A heroic craft

Operators have big sense of family, community at Powder Mountain
FROM THE DISTRICTS

PAGE 21
It's time for some night moves … in Fairfield District 04. Crane operators Bryan Camara and Mike Dickson work with oilers Brett Noack and Kenny Noack to make some huge night picks happen on the big 1-80/680 interchange project in Cordelia, pictured above. Get more details about the size of these picks as well as the rest of the work going on in this district, including the Napa Logistics Park project.

PAGE 23
It may be getting cooler, but the work picture in Fresno District 50 is still hot. Check out the pipeline work that's been bigger than expected this year, as well as ongoing reconstruction projects like the one in downtown Fresno that Excavator Operator Mark Sawyer is working on, above.

NEW THIS MONTH
5.......................... Looking at Labor
6.............................. Semi-Annual
12 ...... From the Financial Secretary
12 ............ Political Perspective
13 .............................. Tech News
15 .......... Working Through Wildfire

EVERY MONTH
4 ............................. News & Notes
8 ............................ Public Employee News
10 ............................ Credit Union
11 ............................. RMTC
12 .............................. Unit 12
14 ............................ Fringe Benefits/ATPA
18 .......................... District Reports
25 .. Meetings and Announcements
29 ............................. Face-to-Face
30 ............................. Health News
31 ............................. Swap Shop

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All hands on deck

It’s hard to believe that nine years ago, I wrote this column as your new business manager, when the Gold Ticket won by an overwhelming majority during the union’s internal election in 2006. At that time, I wrote, “With your continued support, I believe we can take back our union and move forward to a place of renewed strength and prosperity.” This year, your team of officers ran unopposed and were sworn-in during a special-called meeting in September. I am proud to say that despite weathering some of the worst economic times I have seen in my 36 years as a Local 3 member, today, we are stronger, prouder and more advanced than we have ever been.

This union has come a long way since that September morning almost 10 years ago. We have implemented transparency policies down the line, including printing quarterly financial reports in the Engineers News and discussing them at our Semi-Annual Meetings, constantly monitoring our funds by comparing consultants’ performance and market trends and holding district-wide elections for the Bylaws Committee, which has enacted changes and improvements to the union as the membership sees fit. Every officer has been committed to an “open-door” policy by being available to the membership whenever possible. Most importantly, we have put membership service first by training a top-notch staff, providing the best possible apprentices and journey-level training, protecting our jurisdiction, enforcing our contracts and bargaining on your behalf for the best agreements. I am proud of what we have accomplished together, and I look forward to serving you for another term. It means a lot to me and this team of officers to be elected unopposed, as it shows we have your full support.

It’s hard to believe we’re in the last quarter of the year, which means we’re getting closer to a big election year in 2016. There are also several local races coming up next month that will need your attention. Please check-out this month’s Political Perspective for a brief list of union recommendations, and regularly check our website at www.oe3.org. We’ll be calling for “all hands on deck” very soon, and since we are 35,000-strong, we should be able to make a big impact.

As the days get shorter, visibility may be more of an issue on some of your jobsites. Please keep your personal safety and the safety of those around you a priority at all times. Forecasts for the winter season claim that we may have one of the wettest winters on record. It’s hard to imagine a wet anything, particularly in California, as water restrictions are forcing communities throughout the state to embrace brown, patchy lawns as the new “gold,” and most restaurants don’t serve water anymore unless it’s requested.

The drought has taken its toll on some of our projects, but as with most natural crises, it’s also creating jobs. In Redding District 70, there is talk of raising the height of Shasta Dam, as well as starting the Sites Reservoir project in Yuba City District 60. Both are related to the area’s need for greater water storage capacity. Pipeline work has also picked-up in response to the severe water shortage, as recycled water projects are becoming more common for irrigation purposes in areas like Fairfield District 04 and Fresno District 50.

The drought has also intensified some serious fires in and around Shasta-Trinity National forest and Lake and Calaveras counties, but in true Local 3 fashion, we have offered clean-up efforts and worked right through some of the worst of the fires, such as our paving crew in Eureka District 40. Read all about their work in this edition on page 15.

You can also read about the big Powder Mountain Ski Resort job that is wrapping up for the season in Utah District 12.

Thanks to you all for attending last month’s Semi-Annual Event. I saw all ages of members, their families and friends having a good time and getting some good information. That’s what it’s about. Check-out the photo collage from the event here and in an online gallery. It is important that we all attend these meetings, because your staff does a better job when we have the participation, feedback and concerns from as many members as possible.

Again, it is an honor to serve as your business manager. Here’s to the future of Local 3.
Refuse to be divided

Throughout the history of the labor movement there has been one sure way to limit the advances of working people: Divide them in order to prevent or destroy their solidarity. For this reason, it is vital that we take the time to understand what solidarity is, why it is so important and fight against any attempts to destroy it.

Solidarity is defined as a feeling of unity between people who have the same interests or goals. The shared interests and goals of Local 3 members include protecting our work, increasing our market share and improving the quality of life for our membership. However, our opponents are always trying to divide us by amplifying our differences.

For example, anti-union groups have fought hard to create a wedge between public employees and private employees. The reality is that middle-class workers in both the private and public sectors wish to receive fair compensation for their time and labor, to see their work and safety protected and to have a say at the negotiating table, but anti-union groups use any perceived differences to their advantage, distracting us from what unifies us. They rhetorically ask, “Don’t private workers get stuck with the taxes that fund the pay and benefits of public employees?” They fail to mention that public employees also pay taxes or that private sector workers are constantly benefitting from public works projects and other public expenditures.

Our opponents paint public employees as overly compensated and enjoying benefits that private workers may not in an effort to create resentment between private and public workers. Consider notorious anti-union Wisconsin Governor (and Republican presidential candidate) Scott Walker, who viciously attacked the middle class in his own state by claiming that “public employees can’t be have-haves, while private sector employees are have-nots.”

What Walker didn’t mention was that public sector workers are not paid significantly more than private sector workers, and that they’ve often given up pay at the bargaining table to pursue the benefits they receive. Like other anti-union officials, Walker failed to make it known that his attempts to weaken public sector unions went hand-in-hand with his efforts to weaken all unions and give the upper hand to employers across the board.

Unfortunately, some of our members may think defending against attacks on public employees is not their fight. Even worse, they may accept the false arguments put forward by anti-union extremists. What they don’t realize is that by doing so they only weaken their own union and bolster our opponents in coming after them. For example, the same arguments used against public employees a few years ago are now being used to attack prevailing wage laws. (Look at what’s happening in Nevada.)

As we prepare for the 2016 political season, it is vital that we recognize the importance of our solidarity. We must realize that our problems do not come from our fellow members and working people, but from those who are fundamentally opposed to union labor. All of us must resist efforts to crush our solidarity and create resentment between our members or labor more broadly. After all, if our opponents are so concerned about working people’s ability to cover the public costs of quality infrastructure and public services, why do they fight tooth and nail against good union jobs and wages?

Stay politically informed

As you exercise your democratic rights by registering to vote and casting your ballot, be sure you stay informed on how candidates and legislation will impact you. With some key elections at the beginning of next month and the big 2016 political season quickly approaching, keep in mind that our website serves as a resource for members seeking to stay informed on issues important for us all. As our Political Action Committee (PAC) members review candidates and issues, which results in recommendations, the Politics section of our website will be updated with that information. You can also learn more about our Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program, which offers members opportunities to volunteer and even receive awards for their time.

For Members Only

On the Members Only section of our website, you can access important information, including the new Master Agreement for Testing and Inspection. In addition, you can get important updates about your Health and Welfare and Pension benefits. There are even resources for members needing affordable legal services, as well as ways to contact us with your suggestions or questions about our Health and Welfare or Pension benefits. If you haven’t already done so, head over to our website to register for the Members Only section today.
The rise of the CIO

The year was 1935, and the country was still reeling from six long years of depression. Working people had been abused and exploited for centuries. As their fight for a decent life had lasted lifetimes, frustration was at an all-time high. Organized Labor had fought hard and long, but within the labor movement, a fundamental dispute had been brewing for many years over whether or not, and how, to organize industrial workers. The established leadership of the American Federation of Labor (AFL) felt strongly that representation of skilled workers, such as carpenters, railroad engineers and lithographers, was the best way to gain and maintain some control over work through enforcement of work rules, defense of jurisdiction, control of apprenticeship programs and the exclusion of unskilled workers from membership.

The Stationary Engineers, later known as the Operating Engineers, were a prime example of the craft unionism model, and in many ways it has served our membership well since 1896. Proponents of industrial unionism believed this was a mistake. They felt that dividing workers from the same industries into different crafts represented by separate organizations, each with its own agenda, weakened their bargaining power and left the majority of workers without representation.

While the AFL had always had a small number of industrial unions, such as the United Mine Workers and the Brewery Workers, by the 1930s, craft unionists had a strong hold on power within the AFL, which they used to crush the drive toward industrial organizing. The Depression served to exacerbate the problem, and several unions began to press the AFL to change its policies in this area. The AFL responded by allowing the affiliation of “federal” unions, which meant that the AFL could later decide to break-up and redistribute membership upon craft lines to the appropriate “international” unions at a later date. This was unacceptable to the industrial unionists. During the years leading up to this, the AFL had been unable to win strikes, in part due to its bureaucratic leadership.

Suddenly, in 1934, three victorious strikes exploded onto the scene: the Minneapolis Teamsters Strike, the West Coast Longshore Strike and the Toledo Auto-Lite Strike. These victorious industrial unions with militant leaderships gave rise to the idea that would eventually become the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO). The AFL authorized industrial organizing drives in auto, rubber and steel but provided little actual support. Workers were clamoring for representation, and industrial unionists had proven they could fight and win.

The dispute came to a head at the AFL’s convention in Atlantic City in 1935, when Carpenters President William Hutcheson made a slighting comment about a rubber worker giving an organizing report. United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis, a strong proponent of industrial organizing, challenged Hutcheson. Words were exchanged, and Lewis proceeded to punch Hutcheson, knocking him to the ground. For many workers, this cemented Lewis’ willingness to fight for their right to organize.

Shortly thereafter, Lewis gathered a number of leaders of AFL-affiliated unions to discuss the formation of a new group within the AFL to lead the fight for industrial organizing, and on Nov. 9, 1935, the creation of the CIO was announced.

I’ve often wondered how different the work of our own local’s staff would be today if one union represented all construction workers, and there was no jurisdictional infighting among craft unions.

The formation of the CIO in 1935 led to an explosion of organizing and brought down some of the most ruthless anti-union companies’ barriers to representation. Next time I’ll highlight one of those important campaigns in our study of U.S. Labor History.

Until next time, the battle continues…
District 20 member Joe Aguilar enjoys some popcorn during the Semi-Annual Event.

Winners of the Fishing Derby include, from left: First-place winner Carlos Zaragoza Jr., who pulled up a 15-inch bass, third-place winner Matthew Lytle, who hooked a 6.75-inch blue gill, and second-place winner Sensie Gaytan, who reeled in an 8.5-inch blue gill. Congratulations!

1st

Member Arlan Harrell and his son, Arlan Harrell III, are the winners of the "Be in the Engineers News" raffle.

Raffle-winner Paul Basquez wins one year of paid window dues and a 75th anniversary belt buckle.

Operating Eng
Semi-An
One Union,
From left: Raymond Dubitsky, Apprentice Benjamin Perez and member Miguel Lemus visit before the meeting starts.

From left: Retiree Doug Jo Jo, aspiring Operating Engineer Cameron Morris, Retiree Armando Vargas and Retiree Jerry Sloniker tell work stories before lunch is served. (Morris is getting some good advice from some veteran Operating Engineers!)

From left: Treasurer Justin Diston, Financial Secretary Steve Ingersoll, Vice President Pete Figueiredo, Business Manager Russ Burns, Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan and President Dan Reding have a moment of silence during the Semi-Annual Meeting for all of the Local 3 members who have passed away.

From left: Raymond Dubitsky, Apprentice Benjamin Perez and member Miguel Lemus visit before the meeting starts.
I stand corrected

In July, I wrote about the Plumas County Board of Supervisors receiving a 3 percent salary increase every year since 2008, while county employees received nothing. While in session, Board Member Lori Simpson publicly corrected me, pointing out that board members only received a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for every year except 2009.

I apologize for making an error in regards to the regular salary increases board members received, while employees received and continue to receive nothing.

So, what did COLA increases mean for the Board of Supervisors over the last eight years? In 2008, board members received an increase of 3.04 percent. In 2009, because the Consumer Price Index (CPI) (what a COLA is based on) was -0.64 percent, they did not get an increase and had to give a little back. In 2010, they received an increase of 1.84 percent, and in 2011, they received another nice increase of 3.13 percent. In 2012, the increase was 1.7 percent, and in 2013, it was 1.39 percent. In 2014, board members received 1.86 percent, and for this year, they got another increase of 1.01 percent. In total, the Plumas County Board of Supervisors received a 13.33 percent salary increase over the eight-year period.

Now that I stand corrected, let’s compare these increases to those of the employees of Plumas County. Employees have received, zero, zilch, zippo, nada! County workers have received no increases to keep pace with the cost of living. Of course, employees only work 40 hours a week, while board members work… well, I’m not sure… but they meet three times a month!

Too often during the 40 years I have worked as a public employee or represented public employees I have seen city councils and boards of supervisors abuse their employees in regards to wages, hours and the terms and conditions of employment. Instead of leading from the front and being an example to the employees they oversee, too often council members and supervisors do the opposite with the attitude of, “Do as I say, not as I do.”

Members of the Plumas County Board of Supervisors are a perfect example of how not to be leaders. Unfortunately, they are elected by a public that either doesn’t see the poor work they do or the real, quality work OE3 members do.

As I write this, our members in Plumas County are attending board meetings and trying every way they can to get just some of the increases board members regularly received over the last eight years. They are not asking for anything extravagant, just a little of what county officials received. Why don’t board members tie wage increases for those doing the real work to the same formula they use every year for their own wage increases? How unique would that be? But then again, setting a good example is really not their style.

Adding insult to injury is the fact that most of the money paying our members’ wages is off-set from state and federal funds. Unlike the raises board members received over the past eight years, which come right out of the general fund, most of our members’ wages come from state and federal monies. It’s frightening!

That reminds me, Halloween is right around the corner. Enjoy the good times with your kids, family and friends. Be careful out there, and have a happy Halloween.

Plumas County members mobilize in big ways
By Gregory C. Ramirez, senior business representative

A big shout-out to OE3 members in Plumas County. After a near-unanimous rejection of Plumas County officials’ offer of a 1 percent raise, members have filled the room for every Board of Supervisors meeting since the vote, with employees describing the impact not having a cost-of-living-raise in the last eight years has had on their lives. You read that right, no raise since 2007! These members have vowed to attend every board meeting until Plumas County employees are made a budget priority!

Never again
By Scott Fullerton, business representative

Most of you are aware of the attacks that occurred on labor during the last legislative session in Nevada. For those of you who helped with walks, phone banking and marches, your efforts made a major difference. Thanks to all of you.

Pro-labor supporters in Carson City pulled no punches, using everything in their power to hold off what attacks they could. Some bills, such as Senate Bill (SB) 241 and SB 168 still made it through. Even with the successful efforts to change their language, these bills still weaken the bargaining process for public employees.

There were also several attacks to change the Public Employees’ Retirement System (PERS) benefit. One bill affecting new employees to the system went through, but the extremely dangerous ones, those that would have crushed future benefits for employees and burdened state and public agencies with undue costs, failed. Even with the backward step the state took in regards to its public employees, the session could be considered a victory based on what was not lost.

However, we cannot rest on our success in stopping the attacks, as more are coming right around the corner. After pulling out all the stops in this last session, what is left to utilize in the next session is minimal. The best hope we have is to make sure pro-labor legislators are there for us in 2017. (These are the individuals we will elect in November 2016.) Although it is a year away, people are already declaring their candidacy. The time to start is now!

Many pro-labor candidates in Nevada lost their seats by less than 100 votes. Assemblyman Randy Kirner, who led the way in this session with some of the most devastating attacks on labor, won by 11 votes. All it takes is a six-vote turnaround, and labor is working with a friend instead of battling a foe. Contact your leaders and see where they stand. Review their voting records and see what they did for you. Contact your Hall or agent and find out who is a supporter and who is an opponent. Attend rallies, perform informational walks or phone bank. Anything helps. It is paramount that we keep up the fight to ensure that these attacks never happen again. The stance should remain and the chant should be, “NEVER AGAIN!” The only way to ensure this is to stay active and fight like hell.
Increases negotiated across the board in San Jose
By Mary Blanco, business representative

On June 19, Local 3 members ratified a three-year Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the city of San Jose. The term of the agreement is from July 1, 2015, to Sept. 30, 2018. Members received a 3 percent salary increase effective June 21, 2015, and will continue to receive a 3 percent salary increase for fiscal years 2016-2017 and another 3 percent for 2017-2018. In addition, a “me too” clause was included to ensure that if any of the federated bargaining units received more during this time period, our members will also receive the additional wage increase. Full-time employees received a 1 percent signing bonus on Aug. 6. Park Rangers and Parking Traffic Control Officers received a $200 increase to their uniform allowance. Members received an increase to their boot allowance and protective prescription safety glasses from $150 to $200. Additional items received as a result of this agreement included an increase in vacation accruals; an increase in tuition reimbursement from $750 to $1,000; a requirement that supervisors provide a 14-day notice prior to changing a member’s schedule; a reclassification review for meter-repair workers; a salary survey for Public Works mechanics and senior mechanics, and a meet-and-confer about offering our members the Local 3 Public and Miscellaneous Health and Welfare Trust Fund medical and dental plans.

In March of 2015, Local 3 submitted a salary survey and reclassification request for the Foothill De Anza Community College District Police Officers. The district requested a meet-and-confer to discuss adding a police officer trainee position. Local 3 countered that a police officer II position should also be added. As a result of the negotiations and a cost-of-living increase of 2.5 percent, Local 3 was able to increase the police officers’ salary by approximately $22,000 a year. Officers with an advanced post certificate and assigned to a designated specialty assignment, such as Field Training Officer, Evidence Technician, Bicycle Patrol Officer or Motorcycle Officer will receive an additional 5 percent special-assignment pay. Needless to say, officers were happy with their salary increase!
Exclusive Credit Union

Since its inception, OE Federal has been taking care of our union family by creating lifelong financial partnerships with our members. We know the hard work you put in day-in and day-out, and although this can be challenging, being a part of OE3 has many benefits – like becoming a member of OE Federal Credit Union.

What makes us special is that we are an exclusive Credit Union. That means we’re not open to just anybody. Only members and families of union construction trades like OE3 may join. Being exclusive means we can focus on your specific needs and deliver custom member service to help you achieve a bright financial future.

The Credit Union understands your needs better than any other financial institution, and being a member of OE Federal gives you access to union-tailored benefits, amazing rates and products that were made for you. For example, just by being a member of OE Federal, you have access to confidential financial guidance with our partners at BALANCE at no cost to you. BALANCE can help you plan for major life events like getting married, having kids and retirement. In addition, if you feel you’ve made some financial missteps or racked up too much debt, BALANCE can work with you to get things under control.

Looking for a new or used vehicle? OE Federal partners with CUDL-AutoSmart, a service that allows you to research a vehicle, locate your nearest auto dealer and apply for financing all through our website. There’s no need to visit multiple websites, as we’ve got it all in one place. What’s more impressive is that this same service is available on our mobile app! To start your comprehensive vehicle search, visit www.oefcu.org/auto-loans or click the “Drive the Way You Want” link on our mobile app.

In addition to saving you money on loans by offering low rates, your OE Federal membership gives you access to everyday savings through www.LoveMyCreditUnion.org. There you can shop major retailers like Target, Home Depot and more. You’ll enjoy discounts (even on GM autos) and earn points while you shop that can be redeemed for cash.

There are many other benefits to being an OE Federal member, and we welcome the opportunity to serve you! To get more information about our products or how to join, visit OE Federal online at www.oefcu.org, stop by your local branch or give us a call at (800) 877-4444. We’re happy to answer any questions and discuss how an OE Federal membership can benefit you.
Bring in the cranes!

It really is true that the more difficult a task, the more value it has when completed. As operators in an industry that requires skill, patience, precision and drive, we understand this. This value of hard work was apparent to me most recently in dealing with the acquisition, construction, logistics and legalities of opening our new training site off Meiss Road that is just under 10 miles from our current site in Sloughhouse. It has been a long work in progress, but it has definitely been worth it.

I am so proud of the new site, which was officially opened in December of last year. Apprentices have already been enjoying some classes there, but we have been unable to move cranes in due to the strict guidelines of using the site for crane certification.

Most recently, however, we started making significant progress toward our goal. Our instructors have been busy moving dirt and building pads, bringing the grade two feet lower in preparation for the cranes and crane-training.

As I watched the dirt being moved by dozers and scrapers at the new site, I realized how much of a team effort this has been. From the vision and support of the Local 3 officers and the Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC), to the employer Trustees and our talented staff and apprentices, none of this would be possible without the efforts of all.

Stay tuned for more details about a crane coming to your new training site soon! In the meantime, give us a call to see what trainings are currently available for you. Whether they be for a variety of certifications or journey-level upgrades, we have just what you need. Call us at (916) 354-2029 or visit us online at www.oe3.org and click on the “Training” tab.
The benefits of teamwork

As I travel to quarterly District Meetings and Retiree Meetings, the one thing I consistently hear from our Retirees is how important Local 3’s Pensioned Health and Welfare is to them and how they don’t know what they would do without it. So many of our Retirees benefit from our quality coverage. Whether they have to undergo surgeries, get lab tests or have regular check-ups, their health is directly impacted by their ability to afford good patient care, thanks to our Funds.

Like most of what is great about Local 3, our Health and Welfare Funds started a long time ago. Starting in the mid-1950s and continuing to today, they were managed by a Board of Trustees that included labor representatives and employers and were funded through work hours related to negotiated agreements between our crafts and their employers. In January 1955, when the Fund was very new, it was reported that hospital benefits included $11.50 a day of coverage. For today’s hospital expenses, that might buy you a bottle of water!

Today, our Health and Welfare Funds pay out hundreds of millions of dollars every year for our active and retired members’ health-related costs, and due to plan changes from the past, we have ensured there are reserves in the bank for these important Funds. While changes to health plans like ours are unavoidable because of the complex nature of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), rest assured that your Local 3 officers and Trustees will always fight to keep quality health care a top priority.

Remember, be thankful for the benefits you receive as an active and retired member. Millions of Americans do not have any pensioned health coverage at all, or if they do, they are responsible for the whole premium. According to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, union workers are more likely than their non-union counterparts to be covered by health care. (The bureau also reports that 93 percent of unionized workers have some type of access to retirement benefits.)

Local 3 is committed to keep the Pensioned Health and Welfare Fund – and all of our Funds – solvent and strong. Our members have done their part to ensure this as well. For instance, last year, active members in California and Nevada allocated some monies out of their Master Agreement increase to make sure not only the Pensioned Health and Welfare stayed solvent, but that it will be there when they retire. For more on Nevada’s Health and Welfare Plan, please see this month’s District Reports.

Know that the very strength of this union rests in our ability to preserve, protect and improve what we have as a team. This means enjoying strong economic times and shouldering the burden together during weak ones. We all endured the economic collapse in 2008, and while the economy is slowly improving, our industry was hit the hardest. Please remain diligent in working together, staying involved and listening and understanding the facts of your contract, instead of creating or fueling rumors.

The best thing you can do for yourself and for all of us so that our Funds remain strong is to get involved and attend your meetings. Also, please continue using PPO doctors and facilities. Thanks to those of you who attended our recent Semi-Annual Meeting, and I hope to see you soon at the next round of District Meetings.

Democracy needs you

Be sure you and your family members are registered to vote, then go out and do it, as these are the cornerstones of a working democracy. It is also a right many of us will have an opportunity to exercise on Nov. 3, or sooner if you vote by mail, as many communities will be voting in local elections. There are no “big ticket” ballot issues, but there are important elections for mayor and city councils, school districts, county supervisors, etc.

Local 3 is dedicated to providing you with information and union-friendly recommendations on these key election races. Below are a few recommendations and proposition summaries in our districts. If no recommendation is listed for a particular race, it is because Local 3 hadn’t made an endorsement or didn’t have the information at the time of printing. To get that information and stay up-to-date on all political matters, visit our website at www.oe3.org.

**Burlingame District 01**
Residents of San Francisco will be participating in citywide elections. If you haven’t already, ask the city’s Election Department for an absentee ballot (sometimes called a Vote-By-Mail ballot). The Vote-by-Mail ballot will be sent directly to your home where you can take your time considering who and what to vote for. Absentee ballots will be arriving in mailboxes around the city during the week of Oct. 5. If you don’t vote by mail, remember to vote on Election Day, Nov. 3. Key races and Local 3 endorsements in the district are as follows:

- **San Francisco**
  - Mayor – Ed Lee
  - Prop. A – Yes (Affordable housing)
  - Prop. D – Yes (Giants’ project at Mission Rock)
  - Prop. I – No (Moratorium on building affordable housing in San Francisco)
  - Sheriff – Vicki Hennessy
  - San Francisco City College Board – Alex Randolph

- **San Mateo County**
  - Redwood City Council – Shelly Masur

**Eureka District 40**
There are a couple of important races in and around Eureka. Unfortunately, endorsements had not been made at the time this went to press, so please check our website for the Harbor District and School Board races.

Remember, elected officials impact your wages, health care, retirement, job training, safety and opportunities. Don’t short yourself or your family; register to vote, and then get out there and cast your ballot.
TECH NEWS

Testing and Inspection Master Agreement ratified

By Michael Strunk, senior business representative

It was a long, hot summer for the Technical Engineers, but we are pleased to announce a new three-year Master Agreement for Testing and Inspection. The new agreement was ratified on July 25 and is retroactive to July 1. The new deal took more than a dozen meetings with the Council of Engineers and Laboratory Employers, Inc. (CELE) and five special-called meetings with the Testing and Inspection membership. Those meetings included a strike authorization vote followed by a first-ever Technical Engineers Fair Industry Strike Training (FIST), where 95 percent of the members present told the bargaining committee to go back and try for more or they were headed to the sidewalk, if needed, to get a fair agreement.

In the end, 697 ballots were cast, and in the closest balloting in the Technical Engineers’ 61-year history, we got a deal the assembled membership could live with. The three-year agreement will put $6.25 into the package over the lifetime of the agreement, including 65 cents earmarked for apprenticeship and journey-level-upgrade training. That 65 cents will maximize the recent recognition of the Apprenticeship Program as a provider of continuing educational units for the International Code Council. These classes will take some time to fully develop, so stay tuned for more information here and on the Local 3 website at www.oce3.org.

While it may seem like it is always about the money, these negotiations were different in that they focused on how we can continue to expand in the recovering but still somewhat tentative economic conditions beyond the Bay Area, which went back to work in 2012-2013. The owners wanted to peel laboratory workers kept in the agreement, and the membership overwhelmingly and resoundingly said no. The owners wanted a lower wage package outside the nine Bay Area counties as well, but again the membership said NO.

As a compromise, the membership did agree to a modification of the agreement outside the nine Bay Area counties that allows for pay per classifications, with pay being calculated by the highest rate of the day. Those calculations are per project, not to exceed two rates per day, with a two-hour minimum pay per group and an end to the old practice of requiring Group 2 to pay for all work performed regardless of classification once Group 2 status was obtained. While some see this as a step back, others see it as an opportunity to perform work they couldn’t before. Only time will tell, but it is how all other crafts operate, and it does make us more competitive against the non-union.

Not only were laboratory workers kept in the agreement, but their presence was expanded, and in the process, two new classifications were added to the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). This will make it easier to bring new members into the industry. Groups 5 and 6 will work alongside Groups 1 to 4, which were established in 2008. These groups serve as the basis of our prevailing wage determinations for the 46 Northern California counties for Material Testing and Inspection work, as well as the basis of the agreement, which covers Hawaii, Utah and Northern Nevada.

Some of the provisions of the agreement are that the word “radius” comes out of the travel time and the subsistence premium increases from $25 to $30 per day in excess of 100 miles driven from the employee’s residence or $85 per day in excess of 150 miles. A new per diem rate of $120 will also begin in July of next year. Other provisions include enhancements to travel time for standby and night shift. This will allow for “disruptive shift pay,” which provides a minimum of eight hours of night-shift pay when the shift precludes the employee from working the following day, excluding weekends and holidays.

For a complete list of the changes, visit the Members Only section of the Local 3 website, where members can also find a copy of the entire 2015-2018 Master Agreement for Testing and Inspection.

UNIT 12
Knowledgeable crew keeps fleet running

By Larry Southerland, business representative

Members at San Jose Equipment Sub-Shop No. 24410 repair and maintain a fleet of Caltrans’ equipment, which includes solar-powered arrow boards, cars, pickups, trucks, loaders, mowers and graders. The equipment in this fleet comes from a variety of manufacturers and requires a very knowledgeable crew of technicians. They must keep up with ever-changing technology to improve fuel economy and address carbon reduction. We thank them for their invaluable skillset that keeps the equipment on the cutting-edge and their drivers safe.

Knowledgeable crew keeps fleet running.
Retiree Association Meetings

AUBURN
Tuesday, Oct. 27  10 a.m.
Auburn Recreation Center – Lakeside Room
3770 Richardson Drive

MODESTO
Tuesday, Oct. 27  10 a.m.
Tuolumne River Lodge
2429 River Road

SACRAMENTO
Tuesday, Oct. 27  2 p.m.
Operating Engineers’ Building
3920 Lennane Drive

STOCKTON
Tuesday, Oct. 27  2 p.m.
Italian Athletic Club
3541 Cherryland Ave.

OAKLAND
Tuesday, Nov. 3  10 a.m.
Oakland Zoo – Snow Building
9777 Golf Links Road

CONCORD
Tuesday, Nov. 3  2 p.m.
Hilton Concord
1970 Diamond Blvd.

CLOVIS
Tuesday, Nov. 3  2 p.m.
Clovis Veterans Memorial Building
808 4th St.

UKIAH
Wednesday, Nov. 4  10 a.m.
Discovery Inn
1307 North State St.

FREEDOM
Wednesday, Nov. 4  10 a.m.
VFW Post 1716
1960 Freedom Blvd.

ROHNERT PARK
Wednesday, Nov. 4  2 p.m.
Operating Engineers’ Building
6225 State Farm Drive, Ste.100

MORGAN HILL
Wednesday, Nov. 4  2 p.m.
Operating Engineers’ Building
325 Digital Drive

BURLINGAME
Thursday, Nov. 5  10 a.m.
Transport Workers Union Hall
1521 Rollins Road

NOVATO
Thursday, Nov. 5  2 p.m.
Best Western Novato Oaks Inn
215 Alameda Del Prado

SUISUN CITY
Thursday, Nov. 5  2 p.m.
Veterans Memorial Building
427 Main St.

SANDY
Tuesday, Nov. 17  2 p.m.
Operating Engineers’ Building
8805 South Sandy Parkway

EUREKA
Tuesday, Nov. 17  2 p.m.
Labor Temple
840 E St.

REDDING  Meeting & Potluck
Wednesday, Nov. 18  1:30 p.m.
Frontier Senior Center
2081 Frontier Trail
Anderson

YUBA CITY
Thursday, Nov. 19  2 p.m.
Yuba Sutter Fairgrounds – Flower House Building
442 Franklin Ave.

RENO
Thursday, Nov. 19  2 p.m.
Operating Engineers’ Building
1290 Corporate Blvd.

KAUAI
Monday, Dec. 7  6 p.m.
Kauai Beach Resort
4331 Kauai Beach Drive
Lihue

OAHU
Tuesday, Dec. 8  2 p.m.
Ali Moana Hotel
410 Atkinson Drive
Honolulu

HILO
Wednesday, Dec. 9  11 a.m.
ILWU Local 142 Hall
100 West Lanikaula St.

KONA
Thursday, Dec. 10  6 p.m.
Courtyard Marriott
(King Kam Hotel)
75-5660 Palani Road
Kailua-Kona

MAUI
Friday, Dec. 11  2 p.m.
Maui Beach Hotel
170 Kaahumanu Ave.
Kahului

Work hours are important

Local 3’s work hours are closely monitored by Business Manager Russ Burns, the officers and Trustees. Big hours mean big paychecks for members, big profits for employers (which translates to pay increases for our members), and positive cash flow and healthy reserves for our Trust Funds.

Through May of this year, Pension hours are up by 10 percent overall throughout Local 3’s jurisdiction as compared to 2014.

Pension
Remember that 1,000 hours worked equals one Pension credit, but contributions are earned toward your Pension on all hours reported. If you work 2,000 hours, you get one credit, but the contribution amount is doubled. Big work hours really pay-off at retirement.

Health and Welfare
You need 120 hours each month to maintain Health and Welfare eligibility, and any excess goes into your hour bank until maximums are reached. If you are laid-off in the winter, your hour bank gives your family coverage without you having to pay premiums until the bank is depleted (120 hours are subtracted monthly for coverage). Big hours give you a winter Health and Welfare cushion.

We can all be thankful that the work situation continues to improve, hours are on the rise, members are pulling in great paychecks and Local 3 has healthy, well-managed Trust Funds to protect our families!

ATPA district visit schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue., Oct. 6</td>
<td>Rohnert Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., Oct. 7</td>
<td>Yuba City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu., Oct. 8</td>
<td>Sacramento</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue., Oct. 13</td>
<td>Burlingame</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., Oct. 14</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu., Oct. 15</td>
<td>Fairfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue., Oct. 20</td>
<td>Redding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., Oct. 21</td>
<td>Yuba City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu., Oct. 22</td>
<td>Morgan Hill</td>
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District visits

A rettative from the Fringe Benefits Office or the Trust Fund 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 (Oct. 6)  Redding
First Wednesday (Oct. 7)  Yuba City
First Thursday (Oct. 1)  Sacramento

Second Tuesday (Oct. 13)  Stockton
Second Wednesday (Oct. 14)  Fresno
Second Thursday (Oct. 8)  Morgan Hill

Third Tuesday (Oct. 20)  Rohnert Park
Third Wednesday (Oct. 21)  Eureka

Fourth Tuesday (Oct. 27)  Burlingame
Fourth Wednesday (Oct. 28)  Oakland
Fourth Thurs (Oct. 29)  Fairfield
Working through wildfire

Members work in the haze of California wildfires

Story and photos by John O. Matos, associate editor

“See that ridge right there,” said Eureka District Rep. Dave Kirk, as he pointed to a nearby bluff lined with trees and shrouded in heavy smoke. “The fire was right behind those trees the other day.”

Despite the fire’s close proximity, neither it nor the smoke is preventing a paving crew with Mercer-Fraser from getting their job done. The Hwy. 299 overlay project at the Humboldt County line between Redding and Eureka extends eight miles through an area high in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest that has been the scene of several wildfires this summer.

“There is always the possibility the fire will shut down the job, but it hasn’t happened yet,” said Screed Operator Bryan Martinez. The smoke was particularly thick on the day he spoke with Engineers News, significantly reducing visibility along the mountain pass.

“This is the worst it’s been,” he explained. “There was wind earlier this week, so the smoke didn’t lay in here like yesterday and today.”

While the crew continues their work as if nothing is different, they admit it is a little strange to come home smelling like smoke and with their vehicles covered in ash. It’s also unusual to see helicopters and water bombers zipping back and forth in the sky to contain the wildfires.

“They fly right by here, sometimes dipping into the river right down the hill from us,” said Shuttle Buggy Operator James Meagher. “It’s the coolest thing ever.”

“Working this close to the fire isn’t too bad, just a lot of smoke,” said Inspector Jeff Smith.

Unlike some of the other guys on this job, Smith doesn’t get to drive down from the smoke-filled mountains at the end of the day, as he lives just a couple miles away. He doesn’t mind the conditions, however, as long as the fires are under control and the cool weather continues.

Because Mercer-Fraser is a local contractor employing local Operating Engineers, the rest of the crew all come from nearby communities like Eureka, McKinleyville and Fortuna. Although they may not be as close to home as Smith, they all have relatively short commutes. Other workers in the region aren’t as fortunate, as many jobs have been shut down early in order to give out-of-area crew members the extra time needed to make it through the narrow mountain pass during the fire season. With fire crews being given priority on the roads, long delays for regular motorists have become a necessary part of the firefighters’ efforts.

“We’re lucky,” said Screedman and 25-year member Terry King. Not only has he and the rest of this crew been able to avoid the fire-related travel delays on their way to and from the jobsite, the job itself hasn’t had any delays this year either.

Terry is one of three Kings on the job. His brother, 25-year member Danny King, is the superintendent, and Terry’s son, Tanner King, is also working on the crew before returning to school this fall.

After a quick break, the crew fired up the equipment, got back to work and soon faded into the distant smoke. Behind them was a smooth and even stretch of highway, the result of their hard work and determination despite the surrounding elements.

For more photos, visit us online at www.o3.org.
Excavator Operator Travis Martinez.

Loader Operator Bro Murray.

Geneva Rock Foreman Jaysen Jorgensen.

Operator Mike Danforth.

A heroic craft

Story and photos by Mandy McMillen, managing editor

Curtis Earl, admits he doesn’t ski much, but the work he’s providing for Geneva Rock at the Powder Mountain Ski Resort will impact thousands of skiers who come from all over the world to enjoy Utah’s breathtaking slopes. Earl and about a dozen or so crewmembers have been working on access roads and underground utilities for the Powder Mountain Summit project. Work includes resort expansion for the more than 7,000 acres of skiable land and preparation for high-end subdivisions that may one day become home to some of Utah’s rich and famous.

Earl’s view from the seat of his excavator in the middle of tree-covered mountains and back country is an added bonus, since he enjoys the work he does no matter where he’s at. It doesn’t hurt that he’s a photographer, often taking photos of wildlife and scenery during his breaks.

“I’ve taken pictures of a doe and her twins, moose, buck deer, hawks,” he said. “The only way I get to see this stuff anymore is with a camera,” he explained, noting that he’s been working in the industry for more than 35 years and hired on with Geneva in 2007. Currently, he’s prepping (“grubbing”) the slopes so trucks can haul material through and eventually build a rock wall and bridge.

“They’ll make a ski run across the bridge,” he explained.

His mastery of the “trackhoe,” as he calls it, as well as the photos he brings home, have made him his five-year-old grandson’s biggest hero – a role many Local 3 members can attest to having for aspiring operators.

While the landscape of the resort 19 miles northeast of Ogden is breathtaking, its elevations and rocky terrain can make for difficult excavation.

Excavator Operator Josh Landrith quickly went through three sets of teeth digging a water trench for a 10-inch-wide HDP pipe. Once it was placed, he excavated six feet below it without the use of GPS, as the signal is lost in the high altitude. Therefore, operators have to use their “personal” GPS skills, which are a combination of training and natural ability.

According to Travis Martinez, it also takes experience.

“It takes time to be on the ground, to know what needs to be done and what to expect from everybody,” he said, while excavating the trench for future power lines.

He works closely with Operator Hipolito Munoz, who has also been a hero to his kids. He moved to Utah in the 1990s to raise them, and now they have followed in his footsteps.

“My youngest does pipeline work,” he said. “My twins do the same kind of job.”

Miles Figueroa, who has been on the job since June, has also followed in his father’s footsteps.

“All my family are operators,” he said, explaining that his father, Steve Figueroa, recently went to Hawaii for some work.

“I really enjoy the community of it,” said Miles. “You get out of it what you put in.”

Loader Operator Bernadette Mora has been “putting in” about 22 years in the trades, first working as a flagger and then a laborer before joining Local 3 in 1994.

“The crew thinks of me as their mother,” she said with a big smile. She has been loading trucks at the fill site, secluded by trees and hills that will soon be covered in snow.

The season is wrapping up on the Powder Mountain Summit job, and the weather, which often includes afternoon thunderstorms and sometimes even monsoons, is beginning to shift.

For Geneva Rock Foreman Jaysen Jorgensen, that means putting his mountain bike up for the season and dusting off his snow skis. Others will join him at the expanded Powder Mountain Ski Resort soon.

In the meantime, our operators will continue to work hard building and shaping whatever’s needed, while being their families’ biggest heroes.
Loader Operator Bro Murray removes the fill at the Geneva Rock Powder Mountain Summit project in Eden.

Operator Hipolito Munoz has been a Local 3 member since 2010. Excavator Operator Travis Martinez loads a truck with fill for a power trench.

Loader Operator Bernadette Mora loads trucks with fill at the Powder Mountain Summit project for Geneva Rock.

Operator Bernadette Mora.

Excavator Operator Travis Martinez loads a truck with fill for a power trench.

Operator Steve Weiss.

Miles Figueroa is taking after his father, Steve Figueroa.

Operator Steve Weiss.
Know your numbers

We usually give you a work picture outlook with the dollar value for each project. We give you the amount of work hours as compared to the same time a year ago. We give the amount of contractors that have signed with us. With all these numbers, the most important are the ones we cannot give you or negotiate for you – your individual medical health numbers.

A member in our district went to the doctor in 2011 and was told he was borderline diabetic. His A1C, a blood test used to diagnose type 1 and type 2 diabetes, was 6.6 (7.0 is considered diabetic). He changed his eating habits, lost some weight and went back for a check-up the following January. His blood pressure (BP) was 126/80 (good), his LDL (bad cholesterol) was 64, his HDL (good cholesterol) was 40 and his A1C was 6.9. He made additional changes to his lifestyle and decided to bike as time permitted for exercise. In August, he had another check-up. This time his BP numbers were 117/75, his LDL was 68, his HDL was 41 and the result of his A1C was 7.1. Concerned with these results, he increased his biking and watched his eating, but as he got busy with work, he did not maintain these changes. In November, he returned to the doctors for another check-up, where his A1C came back at 7.9. Discouraged, he went back to his old eating habits with no exercise.

In December of the following year, he went in for another check-up. At this visit, his BP numbers were 128/85, his LDL was 92, his HDL was 40 and his A1C had increased to 10.6 with sugar readings at 244 (120 being considered normal). Realizing how things can turn bad so quickly, he tried to eat healthy but with no exercise. At his May check-up, his A1C was at 10.4 with sugar readings at 260. His doctor advised him to get insulin shots to control the situation. While getting insulin shots is not a bad solution to save your life, he made one last plea asking the doctor to give him until the next check-up before going that route. The doctor agreed and requested he return in three months.

This member committed to doing high intensity exercises one hour a day (4 a.m. or 9 p.m.), two to three times a week as his schedule permitted, detoxed his body by juicing with green vegetables and fruits and maintained a healthy diet. In August, he went in for his check-up. This time his BP was 124/80, his LDL was 82, his HDL was 33, his triglyceride 130 and his sugar readings were at 112. Not only were these all good numbers, but his A1C was at 8.5. While there was still a lot of progress to be made, it was the first time his A1C had dropped since 2011.

District staff did not need to get permission to share this member’s story, because it is District Rep. Pane Meatoga’s story.

“I know that I am not alone and that many of us are in the same situation or know someone who is,” explained Meatoga. “These are things we need to talk about with our families and friends. I cannot serve you, my family, my community or my church if I don’t take care of my numbers. Negotiating with myself on these numbers was one of the toughest negotiations I have ever faced. My brothers and sisters, I plead with you to know your numbers and negotiate with yourself to improve them. Contact our Trust Fund Office at (800) 433-4400 to get more information on the wellness programs that your medical provider has to offer as part of your coverage. Life is a JOY!”

Greater water storage capacity a must

Hopefully October will bring cooler weather to what seemed to be one of the longest, smokiest and hottest summers in recent memory.

As we all know, the California drought is a constant topic of conversation. In District 70, a lot of that conversation has been about raising the height of Shasta Dam, and there seems to be just as many people opposed to the idea as there are those who are in favor of it. Of course, there is also much discussion on who would pay for the project. We are hearing similar talk about the Sites Reservoir project. Some seem to believe that projects like these rob the planet of its water, not realizing that the Earth has the same amount of water today as it did on Day One. What has changed, however, is the number of people who want or need that water, thus the need for greater storage capacity.

Our hands are getting good hours on ongoing projects in the district. Steve Manning Construction is ahead of schedule on the Hwy. 299 Buckhorn project, despite the heavy traffic flows and highway re-routes related to local fires. Tutor Perini is pouring the final column on the Antlers Bridge in Lakehead. Tullis, Inc. is finalizing the Hwy. 3 bypass in Weaverville along with several other paving projects. J.F. Shea Co. completed paving projects on Hwy. 89, Hwy. 299 and Hwy. 44. Knife River had several jobs in Red Bluff, including the Walmart Supercenter and the I-5/Hwy. 99 interchange. C.C. Myers is still working on the Thomas Creek Bridge in Richfield.

The city of Redding has seven bridge projects valued at $12.4 million coming to bid. As always, when new work bids in our area, we will get you that information as soon as it’s available.

Thanks to those of you who attended the Semi-Annual Meeting last month. The support of our union is appreciated, and it’s always nice to see familiar faces from our district and others. Next up is our final District Meeting for the year, which is set for Wednesday, Nov. 18. Please check in with dispatch for any upcoming training or classes, and get your name on the list early, as space is limited.

District Rep. Pane Meatoga Jr., fifth from the right, is able to better focus on serving the membership as he addresses his health.

Apprentice Aaron Jones works for Tullis, Inc. on the Hwy. 97 project in Weed.
Through the roof

Stockton District 30 has had a really good season with a mix of highway, housing, school improvements and commercial work done by our members.

For instance, our members have been involved in the Gallo Winery facility improvements in Modesto. The company has been rebuilding one of its glass furnaces since February, and all of the work has had to be done without removing the roof or stopping the operations on the rest of the furnaces. Our contractors are accomplishing this with a 350-ton Grove crane from American Crane Rental. During the rebuild of the furnace, the crew running the crane had to make blind picks and sets over 200 feet away through an area of the roof where panels had been removed, allowing access to the work area. Once inside, the furnace was put together by spider cranes supplied by National Machine and Conveyor. Our members have been working six and sometimes seven days a week to get this project done on time. Once completed, this state-of-the-art furnace will be able to pump out 1,500 wine bottles a minute.

Another project that is going on at the Gallo facilities is the new administration building. Hathaway Dinwiddie is responsible for the building. Teichert is doing the grading and paving and Preston Pipelines is doing the underground. During the initial grading, some contaminated dirt had to be removed and stockpiled across the street, where Pacific States loaded it out to be processed offsite. It is good to see private companies like Gallo believing in our economy enough to do these large improvement projects again.

As the year winds down, remember that the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC) will have lots of training opportunities for journey-level upgrades or other classes this winter. If you do have to get on the out-of-work list, remember to re-register every 84 days or you will fall off of the list.

Members keep nuclear plant demolition running smoothly

As of this writing, fires have ravaged thousands of acres off Hwy. 36, and other fires have blazed in areas adjacent to District 10 and District 70. The fires were difficult to get to and hard to manage, yet firefighters came from all over the country to get them under control and protect structures and property. We’d like to express our gratitude to them for keeping our roads open and protecting our local community.

Even with these disasters occurring in some areas, work has gone on. Flatiron and its subcontractor Access Limited have been working on a bridge replacement on the Smith River. The remote location has made the job tough, but these contractors are up to the challenge. Mercer-Fraser, our biggest local signatory company, has been busy all season with several paving projects. The company has been awarded several additional projects, and we are looking forward to next season. Wahlund was recently awarded the second phase of the Scotia project.

CB&I has kept our members busy with continuing work on the nuclear plant demolition in cooperation with North Coast Fabricators, Northwest Demolition, Cascade Drilling and Drill Tech. Much of the work requires specialty equipment. Things run smoothly primarily because of the cooperation between members on the job, the labor relations manager for CB&I and our office. Working together, good progress has been made on the job.

One of our busiest projects is the revitalization of Cummings Road. This joint effort between several agencies has been under the management of Meyers Earthwork. The company has not only made progress on this important project but has also started training two of our apprentices.

Our Retiree Meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 2 p.m. Our Retirees built our union, and they continue to build our future. Consider Harry “Mickey” Dillon, who has 58 years in Operating Engineers as of September. We are so lucky to have members like Dillon who are OE3’s living history. To receive credit for the years you put into Local 3, call the Hall and let Secretary Jennifer McKenzie know if you are eligible for a service-award pin. Pins are awarded in five-year increments starting at 25 years.

We are also proud of the quality apprentices in our district. In August, the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC) spotlighted Apprentice Rob Erickson in the Engineers News for good reason. He’s a hard-working apprentice with Mercer-Fraser. Other exceptional apprentices in our district include Cody Freitas working for Northwest Demolition at the Humboldt Bay PG&E Power Plant, Penney Hall, who is working for Flatiron on the historic Willits Bypass, and Dennis Donahue Jr. and Daniel Geist, who are working on the revitalization of Cummings Road with Meyers Earthwork.

With the rainy season on its way, we want to remind everyone to keep an eye out for our brothers and sisters working on the roads with Caltrans. We hope to have an accident-free winter season for Unit 12.

We’ll be gearing up for the 2016 elections soon and ask that all members consider participating in our Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program. Volunteers are not only eligible for rewards from OE3 (based on volunteer hours) but your help keeps our union strong. Are you aware that we are one of the few crafts that still maintain an office here? Local 3 has invested in our area in hopes that we will improve our local community with union wages, union companies and union work. Our political voice in Humboldt and Del Norte counties is crucial to making that happen. Call the Hall for more information.
Reach out to fellow members

It’s been a busy year in Utah, and the work picture is looking good for next year as well. We are looking for qualified operators, so if you know anyone looking for excellent pay and benefits, have them contact the Hall.

As we bring new members into our union, whether they are journey-level operators or apprentices, we all need to do our part to help them along in their careers. Reach out, give them a hand and educate them on the benefits of belonging to our great organization. If someone is struggling on a jobsite, pass on any information or knowledge that will help them succeed. Remember, we are one!

With fall approaching, it’s a great time for members to head out to the training site and sharpen their skills or learn how to operate another piece of equipment. Doing so improves the versatility of our members and makes them a better asset to employers. Fall is also a great time to take a Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) or Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard (HAZWOPER) refresher. See the training schedule at right, and contact Kiera Nielson at (801) 664-6934 to sign up.

Journey-level spotlight

Journeyman Paul Cole has spent much of his career as a supervisor for Granite Construction. He takes pride in working with and training apprentices, as he believes they will one day be our future foremen and our top Operating Engineers. Cole joined Local 3 in 2004 and became a District 12 Political Action Committee (PAC) member last fall. He likes being involved in the political process and learning more about Local 3. He encourages everyone to get more involved in their union. When he’s not working, Cole enjoys being with his wife of 18 years, Natalie, and their four children. He also likes to camp, fish and hunt.

As a reminder, we have a Retiree Meeting on Nov. 17, with lunch starting at 1 p.m. and the quarterly District Meeting starting at 7 p.m.

NEVADA

Airport work keeps members busy

From Reno

With fall upon us, work in Northern Nevada continues to be strong. Granite Construction has been busy at Reno International Airport, an industrial center north of Reno, Tracy Clark power plant, Reno-Stead Airport and the South East Connector project. Road and Highway Builders is continuing work on the last phase of I-580 in Carson City.

Q&D Construction has kept many members busy throughout the summer and into the fall on projects like McCarran Boulevard, I-580 in Reno and Washoe Valley; the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) fitness center; Virginia Street Bridge; a water line in Yerington, and numerous private projects in the Reno-Sparks area.

Starting Jan. 1, 2016, our insurance deductibles will see a slight increase. The individual deductible will be $250, and the deductible for a family will be $750. The maximum out-of-pocket, in-network rate will increase to $5,500, and the out-of-network rate will increase to $13,000.

From Elko

Road and Highway Builders is completing work on Mountain City Highway and 5th Street, as well as a lot of night work on the Elko and Ely airport expansions.

Remington Construction is staying busy at the Midas mine and west of Ely on Hwy. 50. The company has also started working on the wildlife crossing north of Wells on Hwy. 93. Ames Construction is still working at the Newmont Long Canyon job 45 miles east of Wells and at Gold Quarry for Newmont. The mines in Northeastern Nevada have kept Sterling Crane and Mountain Crane busy. Interstate Concrete Pumping has been working in the Elko area.

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent District Picnic. We hope to see everyone again next year along with many more.

The Newmont negotiating committee will begin finalizing proposals this month and is preparing to meet with the company in November. Please contact the Elko District Office at (775) 753-8761 or one of the job stewards for more information. Meetings and information will be posted on our union bulletin boards. All notices will be sent by e-mail, so make sure we have your correct e-mail address.

Upcoming Training*

October

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Eight-hour MSHA Refresher</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>First Aid/CPR/AED Certification</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-16</td>
<td>OSHA 10 Certification</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-22</td>
<td>24-hour MSHA Certification</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>28-29</td>
<td>Signal/Rigging Certification</td>
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November

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>2-5</td>
<td>CEO Apprentice Training</td>
<td>7 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-6</td>
<td>50-hour Pre-NCCCO Course</td>
<td>7 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Journey-Level Upgrade Training</td>
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<td>9-12</td>
<td>CEO Apprentice Training</td>
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<td>10-12</td>
<td>24-hour MSHA Certification</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Journey-Level Upgrade Training</td>
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<td>16-29</td>
<td>CEO Apprentice Training</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Eight-hour MSHA Refresher</td>
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<td>First Aid/CPR/AED Certification</td>
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<td>Journey-Level Upgrade Training</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Forklift Certification</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-24</td>
<td>OSHA 10 Certification</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
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*All dates are subject to change.

*All dates are subject to change.

Operator/PAC member Paul Cole.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upcoming Training*</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Eight-hour MSHA Refresher</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>First Aid/CPR/AED Certification</td>
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<td>15-16</td>
<td>OSHA 10 Certification</td>
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<td>20-22</td>
<td>24-hour MSHA Certification</td>
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<td>28-29</td>
<td>Signal/Rigging Certification</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>2-5</td>
<td>CEO Apprentice Training</td>
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<td>2-6</td>
<td>50-hour Pre-NCCCO Course</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Journey-Level Upgrade Training</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All dates are subject to change.
Members work on massive logistics site

Local 3 currently has seven members working on the Napa Logistics Park project. Because of the site’s close proximity to rail lines connecting it to the Port of Oakland, as well as access to Hwy. 29 and I-80 from Hwy. 12 in the north and Hwy. 37 to the south, the park is a prime logistics site in Northern California. It is expected to employ hundreds of local and nearby residents in the near future.

The first phase of the project consists of one warehouse building totaling around 646,000 square feet of space. The crew is currently grading a 40-foot strip of road around the structure for a Liebherr LR 1300, which will be standing the walls for the building.

Foreman Dave Brown and Gradesetter/27-year member Chad Clark have been getting good hours on the project. Blade Operator David M. Simmons is making grade with a 14 M Series GPS blade with help from scraper operators Allen Penfold and David Esquivel. Thirty-seven-year member Joe Brown assists the scrapers with his D6. Apprentice Marcus Walker compacts and works on gravel strip to ensure 98 percent compaction is right on the money. The teamwork involved makes the work positive and extremely productive.

Teichert/C.C. Myers Joint Venture (JV), Griffin Soil Stabilization and Pacific Coast Drilling Co. are in full-swing at the train station in Fairfield. There are a dozen or so Operating Engineers on the project at this time, with that number increasing as the job moves forward. Peabody Road must be opened back up by the 2016 school year. Crews have their work cut out for them completing a six-lane overpass above the railroad tracks. Railroad crews are putting track together to realign it over the first half of the pedestrian underpass and make way for the excavation of the second half.

DeSilva Gates/Viking JV are rolling along on the I-80/I-680 interchange project in Cordelia. Viking placed 165-foot-long concrete girders that weighed 220,000 pounds each. Maxim made the picks with two cranes, a 500-ton AT operated by Bryan Camara with Brett Noack as his oiler and a 350-ton AT operated by Mike Dickson with Kenny Noack as his oiler.

A-S Pipelines has been doing a couple of subdivisions in the district this year, totaling about 150 lots. The company is also busy in other districts.

McPherson Crane recently finished a complete windmill change-out working with Mr. Crane on a Rio Vista wind farm. After a demolition crew knocked over a windmill that had caught fire (lightning is the rumor), McPherson got busy with the rebuild. After using a long-reach excavator to dig the foundation, McPherson set the new tower base section with 275-ton and 110-ton truck cranes. Mr. Crane trucked in a 1600 Manitowoc Crawler crane to finish stacking the tower and set the generator and blades. McPherson stayed onsite to rig-in the crawler and assist with the tail-crane duties, hoisting windmill parts. McPherson’s crew included members Ira Witcraft, Mark Dana and Owen Dubois. Frank Dillon and Jason Blalock worked for Mr. Crane.

YUBA CITY | 468 Century Park Drive, Yuba City, CA 95991 • (530) 743-7321

District Rep. Ed Ritchie

Is El Niño coming?

Normally our biggest concern this time of year is the upcoming holiday season, but this year, everyone’s attention has turned to the weather. With most of the national weather services predicting a strong El Niño, we could be in for a long, wet winter. For some that may mean much-needed time-off. Others may wish to continue training and further their careers as Operating Engineers. Whatever you choose, our staff hopes you have a great winter.

We have held our own this work season, putting many members to work on paving projects, bridge jobs and even a few dirt jobs. Sierra Mountain is continuing work on the Lost Creek Dam. Teichert, J.F. Shea and Knife River are working on multiple jobs throughout our district. Members with Recology Butte Colusa Counties are also staying busy.

We are optimistic that many projects will resume and a few new projects will start next year. New jobs are still being posted, and the work picture will finish this year looking better than it did last year. That being said, we still have jobs in progress throughout the district, and many of our rock plants are still going strong.

Thanks to all of our members who attended our District Meeting and the Semi-Annual Meeting in September. The good attendance means members are getting involved, and that’s what it takes to keep our union strong. Thank you for putting your best foot forward and for your support.

As the work season begins to wind down and we see a change in the weather, the Hall will see a change as well. It is at this time that we say goodbye, happy retirement and job well-done to our own Public Employee Business Rep. Mike Minton. For the last 10 years, this former U.S. Marine and Long Beach Police Officer has done an outstanding job representing our public employee members. He will be missed by all who worked with him.
Your right to representation

Do you know your Weingarten Rights? In 1975, the United States Supreme Court upheld a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) decision that employees, including stewards and officers, have a right to union representation at investigatory interviews. These rights are known as the Weingarten Rights.

During investigatory interviews, the Supreme Court has held that the following rules apply:

- Employees must make a clear request for union representation before or during the interview; employees cannot be punished for making such a request.
- After an employee makes a request, the employer must choose from three options:
  1. Grant the request and delay questioning until a union representative arrives and (prior to interview continuing) the representative has time to consult with the employee.
  2. Deny the request and end the interview immediately.
  3. Give the employee a clear choice between having the interview continue without representation or ending the interview.
- If the employer denies the request for union representation and continues the interview with the employee, the employer has then committed an Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) and the employee has a right to refuse to answer. The employer cannot discipline the employee for such a refusal.

So, prior to a meeting with management where an employee believes discipline or termination may result, you may make this statement: “If this discussion could in any way lead to me being disciplined, terminated or affect my personal working conditions, I respectfully request that my union representative be present at this meeting. Until my representative arrives, I choose not to participate in this discussion.”

We want to remind all of our members that if you are on the out-of-work list and have been called back to work by an employer, please take a few minutes and let your Local 3 dispatcher know so he or she can recall you back to that employer. This prevents you from blocking another member who is on the list from moving up when an employer calls in to place an order for an operator.

Our signatory employers are always looking for the best-qualified and well-trained employees, so during the off season, why not contact the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC) and see what journey-level classes or upgrades are available?

Thank you to all who came out to the Semi-Annual Meeting. It is always great to see our members participate in their union. Don’t forget, the next Retiree and District Meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 27. If you are getting close to retirement, Pre-Retirement Meetings are usually scheduled at the beginning of the year. Check your Engineers News for a schedule.

We wish you and your families a happy Halloween!

Union family runs union company

In Santa Clara County, a union family is running one of Local 3’s great signatory companies, George D. Garcia, Inc. The company has always been union, and the owner, George Garcia, is keeping it that way.

Garcia became an Operating Engineer right out of high school and has two brothers and a son who are also Operating Engineers. His father, Joe Garcia, has also been a lifelong member and has the Local 3 gold watch, indicating his 50 years of service, to prove it.

Joe lived and worked in Redwood City and the San Jose area as a foreman for Coast Grading and Paving, maintaining the hall roads for the mill, running the motor grader and becoming skilled with the blade.

George was born in Redwood City in 1942. By the time he was a teenager, he was already in construction, spending summer breaks during high school working as a gradechecker. Once he graduated, he started working for P&E with his first big job on the construction of Hwy. 50 in Rancho Cordova during the early 1960s. Besides checking grade, George ran scrapers, dozers and many more pieces of equipment. When he was 22 years old, he went to work for JC Bateman as a finish blade operator on the foothill expressway, central expressway and many subdivisions.

Two years later, George became an owner operator. Having built up a good reputation, he was able to find plenty of work. During this time, he did a lot of dirt work on subdivisions in the San Jose area under the name George Garcia Equipment Rental. His company saw steady growth, and by 1973, he decided to incorporate it under the name George D. Garcia, Inc. One year later, he bought the Interstate West Quarry in Gilroy.

George has a yard in San Jose, which he has maintained for over 40 years. His wife, Audrey, and daughter, Kelly, run the office, while George and his son, Keith, work in the field. George used to fish and hunt but has little time for that now, as he works seven days a week, whether at home or at the office. He doesn’t mind, however, as he is happy with his achievements and what he has accomplished in life.

When asked what he thinks about being a member of Local 3, George is quick to point out the many benefits he, his family and his employees have enjoyed. His father and brother have great pensions, all his employees receive good wages and benefits, including many who have retired from his company with over 35 years of service, and every Local 3 apprentice he has ever worked with has journeyed-out fully qualified. He knows that people who work non-union often don’t get treated right, something that just won’t happen to the union workers with this union contractor.

Owner/Operator George Garcia stands with his son, Operator Keith Garcia.
More pipeline work than expected

Winter may be nearing, but our work season is still going strong. Operators are completing one project and moving onto the next with little to no downtime, and High Speed Rail (HSR) and reconstruction projects throughout the district are keeping our operators busy.

Valverde Construction continues to relocate utilities in downtown Fresno. Seventeen-year member Jimmy Cabrera and a crew from Emmett’s Excavation will be working steady on a $2.9 million street reconstruction project in Woodlake until March of next year, as they perform underground, sub-grade, base rock and asphalt work.

In the beginning of the year it was projected there would be very few pipeline projects. However, Snelson Companies, Inc. and Abercombie Pipeline Services have had about 10 projects in our area. They may not be the big spreads career pipeliners are used to, but they range from 250 feet of 34-inch pipe to hydrostatic testing of 31 miles of 8-inch steel pipe. We are happy to have the work, and the pipeline job stewards have done a good job doing what they were trained to do. As a representative of the union dealing with the contract and working rules, and preparing job steward reports, they are an asset to the job. Thank you to all the pipeline job stewards working in our district. These include Jerry Charlton, Johnathan Dowling, Wyatt Meadows, Anthony Ortiz, Joseph Popejoy, Grant Smith, Ken Stratham, Steven Villarreal, Peter Yarbrough and Jeff Young.

Former pipeline Job Steward Wyatt Meadows is the new organizer for the Fresno District. Organizing is a must in order for our union to remain strong, and there are several non-union companies in the area that will be targeted. We have the best hands in the business, providing on-time and under-budget performance. We also have state-of-the-art apprenticeship and journey-level-upgrade training programs to produce a highly skilled workforce. Our members are synonymous with pride and productivity, and that is why Local 3 is the biggest and the best!

Pipeline Job Steward Anthony Ortiz.

Operators Jimmy Cabrera, Hugo Moreno and David Torrez work for Emmett’s Excavation.

A smokin' hot season

This year’s work season has been one for the records! In our district, the out-of-work list has been at record-lows and dispatches have been at record-highs. Our work picture is still projected to be strong for the rest of the year and into the next, with many ongoing jobs still reporting a lot of hours and keeping many hands working year-round. This is good for individual members and the district overall and is one of the reasons why our out-of-work list continues to be low. While it’s been extremely busy, our great staff has kept the district running and serving the membership.

As we head into the fall, the 2016 political season approaches. It is going to be a busy year for Local 3 and our district. This will be one of the most important political years in recent times, and we’re going to count on all our members, family and friends to come out and help this organization with national, state and local politics. That means we’re going to need help with phone banking, precinct walking and other tasks. At the time of this writing, Local 3 has not endorsed any candidates, but please stay informed by reading your Engineers News and visiting us online at www.oa3.org.

With an extremely wet winter being forecast for this year, take advantage of Supplemental Related Training (SRT) or any other classes that will help you in your career as an Operating Engineer. Doing so will help you work safer and smarter. Have a happy Halloween!
Recreational sites create work throughout city

San Francisco continues to keep our members busy. On the west side of the city, in Golden Gate Park, the Beach Chalet Soccer Fields are getting artificial turf, new bathrooms, field lights and pathways. Robert A. Bothman Construction is onsite with Apprentice Rhea Wells. Near Lake Merced, Interstate Grading & Paving, Inc. is providing work on a $7.6 million project at Lowell High School for San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD). The company is grading the new building pads with Foreman Mark Whitman and Excavator Operator Collin Muffett.

Also on the west side, at San Francisco State University, Silverado Contractors is demolishing an old parking structure to make way for the new Mashouf Wellness Center. This student recreation center will include a pool, climbing walls and running tracks on the inside and soccer fields and a softball field on the outside.

In the Bayview District, on the city’s east side, Disney Construction is demolishing and replacing three bridges for Caltrain. The bridges are around 100 years old and are located at Paul Avenue, 22nd Street and 23rd Street. Disney Construction Foreman Cesar Aguilar is onsite with an excavator and hammer.

In North Beach, closer to downtown, Bauman Landscaping is in the last stages of giving Joe DiMaggio Playground a major facelift. The improvements include new tennis, basketball and bocce ball courts and a new asphalt baseball diamond. Foreman Jesus Cisneros is onsite with operators Carl Pete, Rich Crandall and Nicholas Geranios, and apprentices Alex Demartini and Dylan Brucker.

The building at 399 Fremont St., in Rincon Hill, has topped out, but hoist operators Ronnie Robinson and Red Ridley with Cabrillo Hoist are still busy ferrying the interior trades up and down. Tower Crane Operator Carlos Bardness with Clipper International is still onsite hanging glass and mechanicals.

In Hayes Valley, two more tower crane hands are busy. At the corner of Franklin and Page, Operator Ron Kultti with Clipper International is hoisting rebar and column forms, while Rashawn Grogans with Bigge Crane is doing the same thing around the corner at Hayes and Octavia.

In Daly City, DeSilva Gates started work on a new 35-unit housing project. The company has Gradechecker Luke Bachan and Apprentice Glen Huffman working on the layout. Drill Tech Drilling & Shoring, Inc. is also onsite with Operator Adam Federighi and Drilling Apprentice Chris McCombe. Operator Victor Caro and Apprentice Kalvin Bishop with Independent Construction are working on the block retaining walls, some of which are 40 feet tall.

Also in San Mateo County, two new water tanks are being constructed by DYK, Inc. The first is for the Montara Water and Sanitary District and is a $2.9 million, 500,000 gallon water tank that will be partially buried. The second is the $4.6 million, 2 million gallon San Bruno No. 3 Glenview tank. Operators include Danny Seibert with Sheedy Crane, and Anthony Lima and Donald Dillidine with DYK.

The Burlingame District staff wants to give a special shout-out to all the members, apprentices and their families who volunteered for our weekend neighborhood clean-ups in the city and to support Julie Christensen, who Local 3 endorsed for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in District 3. These opportunities are a great way to show that Local 3 cares about the future of San Francisco. Volunteers also receive Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) hours that count toward rewards. Contact our District Office if you can help, and remember that getting the right officials elected means jobs for our members.
**FINAL PICNIC OF THE YEAR!**

*District 17: Maui Picnic Details*

Saturday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
He Piko No Waiohuli
881 Lauie Drive, Kula
Menu: Good local food
Cost: Free

**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.

**bUssINEsS 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.

**DISTRICT MEETINGS**

*All meetings convene at 7 p.m.*

**OCTOBER 2015**

27th District 30: Stockton
Operating Engineers’ Building
1916 North Broadway Ave.

27th District 80: Sacramento
Operating Engineers’ Building
3920 Lennane Drive

**NOVEMBER 2015**

3rd District 20: Martinez
Teamsters Local 315
2727 Alhambra Ave.

3rd District 50: Clovis
Veterans Memorial District
453 Hughes Ave.

4th District 10: Rohnert Park
Operating Engineers’ Building
6225 State Farm Drive

4th District 90: Morgan Hill
Operating Engineers’ Building
325 Digital Drive

5th District 01: Novato
Best Western Novato Oaks Inn
215 Alameda Del Prado

5th District 04: Suisun City
Veterans Memorial Building
427 Main St.

17th District 12: Sandy
Operating Engineers’ Building
8805 South Sandy Parkway

17th District 40: Eureka
Labor Temple
840 E St.

18th District 70: Redding
Operating Engineers’ Building
20308 Engineers Lane

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

19th District 60: Yuba City
Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds
Flower House Building
442 Franklin Ave.

**DECEMBER 2015**

8th District 17: Honolulu
Ala Moana Hotel
410 Atkinson Drive

**TOWN HALL MEETINGS**

**OCTOBER 2015**

1st District 17: Kona
Meeting: 7 p.m.
Sheraton Kona Resort and Spa
at Keahou Bay
78-128 Ehukai St.

3rd District 17: Maui
Meeting and Picnic:
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
He Piko No Waiohuli
881 Lauie Drive, Kula

**NOVEMBER 2015**

No meetings scheduled.

**DECEMBER 2015**

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

9th District 17: Hilo
Meeting: 6 p.m.
Hilo ILWU Hall
100 W. Lani'kaula Street

10th District 17: Kona
Meeting: 6 p.m.
Courtyard Marriot
King Kamehameha’s Kona Beach Hotel
75-5660 Palani Road

11th District 17: Maui
Meeting: 7 p.m.
Maui Arts and Cultural Center
One Cameron Way, Kahului
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.

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.

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

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

Bruce Bourdens 1804323
District 10: Rohnert Park
Mike Ciuffo 1825975
District 30: Stockton
Ralph L. Daniels 1786444
District 12: Utah
J.R. Githens 1359553
District 90: Morgan Hill
James Kelly 1858312
District 20: Oakland
Bill Kidd III 1774429
District 10: Rohnert Park
William T. London 1750417
District 90: Morgan Hill
David R. Lopthien 1840407
District 50: Fresno
Larry E. Macedo 1804370
District 20: Oakland
Clyde Mandeville 1301468
District 99: Out of Area
James P. McMurry 1848147
District 20: Oakland
Adan Orozco 1620675
District 80: Sacramento
William C. Rodriguez 1795834
District 90: Morgan Hill
Donald L. Scales 1446942
District 70: Redding
Charles E. Sherwood 1344078
District 70: Redding
William A. Steele 1858341
District 50: Fresno
Richard M. Tavares 1858344
District 17: Hawaii
Daryl W. Van Ness 1826078
District 99: Out of Area
Vernon Williams 1855309
District 20: Oakland

Prices are per person, cruise-only, based on double occupancy. Air is additional. All categories subject to availability at time of booking. Blackout dates, restrictions, fees, taxes and other terms may apply. Princess ships’ registry: Bahamas CST#2079194-10

For more information or to book, contact:
Gail Gomes
(650) 373-4406
gail.gomes@frosch.com

Also upcoming:
10-night Alaska Inside Passage Cruise
Grand Princess | August 29, 2016
Sailing roundtrip from San Francisco to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and Victoria
Fares from $1,599 per person
Election of Bylaws Committee Members

Per Article XXX, Section 2 (a) of the Local Union Bylaws, the following eligibility requirements have been established for the Bylaws Committee member nomination and election to be held at the regular fourth (4th) quarter District Meetings in the year immediately following the election of Officers and Executive Board Members by secret ballot vote of those Members present:

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

The schedule of the meetings at which these elections will be held appears on page 25.

Election of Geographical Market Area Committee Members

Election of Geographical Market Area Committee Members will take place at each district’s regularly scheduled District Meeting, except for Hawaii, during the fourth (4th) quarter of 2015. In accordance with Article XXXI of the Local Union Bylaws, elections shall be held at the fourth quarter District Meeting of the year in each district after the election and installation of Officers. Eligibility rules are as follows:

1. Must be dispatched and working under a Local 3 Construction Agreement or registered at the Operating Engineers Job Placement Center seeking a dispatch to work under a Construction Agreement in his or her district/geographical market area.
2. Must be a Member of the Parent Local continuously for the two (2) years preceding nomination and not suspended for nonpayment of dues during those two (2) years.
3. Must be living in the Committee’s district geographical area.
4. Must be an “A” list Journey Operator.
5. Cannot be an Owner-Operator.
6. Cannot be a Retired Member, an Officer of the Local Union, or on the payroll of the Local Union or a related entity.
7. No Member shall be nominated unless he or she is present at the meeting, or unless he or she has filed prior to the meeting with the Recording- Corresponding Secretary or to the District Meeting Secretary on the day of the meeting before the meeting commences, a statement in writing, signed by him or her, to the effect that he or she is eligible to serve on the Geographical Market Area Committee and will accept the nomination if nominated.

The schedule of the meetings at which these elections will be held appears on page 25.

Certification of Election Results from Miller Kaplan Arase LLP

The accounting firm of Miller Kaplan Arase LLP oversaw the election. Its report, in part, contained the following information:

Pursuant to Article XII, Section 7 of the Local Union Bylaws and Article XXIV, Subdivision 1, Section (e) of the International Constitution, since all candidates duly nominated were unopposed for election, the secret ballot vote was dispensed with for these positions and James K. Sullivan, Recording- Corresponding Secretary, cast one ballot for all unopposed candidates, who were then declared duly elected to their respective offices. We reviewed the letter dated June 24, 2015 from James K. Sullivan, Recording-Corresponding Secretary, casting one ballot for the unopposed candidates.

We verified that for purposes of the election generally, the Election Committee followed the procedures they established pursuant to the Local 3 Bylaws and Local 3 past practice.

Looking to make a year-end charitable donation and get a tax break? Donating to the Local 3 Scholarship Foundation may fit the bill! Use our convenient donation link at www.oe3.org to donate quickly and easily online! Click on the “Scholarship” link, and then find the “Donations Online” link.

For more information about the Scholarship Program and how you can give, call Rec. Corres. Secretary Jim Sullivan at (510) 784-7400 or visit our website. You should also consult your financial advisor for tax advice.
Departed Members

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<th>Name</th>
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<th>Location</th>
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Deceased Dependents

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Retiree Joel Walker

- Former mechanic/heavy equipment operator
- Joined Local 3 in 1969
- Retired in 2002
- Current volunteer at the San Joaquin County Historical Museum
- District 30

Local 3 Retiree Joel Walker couldn’t believe his eyes when he stepped into the multiple buildings of the San Joaquin County Historical Museum filled to the gills with restored scrapers, tractors, blades and tools dating back to the late 19th century.

“You have to see it to believe it,” the former mechanic/equipment operator said. “When I found this place, I thought, what a gem!”

He was most impressed with the restoration workshop, where a 1938 John Deere Model A wheel tractor and a 1919 Holt 75 tractor crawler were parked and waiting to be brought back to life.

At that moment, Walker was hooked and began what has been an almost year-long volunteer career restoring equipment and doing whatever else is needed at the museum in beautiful Micke Grove Park. He currently oversees a group of about five or six mostly retired volunteers who have been very successful in transforming local residents’ old barnyard/backyard “junk” into working relics symbolic of a simpler time in the Central Valley’s rich farming heritage.

According to Walker, many of Local 3’s members came from the farm and hold onto a true appreciation of old agricultural equipment. For them, this museum would certainly resonate. “Tractors were my love,” he explained, noting that as an active member, he worked for years on equipment and then got away from it for awhile. “It never really goes away, though,” he said.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays, volunteers with a variety of restoration skills take apart the donated equipment, fix and replace the parts, prime and sandblast the bodies and repaint them.

The 1938 John Deere Model A is a great example, as its shiny green body was once rusted dirt brown and is the piece Walker is currently most proud of. (He has been involved in its restoration since February.)

The 23,600-pound track-type 1919 Holt tractor, which leads with a single wheel, has perhaps gained the most notoriety. “This is our big one,” said Walker, noting that its restoration has taken five years so far because they’re waiting on parts.

“They just don’t make this stuff anymore,” he said. “The rear tire took two-and-half months to arrive!”

Because the equipment is restored solely through volunteer efforts and funded through community donations, the completion of projects takes lots of research and many years. Outside the shop, nearly 100 old pieces sit in waiting.

But once the small crew breathes life back into the equipment, it is always worth the time and effort. Completely restored equipment is placed on display in various buildings throughout the museum grounds, which, in its entirety, rests on 18 acres. The grounds include eight exhibition halls and four historic buildings that detail the history of California’s heartland, from ancient hand-tool displays and a one-room schoolhouse, to a giant agricultural equipment center.

“There really is something for everybody,” said Walker, and especially for a retired Local 3 member like himself. He has lived in the Lodi area for 12 years but never knew about Micke Grove Park or the Museum. Now, he plays an active role at the park and has attended Stockton District 30’s annual picnic held there.

Walker hopes other retired union members will consider volunteer work as a way to stay busy and feel productive. He also hopes all members will consider a trip to Micke Grove Park’s San Joaquin County Historical Society and Museum to take advantage of all it has to offer. Call (209) 953-8800 for more details.

For more photos, visit us online at www.oe3.org.
Reducing your bad science intake
By John O. Matos, associate editor

Have you ever found yourself confused at conflicting health reports in the media or felt bombarded with drug ads promising to change your life? Have you ever watched the nightly news highlighting a miracle diet pill or cure-all and thought to yourself, “That sounds too good to be true”? Well, you may have been right.

Recently, a group of health scientists, including biologist and science journalist John Bohannon, decided to uncover just how eager media outlets are to run stories on health studies that claim to be scientific but don’t hold up to scrutiny. To accomplish this, they conducted a study that determined eating chocolate helps dieters lose weight. After publishing their findings in for-profit science journals, they sent the results to popular media outlets.

Even though some very basic fact-checking would have revealed the unreliability of the study and its conclusions, it was highly reported on as scientific fact and featured in major magazines, websites and news outlets around the world. Shortly thereafter, Bohannon announced it was all a hoax and explained his motivations for pulling the prank.

“People who are desperate for reliable information face a bewildering array of diet guidance – salt is bad, salt is good, protein is good, protein is bad, fat is bad, fat is good – that changes like the weather,” he wrote in a recent article. “There’s just so much noise.”

Bohannon explained that “journalists have to feed the daily news beast,” and described health science as their “horn of plenty,” since readers can’t seem to get enough of it. Unfortunately, consumers dealing with real health issues, like obesity and high blood pressure, often rely on this reporting to make important decisions about their health and lifestyle and seldom take the time to consult with their doctor first.

“Hopefully our little experiment will make reporters and readers alike more skeptical,” he wrote.

It’s not likely that a majority of people will read through scientific journals and review the research and methods of each new health claim. So what are people to do if otherwise reliable sources can’t be trusted when it comes to health science?

First, keep in mind that many commercial interests have a stake in convincing people to spend money on their products and services. Checking with your doctor before you start a new diet, take a new supplement or medication, or begin a health program isn’t just good health advice; it could also save you time and money.

Second, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. For example, if a report presents only positive benefits about a health claim, its credibility comes into question, since even the most promising approach to improving one’s health has tradeoffs.

Third, remember that personal stories are not data and are often used to intentionally compensate for the lack thereof. This applies to the stories of prominent celebrities, who are just as vulnerable to wishful thinking and bad science as the rest of us. Just because they are rich and famous doesn’t mean they are qualified to give medical advice.

Lastly, if you are serious about improving your health, there are a few sure ways you can lose weight, reduce the effects of aging and address or prevent major health problems like obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes and some cancers: Eat right, don’t smoke, protect your skin from the sun, get enough sleep and exercise regularly. It may not be as easy as eating chocolate or taking a pill, but it does have decades of actual, non-controversial science behind it.

FOR SALE: Two Elite Traveler Go-Go scooters for the handicapped. Almost new! Regularly costs $1,500. As shown in photos or $500 for both. Call William at (925) 699-0687. Reg# 1199157.

FOR SALE: Retired Holt of California service technician and mechanic’s tools and tool boxes. For details and information call Ron at (209) 367-1142 or (209) 224-7697. Reg# 1737629.

FOR SALE: Colt SAA 1st gen. Beasley .38 WSF, blued, 4 1/2”, 1917, matching serial numbers. Great condition and many extras, including windshield, saddle bags, mustache engine guards and 30 caliber wheels. 16,000 miles. $12,000. Ask for Blevins at (925) 966-7905. Reg# 1413853.

FOR SALE: Mechanics tools and toolboxes. For details and information call Jeff at (775) 240-0900. Reg# 2544388. New tooling, including change dispensers. 5ft. high, 34 in. wide, $500 each.


FOR SALE: Two Elite Traveler Go-Go scooters for the handicapped. Almost new! Regularly costs $1,500. As shown in photos or $500 for both. Call William at (925) 699-0687. Reg# 1199157.

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Room to grow

Access to 355 acres of prime development property in the Sacramento area is being made possible with the help of our members from Teichert Construction. On the Hwy. 65 interchange project in Rocklin, members are building the new University Avenue, which will connect Sunset Boulevard and Whitney Ranch Parkway.

The new avenue references William Jessup University, a residential, four-year, private university that came to the area 10 years ago and has steadily grown ever since. Once the roadway is complete, the campus plans to develop a three-story, 40,000-square-foot dormitory that will house and provide recreational space for over 200 students.

The expansive area surrounding the project is already zoned for business, commercial and residential use, but without access, that land has lied dormant for years, one of the few large, undeveloped pieces of land in Rocklin. Once access is available, the city estimates the location will host up to 7,000 jobs, proving once again that the work Local 3 members do is literally the starting point for economic growth and community development.