and tracked by the dispatch computer system. Upon the 10th unsuccessful call attempt, the individual's registration will be deleted and a new one will be created. A new registration date and time will be given, as well as a new expiration date.

Congratulations to **Frank Newton** and **Damien Geddis** for recently graduating from the Apprenticeship Program and becoming journey-level operators.

As always, feel free to call the Hall with any questions you have or stop by in person.



Congratulations to member Frank Newton who recently graduated from the Apprenticeship Program.



Congratulations to Journey-level Operator Damien Geddis, recent graduate of the Apprenticeship Program.

Get involved

Work continues to pick up in District 12 with a fairly busy season ahead of us. We have contract negotiations going on this year with **Geneva Rock Products** and all of our signatory crane rental companies. We started our pre-negotiation meetings in January for some of our upcoming contracts, and these will continue through the first half of the year. Remember: Membership involvement is a key factor in any negotiations. Involvement helps staff and the negotiations committee secure the best contract for our membership. Please take the time to discuss your contract with your union brothers and sisters, including what you like or dislike about it. Don't hesitate to bring up any questions, concerns or ideas you may have. It helps to have fresh faces and ideas at pre-negotiation meetings. This is your union, and it affects your job. Your livelihood and that of all of us is at stake, so get involved.

Upcoming events

Our next District Meeting will be June 8 at 7 p.m. at the Hall. Don't miss it! Please also plan to attend the Utah District Picnic, which will be on June 13 at 9 a.m. at Draper City Park, North Pavilion, 12500 South 1300 East. Breakfast will be served, and there will be games, raffles, prizes and lots of laughs.

NEVADA

 | 1290 Corporate Blvd., Reno, NV 89502 ▪ For all branches, call (775) 857-4440
District Rep. Rod Young

The fight is not over

Nevada is under attack! Public officials have done away with prevailing wages for all trades on public-school construction, and they want more. If anti-worker legislators get their way, prevailing wages and overtime after eight hours will be a thing of the past, the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) will be slashed and they will be in control of minimum wage. This does not simply affect our membership. If these bills are passed, ALL working people and their families will be affected. We must join together as brothers and sisters and fight for our standard of living. We can't do it alone! Do anything and everything you can to help. Call the Reno Office for more information or visit Local 3's website at www.oe3.org.

There is positive news, however, as work is picking up. **Granite Construction** has been re-awarded the \$150 million South East Connector project. **Q&D Construction** will be busy this year with the \$16.9 million Virginia Street Bridge in downtown Reno, the \$9.5 million Dayton Septic Tank project and the underground utility work at the Tesla gigafactory site located east of Reno. **Reno-Tahoe Construction** is continuing to work at the University of Nevada in Reno and on the \$2.3 million South East Connector reclaimed waterline project. **Sierra Nevada Construction** is hard at work on several city and state road projects worth \$6 million.

Thank you for a great turnout at our last District Meeting and to all our members and their families who have volunteered in the battle to protect our jobs and our wages. Congratulations to the recently elected members of our Political Action Committee (PAC), **Rodney Friesen, Robert Mack** and **Kevin Porter**.

Our Annual District Picnic is May 30. The Retiree Meeting is at noon on the same day, and lunch will be served at 1 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the Hall or at the picnic. Please call

Journey-level spotlight

H&E Equipment Steward Max Gallegos started his career with **Wheeler Machinery** in 1988. At that time, **Wheeler Machinery** owned **ICM/H&E Equipment**. In 1996, the companies parted, and **Gallegos** stayed with **H&E**. **Gallegos** has been involved in several contract negotiations and has been a key part of Local 3's presence at **H&E**. He has represented and continues to represent the members at **H&E** extremely well.



Steward Max Gallegos represents his fellow members at H&E Equipment, where he has been working since 1988.

During his free time, **Gallegos** enjoys four-wheeling, hunting, fishing and spending time with his family as much as possible.

the Hall for more information or visit our website.

Please remember to keep your contact information, registration and certifications current. We hope you and your families have a safe and prosperous work season and a happy Memorial Day.



Retiree Robert Hunter and his wife recently made a trip in their newly purchased mobile home to the Semi-Annual Meeting.

From Elko

Retiree **Robert Hunter** is very proud to be a Local 3 member. He and his wife recently purchased a new motor home and made a trip out of attending the March Semi-Annual Meeting. Thank you to those who were able to attend.

Gold has stayed constant between \$1,100 and \$1,200 an ounce.

With all the recent fatalities that have occurred in the mining industry, **Newmont** has adopted a zero tolerance policy on safety issues. Please be aware and follow all Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). If you have any

questions or uncertainty, always ask your foreman. We are beginning the steps toward negotiations and a new contract. It takes several months to collect information from our members, so now is the time to contact the Elko Office at (775) 753-8761 or your steward. Please make sure we have your correct e-mail address, as we will be e-mailing notices. Committee elections will be held toward the end of summer.

The Elko Picnic will be on Saturday, July 25 at the VFW Hall. We hope you can attend. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please call the Elko Office.

We are continuing to hold our Town Hall Membership Meetings. The Construction Membership Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month, and the **Newmont** Membership Meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of each month. As a reminder, the Elko Office has moved to 555 W. Silver St., Ste. 104.

Work picks up in the high country

This year is set to be a busy one for District 30 with new and continuing highway projects happening throughout the valley and private work springing up across our jurisdiction.

Work continues to pick up in our mountain counties, and the high country is sure to provide good hours for our members. Many new paving projects have already been awarded to signatory contractors, and there are other projects carrying over from last season.

George Reed, Inc. will have paving crews on Hwy. 89, Hwy. 88 and Hwy. 124 with projects totaling over \$10 million. **Chester Bros** also has a paving project on Hwy. 88 from Red Lake Road to the Nevada state line. In Tuolumne County, **Road and Highway Builders** continues on its \$12.2 million Tioga Pass

project. Also coming up the hill will be **Myers and Sons** with a tunnel repair project in Yosemite and a \$1.2 million sewer-lift station in Copper Cove.

As we watch projects continue to bid, make sure your information is current. Remember, if you are on the A or B out-of-work list, your registration is good for 84 days. If you are on the C list, you must re-register on the first working day of each month.

Our District Picnic will be held on Sunday, May 3 at Micke Grove Park. It is always a great time with good friends and great food. Be sure to bring your family and join us. On behalf of the District 30 staff, may you all have a safe and prosperous season.

FRESNO | 4856 North Cedar, Fresno, CA 93726 ■ (559) 229-4083 District Rep. Dave Mercer

Baby boomers and baby busters get the job done

Recent data suggests that more than 40 percent of construction workers are baby boomers and that they are retiring earlier than those in the overall labor force. This means those born between 1965 and 1976, known as "baby busters," will need to fill the seats.

One of those baby boomers, **Glen Wilkins**, has no plans to retire just yet. He is the foreman for **Teichert Construction** on the Cartmill Avenue project in Tulare, one of the largest dirt projects in our district. Wilkins is a 25-year Local 3 member and has worked for contractors such as **American Paving** and **W.M. Lyles Co.** He also worked for **Kasler Corporation** and **Morrison-Knudsen Construction** on the well-known Hwy. 180 project.

"He gives apprentices the opportunity to learn," said Dispatcher **Nick Dodson**, who describes Wilkins as a great teacher and was his apprentice at one time.

Some of the baby busters on Wilkins' current crew include excavator operators **Larry Crume** and **Dave Stevens**, Blade Operator **William White**, Gradesetter **Alex Bernard** and Apprentice **Mason Wilkins**.

Working on the reconstruction/interchange project on Avenue 12 in Hanford is **Jarrood Coonce**. Coonce has been a member of Local 3 for 21 years, and during that time, he has only worked for **Donald L. Oberg General Engineering** and **Agee Construction**, with little to no downtime. It will be several years before Coonce retires, but in the meantime, he is working and sharing his knowledge with an awesome crew, including members **Darrell Atchley Jr.**, **Scott Wesson**, **Jeremiah Allred** and Apprentice **Anthony Viles**.

For 2014, the Apprenticeship Program recognized **Autie Rhodes** as Rock, Sand and Gravel Apprentice of

the Year, **Carlos Rangel** as Lubrication Technician Apprentice of the Year and **Dino DeBenedetto** as Superintendent of the Year. DeBenedetto is currently the foreman for **Security Paving Company's** project on Hwy. 99 near Avenue 12 in Madera. He has nearly 20 years of service with Local 3 and has worked for **Granite Construction**, **Ford Construction**, **Kiewit** and **DeSilva Gates**, to name a few. DeBenedetto is a true mentor and is appreciated by all for his knowledge, talent and positive approach.

"He [DeBenedetto] is a leader on the jobsite," said member **Nick Thomson**. "I have a lot of respect, admiration and appreciation for my time spent working under his tutelage. He is also willing to share his knowledge of the trade so that he can help others to understand and perform each task successfully."

We are now in full work mode, and seats are being filled with talented operators of all ages. **Syblon Reid** is performing work on the Friant Lualaba Hydroelectric Power Plant. This \$10 million project consists of the complete construction of a 7 mega-watt hydro powerhouse, including modifications to existing penstock, and all necessary site and electrical improvements.

Pipeline work is also back in our district. **Snelson Companies** continues to

work on the first of three possible phases in the Lemoore area. The first phase consists of about 2.5 miles of 10-inch pipe-replacement near Hwy. 41 and Grangeville Boulevard. Future phases will continue to Hanford Armona Road. **Abercombie Pipeline Services, Inc.** was awarded a contract by Barnard Pipeline to isolate and hydrostatic-test approximately 31 miles of existing 8-inch steel welded gas pipeline near Fresno. The project began in March and is expected to continue through July 2015.

For more information on current and upcoming projects, we invite everyone to attend the District Meeting scheduled for Monday, June 1 at 7 p.m. at the Clovis Veterans Memorial District. Late nights, in which the district office is open until 8 p.m., will be on Wednesday, May 13 and Wednesday, May 19.

Please note that the Fresno District Family Picnic will be on Saturday, May 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fresno County Sportsmen's Club, located at 10645 Lanes Road in Fresno. Tickets are available at the office or can be purchased on the day of the event. It is guaranteed to be a great time for all!

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of **Paul Dunn**. Brother Dunn was a 43-year member of Local 3 and lived in Visalia.



Foreman Dino DeBenedetto.



Foreman Glen Wilkins.



Jarrood Coonce.

Local 3 members honored at Central Labor Council event

Organized labor means working together to promote union jobs, union benefits and a better way of life for working people. In District 04, we do this as part of the Napa-Solano Central Labor Council (CLC) and also with the Napa-Solano Building Trades Council.



Member **Tristan Kennedy**, middle, is congratulated by CLC Director **Jon Rilly** and Assemblyman **Jim Frazier** for receiving the Labor Backbone Award at the Spring Salute.

Our members are represented at the executive board level with our district staff serving as vice presidents for both councils. The CLC recently had its annual Spring Salute, and last year's local election victories were celebrated. Labor Backbone Award recipients included member/volunteer **Tristan Kennedy**, Apprenticeship Coordinator **Holly Brown** and Business Rep. **Steve Lewis**. Congratulations! We thank them for their efforts on behalf of Local 3 and working families in our district.

Transportation seems to be the hot item in Solano County right now. Between the I-80/I-680 interchange realignment and the Intermodal Train Station alone, Fairfield has a good start on the summer for our members. **Viking Construction** has already spanned the Green Valley overpass over I-80, while **DeSilva Gates** is prepping the dirt and retaining walls for the approaches. This \$45 million

project will keep hands busy for a couple of years as will the \$35 million Intermodal Train Station, which is a Joint Venture (JV) between **Teichert** and **Myers & Sons**.

McGuire & Hester is relocating utility lines to make way for a new parking structure at the transportation station in Fairfield. The job is estimated at just over \$1 million, which will keep three or four members working. There is also a wastewater treatment facility in Dixon up for bid with an engineer's estimate of \$23.3 million.

Don't forget, our annual District Picnic will be on Sunday, May 31 at Pena Adobe Park in Vacaville from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The food is being catered by Texas Roadhouse, and there will be tons of fun, including raffle prizes. Get your tickets now! Adult tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Retiree tickets are \$5, and youth tickets (ages 5 to 12) are \$3. Children ages 4 and under are free. See you there!

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

Busy in the Bay

An entire city block is under development in San Francisco at Eighth and Townsend, with two six-story, stick-frame-on-podium residential buildings going up. The \$100 million project should take around 18 months to complete. **A&B** is onsite demoing the old structures and providing site grading and excavation of footings and elevator pits with members **Juan Antonio Becerra**, **Rodolfo Ruiz** and **Augustine Ochoa**. **Proven Management** has **Bill Nelson** running the Senneborgen TM14/17V, pre-drilling holes for the concrete piles holding the slab-on-grade structures in place. **Stroer & Graff** is onsite driving over 200 piles. **Mike Heriford** operates a Link Belt 150t crawler, and Oiler **Cary Leider** brings him pile with a Pettibone carryall.

Shaw Pipeline, **P&J Utility**, **Ranger Pipelines**, **Empire Engineering**, **Harty Pipeline**, **M Squared**, **Precision Engineering** and others are keeping our members busy performing the regular repair and replacement of sewer, storm and water lines at various locations throughout San Francisco. Paving companies **Esquivel Grading & Paving**, **Archibald**, **Ruiz** and **Annuzzi** follow behind and keep the city moving. **Carlos Rangel**, **Jerome Simms** and 32-year employee **Kelvin Snell** work for **Esquivel**.

In the Potrero Hill neighborhood at Tennessee and 23rd Street, our signatories are busy building a \$60 million apartment

building. **Ferma Corp.** demolished the old structures on the site with members **Joe Betancourt** and **Victor Gomez**. **EBI** will do the excavation and off-haul, **Berkel** will be doing the auger piles, **Berkeley Concrete** will pump the concrete and **Preston Pipelines** will do the underground.

Under the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) Project Labor Agreement (PLA) in the Bay View area, operators **Jose Flores** and Apprentice **Bernard Stokes** with **MK Pipelines** are busy digging trenches for storm drains, water and sewer to support the three new buildings for the Willie Brown Jr. Middle School project. **Scott Electric** is onsite with Backhoe Operator **Brian Lynch**. This project will cost \$45 million to build and is scheduled for completion in July 2015.

In San Mateo County at Foster City, **Talus Construction** has Excavator Operator **Matt Peacock** and Apprentice **Bernard Stokes** digging for the wet utility tie-ins at the new Gilead campus. **Steven Johnson** and **Teryll Toler** are also onsite working for **Cabrillo Hoist**. In Half Moon Bay, **Ox Mountain Landfill** keeps operators **Mike Beck**, **John Patton**, **Roger Gragg**, **Mike Gomes**, **Jake Jebson**, **Oliver Lopez**, **Scott Pierce** and Mechanic **Aaron Botham** busy year-round.

In South San Francisco, construction has started on a massive, 884,000 square foot business complex near Britannia

Cove at Oyster Point that will include offices, a hotel, retail space and a parking structure. **Berkel & Company** is drilling auger piles, **Top Grade** is building the pads, **McGuire and Hester** is working on the underground utilities and **Sandis** is providing the surveying.

To all of our mothers out there, have a happy Mother's Day!



Operator **Mike Heriford** and Oiler **Cary Leider** work together driving pile for **Stroer & Graff**.



Kelvin Snell has been with **Esquivel Grading & Paving** for 32 years.



Excavator Operator **Matt Peacock** works for **Talus Construction** at the new Gilead campus.



Upcoming picnic information

District 30: Stockton Picnic Details

Sunday, May 3, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Micke Grove Park (Delta Shelter), 11793 N. Micke Grove Road, Lodi (off Hwy. 99 and Eight Mile Road, just south of Lodi)
Menu: Tri-tip, asparagus, beans, salad, french bread, hot dogs, ice cream, free beverages
Cost: Retirees: \$5; Adults: \$10 presale or \$12 at the door; Children 10 and under: Free
Other information: There will be a \$6 parking fee per car. Lunch will be served from noon to 2 p.m. Enjoy raffle prizes, a jump house for the children and a horseshoe contest.

District 90: Morgan Hill Picnic Details

Saturday, May 16, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Christmas Hill Park (Mulberry Areas), 7050 Miller Ave., Gilroy
Menu: Tri-tip, beans, veggies, garlic bread, dessert, beer, water, salad
Cost: Retirees: Free; Adults: \$10; Children 10 and under: Free
Other information: There will be a raffle, face-painting and a bounce house.

District 11: Nevada (Sparks) Picnic Details

Saturday, May 30, noon to 3 p.m.
Lazy 5 Regional Park, 7100 Pyramid Highway, Sparks
Menu: Pulled pork, barbecue chicken, barbecue beans, coleslaw, rolls, fresh fruit, ice cream, refreshments
Cost: Retirees: Free; Family (two adults and two children): \$25; Individual adults: \$10; Children 4 and under: Free
Other information: There will be food, fun, a raffle and activities.

District 50: Fresno Picnic Details

Saturday, May 30 (date changed), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Fresno County Sportsmen’s Club, 10645 Lanes Road, Fresno
Menu: Tri-tip, chicken, beans, salad, rolls
Cost: Retirees: \$5; Family of four: \$30; Individual adults: \$10; Children 10 and under: Free

District 04: Fairfield Picnic Details

Sunday, May 31, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Peña Adobe Park, 1 Peña Adobe Road, Vacaville
Menu: Ribs, chicken, green beans, salad, rolls and dessert
Cost: Retirees: \$5; Adults: \$10 presale or \$15 at the door; Children ages 5 to 12: \$3; Children 4 and under: Free
Other information: Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Raffle starts at 2 p.m. Enjoy bounce houses, volleyball and games.

District 70: Redding Picnic Details

Saturday, June 13, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Anderson River Park (BBQ #1 Area), 2800 Rupert Road, Anderson
Menu: Tri-tip, chicken, beans, pasta salad, green salad, garlic bread and ice cream
Cost: Retirees: \$6; Adults: \$10; Children ages 6 to 12: \$4; Children 5 and under: Free
Other information: Entertainment will include a raffle, band, dancing and face painting for the children.

District 12: Utah (Draper) Picnic Details

Saturday, June 13, 9-11 a.m.
Draper City Park (North Pavilion), 12450 S. 1300 E., Draper
Menu: Eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, donuts, fruit, juice and coffee
Cost: Retirees: Free; Family: \$10; Individual adults: \$5
Other information: Raffle tickets will be for sale at an additional cost.

District 17: Hawaii (Big Island) Picnic Details

Saturday, June 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
ILWU Hall, 100 West Lanikaula St., Hilo
Menu: Okazuya items, macaroni salad, rice, desserts and pupus
Cost: Free
Other information: There will be popcorn, shave ice, games and prizes for the children.

District 01: Burlingame Picnic Details

Sunday, June 14, noon to 3 p.m.
Coyote Point Recreation Area (Eucalyptus Picnic Areas 1 and 2), 1701 Coyote Point Drive, San Mateo
Menu: Tri-tip, salad, hot dogs, cake, soda, beer and lots more
Cost: Retirees: Free; Adults: \$12.50; Children 10 and under: Free
Other information: There will be a \$6 parking fee per car.

District 20: Oakland Picnic Details

Sunday, June 28 (date changed), 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Waterfront Park, North Court St. at Joe Di Maggio Drive, Martinez
Menu: Tri-tip, hot links, hot dogs, Caesar salad, garlic bread, beans, corn on the cob, watermelon, desserts, soda, beer, wine and other beverages
Cost: Retirees: Free; Adults: \$10 presale or \$12 at the door; Children 10 and under: Free
Other information: There will be a bounce house, raffle and piñata.

District Picnic schedule for 2015

Burlingame District 01: Sunday, June 14
Fairfield District 04: Sunday, May 31
Rohnert Park District 10: Sunday, May 31
Nevada District 11 (Sparks): Saturday, May 30
Nevada District 11 (Elko): Saturday, July 25
Utah District 12 (Draper): Saturday, June 13
Hawaii District 17 (Big Island): Saturday, June 13
Hawaii District 17 (Kauai): Saturday, July 25
Hawaii District 17 (Oahu): Saturday, Sept. 26
Hawaii District 17 (Maui): Saturday, Oct. 3
Oakland District 20: Sunday, June 28 (DATE CHANGED)
Stockton District 30: Sunday, May 3
Fresno District 50: Saturday, May 30 (DATE CHANGED)
Redding District 70: Saturday, June 13
Morgan Hill District 90: Saturday, May 16

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.

BUSINESS HOURS

- In California, Utah and Nevada, “late night” will be as follows:
- November-March: Late night will be the fourth Wednesday of the month.
 - April-October: Late night will be the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.
- Office hours:
Monday-Friday: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Designated late nights: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

In Hawaii, please call the Hall to confirm available late nights.
Office hours:
Monday-Friday: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Designated late nights: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

MEETINGS



DISTRICT MEETINGS

All meetings convene at 7 p.m.

MAY 2015

No meetings scheduled.

JUNE 2015

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

1st District 50: Clovis
Veterans Memorial District
453 Hughes Ave.

1st District 80: Sacramento
Operating Engineers' Building
3920 Lennane Drive

2nd District 30: Stockton
Operating Engineers' Building
1916 North Broadway Ave.

2nd District 40: Eureka
Labor Temple
840 E St.

2nd District 90: Morgan Hill
Operating Engineers' Building
325 Digital Drive

3rd District 10: Ukiah
Hampton Inn
1160 Airport Park Blvd.

3rd District 20: Martinez
Plumbers 159
1309 Roman Way

3rd District 70: Redding
Operating Engineers' Building
20308 Engineers Lane

4th District 01: Burlingame
Transport Workers Local 505
1521 Rollins Road

4th District 11: Reno
Operating Engineers' Building
1290 Corporate Blvd.

4th District 60: Yuba City
Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds
Flower House Building
442 Franklin Ave.

8th District 12: Sandy
Operating Engineers' Building
8805 South Sandy Parkway

8th District 17: Kailua
Kailua High School
451 Ulumanu Drive

JULY 2015

No meetings scheduled.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

May 2015

13th District 11: Elko
Construction Meeting: 6 p.m.
Silver Crest Business Center
555 W. Silver St., Ste. 104

27th District 11: Elko
Mine Meeting: 6 p.m.
Silver Crest Business Center
555 W. Silver St., Ste. 104

June 2015

9th District 17: Kauai
Meeting: 6 p.m.
Kauai Beach Resort
4331 Kauai Beach Drive, Lihue

10th District 11: Elko
Construction Meeting: 6 p.m.
Silver Crest Business Center
555 W. Silver St., Ste. 104

10th District 17: Maui
Meeting: 7 p.m.
Maui Arts and Cultural Center
One Cameron Way, Kahului

11th District 17: Kona
Meeting: 6 p.m.
Courtyard Marriott
King Kamehameha Hotel
75-5660 Palani Road, Kailua-Kona

12th District 17: Hilo
Meeting: 6 p.m.
Hilo ILWU Hall
100 W. Lanikaula St.

24th District 11: Elko
Mine Meeting: 6 p.m.
Silver Crest Business Center
555 W. Silver St., Ste. 104

July 2015

8th District 11: Elko
Construction Meeting: 6 p.m.
Silver Crest Business Center
555 W. Silver St., Ste. 104

22nd District 11: Elko
Mine Meeting: 6 p.m.
Silver Crest Business Center
555 W. Silver St., Ste. 104

ANNOUNCEMENTS



SERVICE PINS

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

Honorary Membership for Retirees

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

This month's Honorary Members can be found below.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

The following Retirees have 35 or more years of membership in Local 3 as of March 2015 and have been determined eligible for Honorary Membership effective April 1, 2015.

Darrell Anderson	1290995
District 99: Out Of Area	
Gordon Candee	0746265
District 01: Burlingame	
Everett Ekker	1414617
District 12: Utah	
Osvaldo M. Fernandez	1768845
District 99: Out Of Area	
Charles Green	1826002
District 50: Fresno	
Charles N. Haitsuka	1842984
District 17: Hawaii	
Tore K. Kjoll	1808666
District 11: Nevada	
Richard Craig Lever	1737573
District 12: Utah	
Rodney Pickering	1786490
District 12: Utah	
James M. Shelley	1843003
District 50: Fresno	
John Smith	1339421
District 70: Redding	
Robert B. Sutliff	1840053
District 99: Out Of Area	
Charles H. Tomlinson	0811391
District 30: Stockton	
H. Dale Walbeck	1755103
District 12: Utah	
Chuck Walker	1514867
District 04: Fairfield	
Vaughn Wolfe	1793983
District 99: Out Of Area	



MEDICARE NOTICE

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

OFFICIAL ELECTION NOTICE: OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan, in compliance with the Local Union Bylaws, Article XII, Section 2(b), publishes the following notice:

- **NOTICE OF RIGHT TO NOMINATE:**
Bylaws Article XII, Elections, Section 2(j)

Eligibility of Members to Nominate: Every Member of the Parent Local Union and its Subdivisions (except Subdivision R Registered Apprentices) and (except for Owner-Operators of an entity that employs Operating Engineers), who is not suspended for nonpayment of dues preceding the first nominating meeting shall have the right to nominate.

- **NOMINATION FORMS**
Bylaws Article XII, Elections, Section 2(e)

Nominations shall be in writing and signed by one or more nominators giving the last four (4) digits of each nominator’s Social Security Number and complete Register Number in the form following: (Note: Election Committee shall not count any nominators whose information is incomplete.)

NOMINATION FORM

Nominations shall be in writing in the following form, and shall be delivered by the nominator to the Nomination Committee at the meeting on instructions of the Presiding Officer.

We hereby nominate _____

Print Name

Register No. _____

Soc. Sec. # XXX-XX- _____

For _____

(Office or Position)

Signature

SS# (last 4 digits)

Register No.

xxx-xx- _____

xxx-xx- _____

xxx-xx- _____

- **NUMBER OF NOMINATORS REQUIRED**
Bylaws Article XII, Elections, Sections 1(a)(b)

The minimum number of nominators required for an Office, other than District Member of the Executive Board, is two-hundred (200) or two percent (2%), whichever is less, of the Members of the Local Union and its Subdivisions (except Subdivision R Registered Apprentices), who are not suspended for nonpayment of dues as of the first nominating meeting.

Bylaws Article XII, Elections, Section 1(c)

The minimum number of nominators required for District Member of the Executive Board is five (5) Members of the District.

- **NOTICE AND ACCEPTANCE OR DECLINATION OF NOMINEE**
Bylaws Article XII, Elections, Section 2(g)

The Recording-Corresponding Secretary of the Local Union must notify each candidate of his or her nomination to Local Union office or position, and the candidate must return a written acceptance of the nomination on the Acceptance of Nominee form to the Recording-Corresponding Secretary, which acceptance must be received by the Recording-Corresponding Secretary within ten (10) days of the date the candidate was notified of the nomination.

Bylaws Article XII, Elections, Section 2(i)

In the event no statement is received by the Recording-Corresponding Secretary on or before twenty (20) days from the date of mailing of the notice provided for in Article XII, Section 2(g), the nominee shall be deemed for all purposes to have declined all nominations for the Offices or Positions for which he or she has been nominated.

NOMINATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AT YOUR QUARTERLY DISTRICT MEETING IN JUNE. (ALL MEETINGS WILL CONVENE AT 7 P.M.)

The date and location of the regular District Meetings where nominations will be made can be found on page 26.

Vote right: Check your mailing label for your registration number

In 1997, the Local 3 Election Committee voted to add members’ registration numbers to the address labels on the *Engineers News*. This makes it easier for you to properly fill out nomination forms and return the election ballot with the correct information.

Encrypted Social Security Number

Your Registration Number

P01-23-4567

JOE ENGINEER 0000000

123 YOUR STREET

ANYTOWN

USA

00000

Charm the Life of someone else

Support Local 3’s Scholarship Foundation

Benefiting:
The sons, daughters, stepchildren and foster children of Local 3 members.

- Contribute with:**
- Cash gifts in any amount.
 - Merit sponsors and memorial and honor gifts.
 - Bequests.
 - Securities.

To make a donation, make checks payable to Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Fund and mail to:

Jim Sullivan, Rec. Corres. Secretary
Operating Engineers Local 3
1620 South Loop Rd., Alameda, CA 94502

For more information, call Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan at (510) 748-7400.



New members

The Local 3 officers would like to welcome the following new members, who were formally initiated into the union before the Local 3 membership at their March District Meetings.

District 01: Burlingame

Ryan Larsen
Doug Mancillas
Genaro Paredes

District 04: Fairfield

Phil Berretta
Marcus Morris
Allan Nieto
Charlie Simas

District 10: Rohnert Park

Brandon Hart
Mario Perinoni
Marbien Tangonan

District 17: Hawaii

Coty Decambra
Heather Fong
Kaulana Kaneakua

District 20: Oakland

Joshua Bynum
Chris Conner
Shelver Dyer
Thomas Fitzsimmons
Mark Klippness
Leeotis Marisett
Chad Montgomery
Mark Sousa
Adolphus Terry
Kyle Voeks
Ishmeal Zeno



Vice President Pete Figueiredo swears in Zac Soares and Christen Meadows.

Scholarship Foundation donations

The OE3 Scholarship Foundation would like to thank the following individuals and families for their generous donations to the Scholarship Foundation:

Vernon and Karen Baumbach
Steve Bridges
Ralph H. Cisneros
Norman Martinez
Steven P. McDonald

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. Visit www.oe3.org/about/scholarship/donation.html for more information and ways to donate.



DEPARTED MEMBERS

Abe, Tsuyoshi
Honolulu, HI
District 17
02-13-15

Barnes, Robert
Auburn, CA
District 80
12-24-14

Bellato, Edward
Pleasant Hill, CA
District 20
02-16-15

Bonilla, Jesus
Sacramento, CA
District 80
02-02-15

Byer, Robert
Yuba City, CA
District 60
03-02-15

Corsaut, Harold
Charleston, OR
District 99
02-27-15

Denny, Denton
Penn Valley, CA
District 80
02-11-15

Dent, William Jr.
Foresthill, CA
District 80
12-29-14

Derrick, William
Fulton, CA
District 10
01-29-15

Dolfo, Randy
Waimanalo, HI
District 17
02-01-15

Donner, Sheperd
Kurtistown, HI
District 17
02-20-15

Fish, Derrell
Redding, CA
District 70
02-20-15

Gardner, Benny
Heber City, UT
District 12
02-11-15

Gloria, Lorenzo
Tracy, CA
District 30
02-08-15

Graybill, Doyle
Sacramento, CA
District 80
02-14-15

Hampton, Mickey
Grand Rapids, MN
District 99
02-09-15

Kaleleiki, William Jr.
Ewa Beach, HI
District 17
12-24-14

Kawamoto, Takeshi
Honolulu, HI
District 17
02-26-15

Luttrull, Kathlee
Elko, NV
District 11
01-26-15

Manes, Donnie
Bly, OR
District 99
02-26-15

New, Paul
Stockton, CA
District 30
02-18-15

Ouchi, Ronald
Honolulu, HI
District 17
03-01-15

Perez, Adolfo
Windsor, CA
District 80
02-20-15

Plant, N
Granite Bay, CA
District 80
02-10-15

Posey, Charles Jr.
West Jordan, UT
District 12
01-05-15

Saylor, Jess
Garden Valley, CA
District 80
02-16-15

Seigny, Sparky
Honolulu, HI
District 17
02-06-15

Shallow, Marshall
Marysville, CA
District 60
01-01-15

Solberg, C
Salida, CA
District 30
03-03-15

Swan, Edward
Hayward, CA
District 20
01-23-15

Taylor, Jerry
Napa, CA
District 04
02-13-15

Teraoka, Bob
Honolulu, HI
District 17
01-31-15

Thompson, Claude
Oakdale, CA
District 30
02-08-15

Tipton, Richard
Benicia, CA
District 04
02-07-15

Valdez, Isaac
West Jordan, UT
District 12
02-22-15

Wagnon, Robert
Rescue, CA
District 80
03-05-15

Weichers, Robert
Millville, CA
District 70
02-11-15

Young, Clarence
Kaneohe, HI
District 17
03-04-15

DECEASED DEPENDENTS

Akita, Sophie.
Wife of Akita, Joseph (dec)
02-19-15

Amatto, Lynn.
Wife of Amatto, Gary
02-12-15

Baxter, Geraldine.
Wife of Baxter, Richard
09-24-14

Bird, Rowene.
Wife of Bird, Robert (dec)
02-12-15

Cox, Shirley.
Wife of Cox, William (dec)
02-19-15

Eldridge, Lenora.
Wife of Eldridge, Kenneth (dec)
02-20-15

Laswell, Gloria.
Wife of Laswell, Leroy
11-03-14

MacDonald, Ida.
Wife of MacDonald, Peter
02-09-15

Rose, Vynita.
Wife of Rose, Anthony
12-24-13

Soldati, Armedia.
Wife of Soldati, Alfred (dec)
02-04-15

Sweat, Jerilon.
Wife of Sweat, Kevin
02-17-15

Tieman, Myrlyn.
Wife of Tieman, Marlin (dec)
02-08-15

Tudino, Anna.
Wife of Tudino, Henry (dec)
02-04-15

Face-to-face with ...



... Korean War veteran/Retiree Robert Herring, a 58-year member

Served in the Air Force from 1952-1956 and then in the Reserves
Joined Local 3 in 1956
Retired in 1996
District 80
Operated everything and did some pipeline work

I remember when ... on one of my first jobs on the Donnell's Dam out of Stockton on the Tri-Dam project, way up in the mountains ... I was working on the concrete walls (original stone walls), cleaning them off with a D6 dozer. They hooked you on a pulley and you worked your way through the shelf to get it cleaned up. About three weeks on the job, I started sliding down the mountain! We had earphones and we'd talk back and forth. They finally caught up to me. I told them to take me up on top to solid ground, and then I went to the closest bar!



... New member Robert Meadows

Was sworn-in to Local 3 this year
Heavy equipment operator
District 80
Currently works for DeSilva Gates

Why did you join Local 3?

I had a few friends in it, and the benefits are substantial. You have to think about tomorrow, not just today.

What's the hardest part about your job?

Some days are challenging, but I do it because I really enjoy doing it. (I'm happy doing it.) I don't have to deal with a lot of people. You are kind of on your own.

How do you describe what you do to other people?

I am a heavy equipment operator/excavator/dozer hand.

What's the best part about your job?

I test myself each and every day to make sure I meet a quota in my brain so I'm satisfied at the end of the day. This works 95 percent of the time.

What does it take to be a good operator?

I was a boss, so always be ahead of everybody else.

What does UNION mean to you?

It means brotherhood. The benefits are good, the pay is good, the vacation pay is nice and the retirement is nice.

What's your favorite sports team?

I don't have one. They all let me down a long time ago!

What would you say to someone who's thinking about joining Local 3?

Go do it!

If you could drive any car, what would it be?

The one I drive already – a Dodge truck.

What job are you proudest of?

The Weed fire clean-up. I enjoyed the skilled part of the work but also just cleaning up the whole mess to help people get on with their lives. That fire was so devastating.

What's your favorite pastime?

Hanging out with my wife. As long as I'm with her, I'm cool.

New treatments – new health!

Operators open up about their health and what’s helped

It may be easy to get operators to talk about their hobbies or their favorite finished construction jobs, but their health is something they have been hesitant to discuss – until now.

“In my 35 years with the membership ... I have seen a marked increase in both awareness and implementation of healthy habits,” said Associated Third Party Administrators (ATPA) Senior Account Executive Bob Miller.

New medical treatments and procedures are becoming more and more available to counteract diseases and conditions, and some of our operators who have benefited from these want to share their experiences with others.

Retiree Fred Pitschner, a 29-year member, is a great example. He hasn’t always been healthy and has a family history of diabetes, so he wasn’t surprised when he was diagnosed with the disease in the mid-1980s.

“I didn’t care what I ate before,” he said. After his diagnosis and subsequent kidney failure, he has tried to be healthier by eating fresh fruit and lean sources of protein. He has also been open to new medical procedures. Most recently, he has benefited from starting a dialysis treatment called peritoneal dialysis.

Before Pitschner was introduced to this new procedure, he had to travel to a clinic three times a week for a dialysis treatment called hemodialysis, which involves the use of an artificial kidney to filter and clean his blood. According to Pitschner, who is on a kidney transplant list at the UCSF Medical Center, this treatment was not easy, but peritoneal dialysis is “much less invasive,” he said.

Patients can do it themselves from the comfort of their own homes with a machine called a cycler.

“It [the machine] does it at night while I sleep,” said Pitschner. “I was trained how to do it, and it’s much easier.”

Pitschner suggests that members requiring dialysis consult with their doctor about all of the options available.

Being open to new kinds of treatment has also helped Retiree and former Rohnert Park District 10 business rep. Pat O’Halloran, who was diagnosed 13 years ago with the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), a disease that affects the liver.

“I probably contracted it when I was about 15,” O’Halloran said, but, “I hadn’t had any problems or noticeable symptoms or ill health caused by it.”

After it was detected, he monitored it with regular blood work. Three years later and after a biopsy, “I was diagnosed with stage 3 fibrosis,” he said, which can lead to cirrhosis or liver disease.

It was then that he decided to seek treatment in the form of interferon injections. (Interferon is a group of signaling proteins the body uses to fight viruses.) For O’Halloran, however, this treatment did not work.

Next, O’Halloran began visiting a well-known doctor from the Pacific Medical Center who specialized in treating

HCV. This doctor would only treat O’Halloran if he were healthier, since there was a higher success rate in patients who were at a healthy weight.

So, O’Halloran spent a year cycling about 15 miles two times a week and cutting out sugar and fat to lose 30 pounds.

After his weight loss, O’Halloran began the new treatment, a double dose of interferon and ribavirin, but he had horrible side effects that eventually made him feel so weak, “It was a task just to walk to the mailbox,” he said.

The treatments worked for awhile (he did them for 18 months), but his virus counts did not reach an undetectable level until he switched from interferon to infergen, but this lasted only a short time. Ultimately, the doctor told him to stop doing the injections and monitor his health with regular blood work.

“As miserable as I felt [with the treatments], I didn’t want to give up,” O’Halloran said. “I wanted to live as healthy as I could.”

This determination led O’Halloran to contact Quest Clinical Research, a program that develops new therapies for the treatment of life-threatening viral illnesses, including HCV.

“Now I’m the study for the next generation of protease blocking drugs,” said O’Halloran.

The studies are free; in fact, patients receive a stipend for their travel, and O’Halloran has had tremendous success with the new therapy so far.

“I start the study with a viral load of 13,600,000 and on day three, the viral load is at 675. By day seven, it’s 70, and at day 14, it’s less than 24 copies. ... and at day 28, I’m undetectable and no noticeable side effects!”

While O’Halloran notes that the drugs are not officially named (they are referred to as ABT-530 and ABT-493) and are not yet FDA-approved, he has been very pleased with the results and is awaiting the possibility of being cured.

“Pretty darn cool,” he said. “I feel great.”

When O’Halloran was in the field, he remembers working on a jobsite with five other operators, “and three of them had Hep C,” he said.

He hopes this information will help other Operating Engineers who have the disease and open their eyes to the different treatment options available.

“The single most important thing that I did to contribute to my successful treatment for this disease was that I quit drinking 25 years ago, and since I found out that I had HCV, I’ve tried to live a healthier lifestyle and avoided liver-damaging substances, including over-the-counter pain relievers.”



Retiree Fred Pitschner opens up about his diabetes at a recent Semi-Annual Meeting.



Retiree Pat O’Halloran discusses treatments that worked and haven’t worked for his HCV.

Swap Shop ads are offered free of charge to members in good standing for the sale or trade of personal items and/or real estate. Please notify the office if your item has been sold. Business-related offerings are not eligible for inclusion in Swap Shop. *Engineers News* reserves the right to edit ads. Ads received by the 1st of the month will run the following month. Limit two ads per issue. Must be 60 words or less.

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

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

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

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

Or e-mail to:
jmatos@oe3.org

*All ads must include
Member Registration
Number.

FOR SALE: 1961 4-door Falcon. Completely restored (new tires, new brake cylinders, transmission rebuilt, torque convertor rebuilt, new crankshaft, rod bearings, main bearings, seals, new radiator, new gas tank, new paint, new upholstery, windshield wiper motor rebuilt, after market air conditioner, new shock absorbers, etc.). Asking \$10,450. Will consider any reasonable offer. Call Richard at (530) 432-6612. Reg# 2124108.

FOR SALE: 1/2" Air Gun, 3' OTC bar, Proto end wrenches 1 1/4", 1 7/16", 1 5/16", 1 1/2", 3/8". Proto 1/2" MET sockets 16 each. 3/8" and 1/2" sockets (new). 1/4" MET sockets (new). 1/2" deep impact sockets 10 (new) and more. \$300. (530) 673-1023. Reg# 1030434.

FOR SALE: 20 ac. trees. 2100 sq. ft. 3 bed, 2 bath. 1/2 mile off Hwy. 491 county maintained road. Store room, mostly covered deck. 32x28 garage. Furnished. Washer, dryer, freezer, stainless appliances, jetted tub, riding mower, sm. mower, tiller, snow blower, drill press. Hunting & fishing. 4 mtn. ranges and 5 national parks close. \$249,900. (435) 587-9183. Reg# 2241844.

FOR SALE: 2010 Denali 31' Super Lite series travel trailer with slide-out awning and skirting. Hardly been used. Looks brand new inside and out. Has all the extras. \$18,000 OBO. (530) 233-1142. Reg# 2553759.

FOR SALE: 20 acres level ranch land in Southern Utah.

60 minutes to St. George; 45 minutes to Cedar City. Great soils, 360-degree mountain views. 1 acre-foot of water rights at 200+- average, on end of county-maintained road with power and phone at front. Near BLM, hunting! \$27,500/possible trade for good pickup/travel trailer. (435) 879-9155. Reg# 2070046.

FOR SALE: 1997 4-door, 4-wheel drive Tahoe w/V8 and automatic transmission. \$4,000. 2001 GMC 1/2-ton work truck V6 with manual transmission, 2-wheel drive. \$2,500. (650) 747-0218. Reg# 1855364.

FOR SALE: A D8H 46A Cat. \$25,000. Double sheep's foot. \$2,700. Single sheep's foot. \$1,700. 7-foot cross-cut disc. \$700. 5-foot cross-cut disc w/ new cutting blades. \$600. A B6 scraper, 10 yards. \$1,200. Call Randy at (408) 316-3890. Reg# 1797514.

FOR SALE: BEGE 4-yard hydraulic pull scraper. \$2,500. Call Mike at (707) 312-1900. Reg# 1826077.

FOR SALE: D8H/977L/245B 8H w/ripper, 1970, needs bladed face & grousers. \$21,500. 977L 14X 1980 has Demo clam & winch. \$19,500. 245 B 1989 6MF, very good, 2 units, \$45,000 EA. (925) 787-8604. Will trade for land. Reg# 2273544.

FOR SALE: Goulds water pump, model No. 3656, 2-inch by 1-1/4 inch, less than 5 hours of use, 5 hp, 230 volt. \$800. 8-foot lime spreader. \$100. 3-point fan-type sprayer for vineyards and orchards. \$250. Rebuilt starter for a 92 series Detroit. \$100. Call (530) 346-2918. Reg# 1271053.

FOR SALE: Video poker slot machine. Challenger II Draw Poker. Play 25 cents. One to five coins. Plays and pays. Good condition. Nice looking machine with stand. \$800. (916) 487-2201. Reg# 2046985.

FOR SALE: Slot machine. M.F.G. Bally Corp. Eldorado front glass. Play 25 cents. One to three coins. Plays and pays. Good condition. Nice looking machine. \$800. (916) 487-2201. Reg# 2046985.

FOR SALE: Brand new Beautyrest queen-sized box spring and mattress. Paid \$1,122; will take \$900. (916) 991-1530. Reg# 0486196.

FOR SALE: 2001 Harley Davidson Dyna Wide Glide, 44,000 miles, regular maintenance. Lots of extras: Windshield, saddle bags, three helmets, leathers. Excellent condition, always garaged. \$8,500. Text or call Gary at (530) 945-9837. Reg# 1477881.

FOR SALE: Mini Mite Sawmill. 52 hp Volkswagen motor. Mill is in good shape

and runs well. \$11,000. (707) 943-3354. Reg# 1194946.

FOR SALE: MAC Combo Wrenches 1-1/2" thru 1-7/8". \$375. Two Boxes Hyd plugs and caps. Some gauges/lines. \$200. 3/4" drive ratchet. New. \$60. 24" and 18" Pipe Wrench. \$40. Bucket Tooth Pin Driver. \$25. Set of Open and Boxed End Knocker Wrenches with Cheater Pipe. \$150. Call Bill at (530) 272-4497. Reg# 1054933.

FOR SALE: Knaack Tool Box 5x2x2 on roller with five trays. \$450 (\$800 new). New Stowmaster 5000 Tow Hitch. \$250 (\$600 new). EZ Lift Swap Bar for Pull Trailer. \$25. Call Bill at (530) 272-4497. Reg# 1054933.

FOR SALE: 2011 Milan Eclipse 24'. Model 24RBS. Used twice. \$17,000 OBO. (707) 688-0024. Reg# 2299805.

FOR SALE: 2012 power wheel chair. Never used. Two years ago, was worth around \$5,000; asking \$1,500 OBO. (520) 648-3266. Reg# 0782948.

FOR SALE: Eight 16' heavy duty horse (bull) pens. Make one or two pens, two with ride thru gates, 4' walk thru green gates and 10' non climb gates. (Other horse gear.) 10 horse hp elect irrigation pump. Will work on a generator. Some sprinklers. Two 100-gallon water tubs "rubber made." (530) 671-4485, (530) 701-2842 or prrsharon@aol.com. Reg# 0336937.

FOR SALE: 1945 Willys MB Military Jeep. Original Go Devil engine - runs great. Transmission and transfer case rebuilt - no leaks and does not jump out of gear. Steering, brakes and wheels upgraded. 12-volt electric. Very reliable and lots of fun off road. Body in good condition with no rust or rot. \$5,000 OBO. Call or text (916) 300-3608 or e-mail llrnzo@gmail.com. Reg# 2320454.

FOR SALE: Penn Game Fish Reel Leveline 350 New. \$49. Tyve ADCO RV cover 28.7-31.6'. Used once. \$228. (916) 725-8303. Reg# 2161164.

WANTED: Antique bottles. Paying up to \$500 for embossed whiskey and bitters bottles. Also want other antique bottles. Will give operators free appraisals on antique bottles. Call Richard at (707) 481-5423 or (707) 542-6438. Reg# 1025301.

FOR SALE: 1990 4,000-gallon Max water truck. 13-speed. Needs new rubbers for suspension. Runs but needs a little care. \$10,000. (209) 401-6269. Reg# 2292849.

FOR SALE: 1994 Corvette. Automatic. 150+ miles. Avocado green. Never been in a wreck. Runs good. Needs a little care. Needs tires. Has stock rims. Everything

is stock on it. \$4,500. (209) 401-6269. Reg# 2292849.

FOR SALE: 8" top-notch used Red Wing work boots. Model 2412, size 10.5 E. Haven't worn for five years. Very good condition. Features steel toe, plate in sole (punctures), GoreTex waterproof, Thinsulate for cold, non-slip electric hazard Vibram sole, padded tongue/calf. Well cared for (cleaned-oiled). Paid more than \$300 new. Will e-mail photos. Clean/fresh. \$125. (925) 899-2161. Reg# 2233664.

FOR SALE: HDPS. 7,000 kw, heavy duty, low noise, diesel generator. New, never used. Retails for \$6,400; asking \$4,500. (530) 384-1427 or (530) 586-1194. Please leave message. Reg# 2443716.

FOR SALE: TA-011 gas air compressor, Kohler motor, duel torpedo tanks 6-1/2 hp. New, never used. Retails for \$1,699; asking \$1,100. (530) 384-1427 or (530) 586-1194. Please leave message. Reg# 2443716.

FOR SALE: 3/4-ton Wright come-along plus 40 feet 1/4-inch chain. \$80. (510) 793-4904. Reg# 0867016.

FOR SALE: 1977 MG Midget. \$1,200. (559) 292-2641. Reg# 1312793.

FOR SALE: Brass railing. 1-3/4"-wide, round, hollow tube X 124" long (10'-3") with six solid brass scroll design mount arms. Excellent. Looks new. Complete - \$230. Also: Broan ceiling bath fan combination unit. Heater, fan, light-install sheet. All parts complete. Looks and works great. \$35. (209) 931-2058. Reg# 1022395.

FOR SALE: Jobmaster very high-quality work boots. Stock hand built by West Coast Shoe Co. Wesco, Scappoose, Ore. Two pair available. Both men's size 11-D. One pair full factory rebuilt: \$225; other pair used but in excellent condition: \$125. New, these boots cost \$423 per pair plus tax and shipping. (510) 215-9585 or chedperry@sbcglobal.net. Reg# 1774642.

FOR SALE: Go-Go battery-operated handicap scooter. Just about new. Hardly used it. Paid \$1,980; will sell for \$650. (925) 484-4987. Reg# 0569555.

WANTED: Rifles, shotguns, pistols and ammunition. From one to a whole collection. (559) 351-6615. Reg# 2123273.

FOR TRADE: Your Northern California OR Oregon for our Tinnie, N.M. 20+ acres; barn, carports, power, two wells, water rights, fenced/cross-fenced, gated entry. (575) 973-2694. Reg# 2110811.

FOR SALE: 1988 Chevrolet 2500 4X4 pickup. Automatic overhauled motor. New battery and alternator. \$2,900 or offer. (775) 677-1936. Reno, Nev. Reg# 0889055.

FOR SALE: D4 (2T) Cat dozer with winch. Needs pony-motor work. Excellent condition. \$5,800. 1959 MM rubber-tire tractor with motor model Big-Mo 400. \$1,450. LeTourneau cable scraper D (carry-all) 4-yard. Needs TLC. \$1,450. Ingersoll ram 5-horse compressor. Bought new. Been stored. \$850. Airplane ladder hydraulic raise. Jacks up to 10 foot standing height. \$350. (775) 225-5478. Reg# 1768974.

FOR SALE: New 3/4" Proto chrome socket sets in box (std. and met.). \$550 each. Proto wrenches: 1-5/16 through 2-1/2". New. \$1,000. BS500 used Wacker jumping jack (runs good). \$800. Make deal for all at \$2,600. Call Dave at (707) 429-0503. Reg# 1804382.

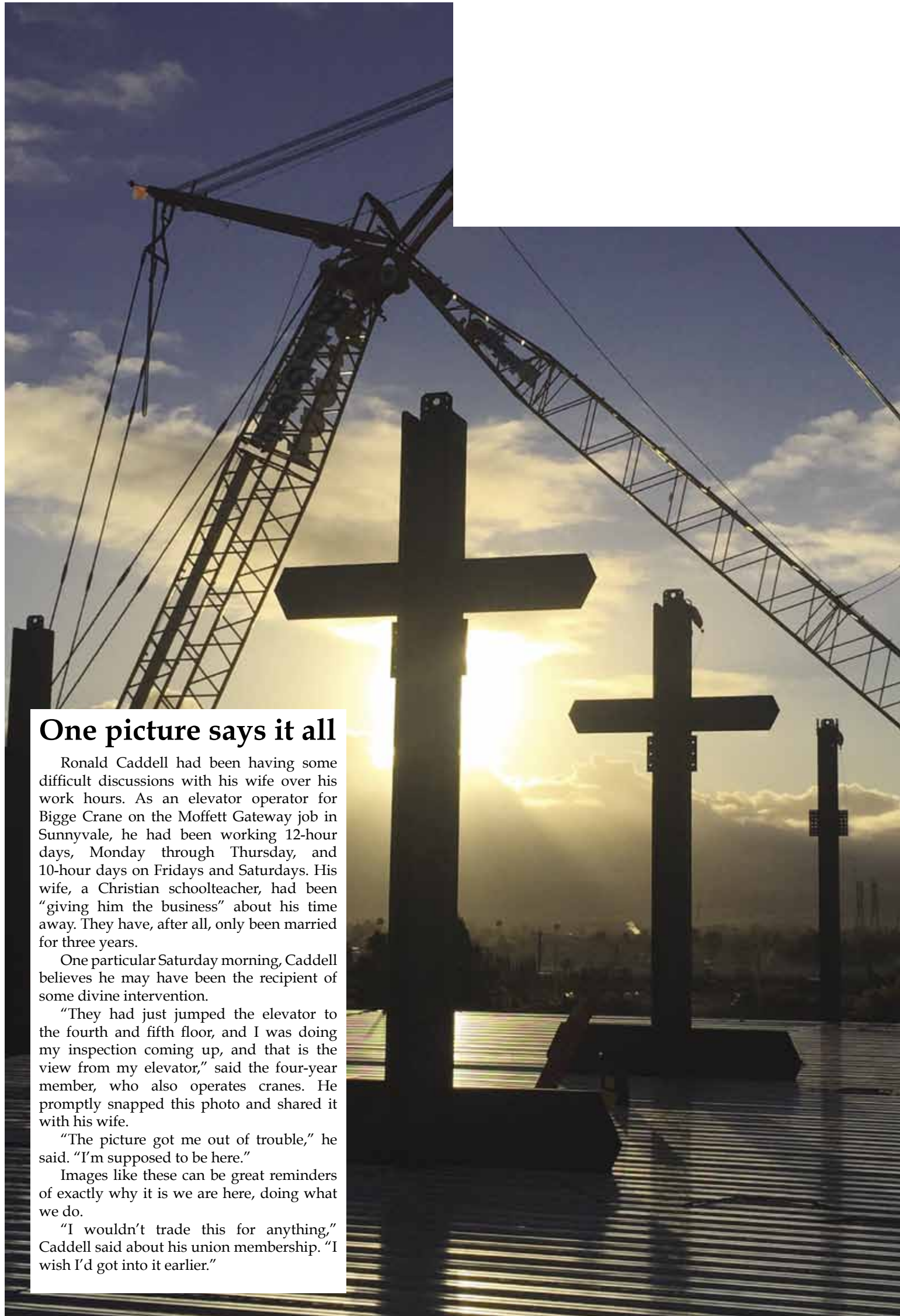
FOR SALE: Crypt at Chapel of the Chimes, Hayward, Calif. Valued at \$7,000. Will take best offer. (530) 241-6427. Reg# 1179355.

FOR SALE: 1999 Fleetwood Flair 35' motor home. Very clean and well taken care of. North Bay Area. \$24,000. Call Jim at (707) 824-8814. Reg# 2004077.

FOR SALE: Two 1" air impact guns 1-HT short shaft: \$900. Set 1" impact/chrome sockets to 4": \$1,500. 3/4" air impact gun: \$300. 3/4" impact/chrome sockets to 3": \$500. 3/4" Snap-On torque wrench 600 pound: \$400. Set end wrench 1" to 2": \$400. Set micrometers: \$500. Much more. (209) 329-5625. Reg# 1514866.

FOR SALE: More tools! Set stone hones: \$300. Heal/pry bars: \$300. Assorted lifting/rigging chains HT: \$800. Assorted pullers: \$400. Three 20-ton hydraulic jacks one low profile: \$500. 12/20 pound hammers: \$100. Assorted Cat tooling engine and tractor: \$500. Assorted adjustable wrenches to 24": \$300. Assorted pipe wrenches to 24": \$300. Hydraulic/trans. test equipment. Will separate. Much more. (209) 329-5625. Reg# 1514866.

FOR SALE: Bass boat, 90 horse Evinrude motor, two raised seats, push buttons at all three seats to raise and lower motor. Has about 34 hours on it. Two fish finders, nearly new vented cover. Yuba City. \$6,500. Also: 2005 27-foot RV trailer with slide-out. Clean. In good condition. Books for \$16,900; selling for \$13,500. (530) 671-4485, (530) 701-2842 or (208) 520-2515. Reg# 0336937.



One picture says it all

Ronald Caddell had been having some difficult discussions with his wife over his work hours. As an elevator operator for Bigge Crane on the Moffett Gateway job in Sunnyvale, he had been working 12-hour days, Monday through Thursday, and 10-hour days on Fridays and Saturdays. His wife, a Christian schoolteacher, had been “giving him the business” about his time away. They have, after all, only been married for three years.

One particular Saturday morning, Caddell believes he may have been the recipient of some divine intervention.

“They had just jumped the elevator to the fourth and fifth floor, and I was doing my inspection coming up, and that is the view from my elevator,” said the four-year member, who also operates cranes. He promptly snapped this photo and shared it with his wife.

“The picture got me out of trouble,” he said. “I’m supposed to be here.”

Images like these can be great reminders of exactly why it is we are here, doing what we do.

“I wouldn’t trade this for anything,” Caddell said about his union membership. “I wish I’d got into it earlier.”