Something for everyone at Semi-Annual
We will prevail

First, I want to thank you all for the hard work and hours you put in to get labor-friendly candidates and propositions passed at this last election. While I don’t know the results as of this writing, I do expect that we will prevail in many areas, and it will be because of you. I am proud that Local 3 members are among the most politically active members in the entire labor community.

I know all of you have been watching the daily news about the extreme fluctuation in the market, and I know you are concerned, as all Americans should be. The difficulties in passing a state budget in California are a direct reflection of our national budget crisis: Congress’ bail-out plan and the uncertainty of its effects on the U.S. economy trouble all of us. I have received several calls and e-mails from retirees expressing their apprehension at what is happening in the market.

I want to assure the retirees that although the current financial crisis affects many areas of our economy – it will not affect your Pension. Under federal law, your Pension benefits cannot be stopped or lowered unless the Plan has no assets. Retirees will continue to receive their monthly Pension benefits uninterrupted.

Still, for the active members, it has been hard in 2008 to portray the picture as anything other than grim. I see it in your faces, hear it in your stories – unemployment is rising just as fast as grocery and gas prices, while our home values decline and our work hours are lower. But this situation is not unique to just our union. The national crisis is affecting every local union in the country; the national crisis is affecting every household in the country. And just as we must band together as a nation at the face of hard times, it is just as important that we work together now, as a union.

I realize that for some of you, especially the younger generation, this is the first time you may be living through a downturn in the market. During the housing boom in the mid-2000s, the concept of a “winter season” was something unheard of. Houses sold like flapjacks, and construction outfits couldn’t build enough homes to house everyone. But if you sit and talk to the retirees who built this union, they’ll tell you – every day has its night – the concept of saving money to combat the hard times is not new to them. And just as they saw many economic recessions in their time, such as in the early ’80s when the Dow dropped 36 percent, they also saw the upswing. It is only a matter of time.

This is not to say that all your officers and Trustees are sitting around “waiting on luck.” I promise you, every effort is being made to ensure the security of the OE3 Trust Fund. The root cause of the economic calamity we are experiencing is the unethical freewheeling from mortgage brokers and investment bankers with very little federal regulation or oversight. I assure you that Taft-Hartley Trust Funds, such as ours, are much more closely regulated and receive a great deal more oversight, as called for by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). To comply with ERISA, Trust Funds operate in a highly regulated environment with a great deal of regulation from the Department of Labor. ERISA encourages the use of independent professional advisors hired to provide talent, expertise and an additional layer of fiduciary supervision. As reported to you previously, both in the Engineers News and in person at district meetings, our professional advisors are continuously monitored and evaluated.

I want to let you know that we have also been hard at work making sure that the money we have invested right now is getting us the biggest bang for our buck. Analysis of performance proved there was room for improvement, so from March 1, 2008 through Sept. 1, 2008, we transferred $1.8 billion in funds from our underperforming fund managers to new managers with new investment classes. The investment firms and asset classes were chosen on recommendation from Investment Performance Services (IPS), the organization we rely on to measure the performance of each fund manager.

With the help of IPS, our fund managers are now operating under an entirely new investment policy, which makes it much more likely we will make more money in the good times, and lose less in the bad times.

I want to stress to you, brothers and sisters, that with the passing of transportation monies, more work is ahead, and while we cannot single-handedly control the market, we can hold our money managers’ feet to the fire monitoring our fund’s performance on a daily basis.

In the meantime, what we can control is our spending habits, our attitudes and our ability to use our state-of-the-art training centers to get upgrade training, so that when the work picks up, we’ll pick up right with it. For a schedule of these upgrade classes, see page 5.

In closing, I wish you and yours a safe and happy Thanksgiving. If you have a chance to talk to some retirees while you’re attending your district meetings or during the holidays, it might be worth your time. They’re usually ready to share stories with a little advice, and believe me when I say, they’ve seen it and lived through it all. Just as they’ve prevailed, so too will your union.
Understanding your Pension

For benefits accrued on or after July 1, 2008, the type of work you can engage in before your normal retirement age without having your Pension suspended will differ depending on whether you have been retired for at least one year. In your first year of early retirement, you will not be able to work in a supervisory capacity in any way related to the skills you used when contributions were being made to the Plan on your behalf until you receive your Pension check.

For example, under current Plan provisions, certain former operators who became safety officers for their employer may receive both a Pension check and a salary as a safety officer. Under the new rules, any benefits earned after July 1, 2008 will not be paid to such a person during the first 12 months after his or her retirement before his or her normal retirement age.

Please note: This does not affect benefits currently being paid to retirees and only affects benefits earned on or after July 1, 2008; benefits earned before July 1, 2008 are not affected.

For more on your specific situation or if you have any questions, please contact the Trust Fund at (800) 251-5014 or the Fringe Benefits Service Center at (800) 532-2105.

Picket targets Salt River Construction at Baylink Ferry

Local 3 members earned the attention of reporters, photographers and even a hovering helicopter as they picketed a “rat outfit” operating at the Baylink Ferry in Vallejo last month.

Their target: Salt River Construction, a non-union dredging company that boasts a long list of substandard practices. District 04 Senior Business Rep. Dave Harrison talks out issues like a poor safety record, an inadequate substance abuse policy, wage violations and environmentally dangerous practices.

Salt River Construction won the Vallejo project with a bid of $282,000. The second lowest bid came in at $400,000 from Dutra Construction. If Salt River Construction continues to win bids with a substandard operation, Harrison said the company will continue undermining the high standards of other companies, while compromising public safety.

A reporter from KGO Newstalk AM810 visited Harrison’s picket line Sept. 22. “We’re strictly trying to bring their standards up with the rest of the industry. They continue to undercut the standards,” he told KGO’s Bert Burkhart, adding “…we’re protesting the fact they were even allowed to bid the project.”

Local 3’s efforts were noticed again Oct. 2 by a reporter from the Vallejo Times-Herald.

Salt River Construction’s permits expired Oct. 15, and area picketers were there throughout the job. Although this project is over, Harrison said his job might not be. If the company wins another project, he plans to be there too.

Prevailing wages preserved in Fort Ord development

U.S. Army Post Fort Ord was established in 1917 as a maneuver area and field-artillery target range in Monterey Bay. In September 1994, Fort Ord was closed to be converted for civilian use. Until about 2002, many of the military buildings and infrastructure remained abandoned, while other structures were torn down in anticipation of development. It has since transitioned to the ownership of private developers. Because of this, Hazmat ordinances and lead cleanup continues onsite, and many of our members are putting in homes as part of the city of Marina Redevelopment Agency’s planning.

Herein was the problem: The city of Marina didn’t think prevailing wage needed to be paid to our members, which undermines our signatory contractors. Consequently, the Building Trades got together under the leadership of Ron Cheshire, president of Monterey/Santa Cruz County Building Trades, and decided we needed to take these agencies and developers head-on. We filed suit in Superior Court and after years of meetings and court hearings, the suit was ordered on our behalf, and prevailing wages will be preserved for working craftsmen and craftswomen to the tune of $8 to $10 billion worth of work and at least 10 years of solid work for our membership. We thank Ron and all the crafts for continuing to do the right thing for working men and women. This is another victory for labor – the results of which will positively affect Local 3 for many years.

I hope to be able to talk about other victories soon, namely political ones, however, as of this writing, the results of the Nov. 4 General Election have yet to be determined. I hope the American people voted for labor and that our endorsed candidates and propositions were successful. I’ll have more thoughts on this election as we learn the results.

I would like to thank the officers, staff and Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) volunteers for all the hours they put in to better serve the membership in political efforts during this election cycle. It really takes a team to do what you all do every day – keeping the largest local in the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) moving in a positive direction. Sometimes we don’t accomplish everything we set out to do, but for the most part, it gets done. We will continue to find solutions to the challenges we face.

Other members responsible for the success of this organization are those involved in and serving on committees, such as the Executive Board, the Grievance Political Action Committee (PAC), the Market and Geographical Area Committee and the Bylaws Committee. Other departments also contribute, like the Trust Funds, the Apprenticeship Program and the many branches of the Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union (OEFCU).

Retirees are also critical to the success of our organization, since their suggestions and concerns play a large part in what we do on a daily basis. We receive many calls and get a lot of input from the retirees on ways to get members involved with the union. For example, Retiree Ken Green from the Redding District came up with the VOTE slogan and spear-headed infamous barbecues for his district’s picnics. What better way to express what we’re about?

I would also like to thank the many friends and members who call and give ideas and examples of how to better serve the membership.

I’m sure I’m missing many contributing entities. It really takes many different ideas, departments and individuals to get and keep this organization at No. 1. We aren’t perfect, but we will continue to do what is right.

I wish you all a great Thanksgiving. Be safe and enjoy whoever you break bread with.

As I close, I send my congratulations to Rec. Corres. Secretary Rob Wise on his retirement. Rob is retiring at the end of 2008, and it is well deserved. He has put in many years working for the membership and did an outstanding job through them all. Thanks, Rob, for your help, and good luck to you and your family.
How to stay in the game

Sports philosophy applies to apprentices

Most of us at one time or another played sports. Maybe it was baseball: Starting young and playing at the tee-ball level, followed by Little League. Maybe some of us went on to play at the high-school level or college level. Maybe a handful made it to the minor leagues, but a majority of people never make it to the major leagues. We are not all so gifted or granted the same opportunities, but with persistence and patience, we conquer individual goals on our way to the ultimate one.

In Local 3, the path to success is basically the same for all apprentices, provided they keep their “eyes on the prize” and follow the steps necessary to journey out.

The Apprenticeship Program offers no more than an opportunity to prove yourself, but just as you had to practice and persist in baseball, the same applies to apprenticeship. The same mental toughness in sports relates to the steps toward becoming a journey-level operator.

For example, take basketball: The easiest and highest percentage shot in the game is the lay-up. Once you master this shot, you move on to more difficult shots, such as the jump shot, then the foul shot. As you get comfortable with those, you start moving back for three-pointers, while keeping in mind that you have to be a team player and play both offense and defense. All of this practice is done knowing that you are good enough to play all positions and play the game when the game is tight and the team needs you to win.

The Construction Equipment Operator (CEO) apprentice goes through the same learning curve as the basketball player. He or she starts out with the easy equipment – compactors, forklifts and rollers. Then he or she moves on to the front-end loaders, then to the conventional scrapers. The next degree of difficulty in equipment is the self-loading scrapers, followed by twin-engine scrapers, dozers, excavators and blades. Equipment installed with electronics – laser and GPS – offers a new degree of difficulty for the apprentice because if the electronics fail, you have to rely on the skills you learned in the 40-hour gradesetting class. You must play both offense and defense while working by yourself digging around utilities, such as gas, electrical and waterlines and the expensive fiber-optic lines. Working with others on the job, or team work, makes harmony and creates the successful completion of the job, on time and below budget. Remember: You need to learn all the skills, so when the time permits, you are still in the game.

All there is to know about levers

One of the basic concepts in mechanics is a lever. The American Heritage Dictionary defines it as “a simple machine consisting of a ridged bar pivoted on a fixed point and used to transmit force, as in raising or moving a weight at one end by pushing down on the other.”

The illustration above shows a first-class-type lever. The amount of effort needed is directly proportional to the resistance (weight) and the distance from the fulcrum. Here, the Effort (E) times the Effort Distance (ED) equals the Resistance (R) times the Resistance Distance (RD), or E x ED = R x RD.

We have all probably used a lever at one point in our lives, but did you understand the theory behind it? Using a long bar to lift a heavy object is a great tool, but what did you give up to gain the power? Distance. To lift twice your weight, you have to move the lever twice the distance.

In the example above, it would take 75 pounds to hold 150 pounds.

E x ED = R x RD or E = R x RD
75 x 2 = 1 x 150
150 = 150

This example shows how you would get the tongue weight of a trailer when it is too heavy for your bathroom scale to read. The tongue weight should be 10 to 15 percent of the trailer’s weight when it’s loaded. In this scenario, the scale would read half of the actual tongue weight. Move the scale 3 feet from the pipe (fulcrum), and it would read one-third the actual weight.

The example above shows a second-class lever. The formula is the same. You might have experienced this if you were carrying something with someone else, and you got the heavy end. In this case, you would be the fulcrum and you would be carrying 100 pounds.

The example above shows a third-class lever. Most people don’t use this type of lever, but we’ve all done it. You may have experienced it if, going into a store, you attempted to open the door for someone by pushing on the hand bar, but when you pushed the door, it only opened slightly as you struggled. By then, the other person reached the door, and when they pushed on the door, it flew open, making the person think you were weak. Here is what happened:

You grabbed the door close to the pivot (fulcrum), and as this example shows, the amount of effort is significantly greater the closer you get to the fulcrum, and you were not ready for it.

So, now you know all there is to know about levers ... almost.
Local 3 members keep firefighters on the move

Nine-year member Leroy Perry and Vince Kalny, a member since January 2007, are among 47 other mechanics who work for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. These members take care of about 3,010 pieces of equipment, ranging from pickups and crew trucks to fire trucks and other heavy equipment dealing with fire protection.

Perry and Kalny typically work at the Cal Fire St. Helena shop, but during fire season they can be found anywhere in the state, wherever a fire may be. If something breaks down in the field, these members must be close by. They are responsible for making repairs on location. Perry and Kalny have been called out on fire-line assignments to work on equipment, while fire crews battle a blaze around them and helicopters fight a fire from the sky.

These mechanics normally work 40-hour work weeks, but because a busy fire season can stretch on and on, they never know from one day to the next where they will end up or for how long.

We always honor our firefighters because of the job they do, but these mechanics keep firefighters on the move with the tools they need to keep us protected. Let us not forget about the people who are a vital resource behind the scenes, saving homes and saving lives: The heavy equipment mechanics. Without them, the pride does not ride.
Volunteers key element of union, political success

Volunteers play an integral role in ensuring we stay active in politics and in our communities. Local 3’s involvement would not be possible without your dedication.

On behalf of the Local 3 officers and the district staff, we wish to thank all those who participated by giving their time and energy to the Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program this year. The results of your efforts are readily seen in the political arena as labor-friendly propositions and candidates show up on ballots and within your communities and as playgrounds and fields are built with your time. The VOTE Department and the union could not be successful without your help and the help of many other loyal volunteers who donated their time.

A list of the many volunteers from January to June of this year is available for viewing on the Local 3 website at oe3.org, and you may contact your local district office for the volunteers in your area. If you work with or know any of these volunteers, please acknowledge and thank them.

Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Foundation Contest Rules for 2009

Applications available at district offices, Credit Union branches and online at www.oe3.org

The Local 3 officers, Executive Board and the Scholarship Board of Directors understand that the workplace is rapidly changing, and many jobs require skills that can be attained only with a good education. Local 3 is dedicated to giving our young people the opportunity to succeed by providing them with the chance to further their education and training. For this reason, Local 3 awards annual scholarships to sons, daughters, stepchildren and foster children of Local 3 members.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Four college scholarships will be awarded to children of Local 3 members. Two scholarships of $3,000 each will be awarded to the first place female and male applicants. Two scholarships of $2,000 each will be awarded to the second place female and male applicants. These scholarships must be used for study at an accredited U.S. college or university.

Winners also receive an additional $1,000 per year from the Scholarship Fund for the second, third and fourth years of college, provided they remain full-time students.

The academic scholarships will not impose restrictions of any kind on the course of study. Recipients may accept any other grants or awards, which do not rule out scholarship aid from other sources.

WHO MAY APPLY

Children of Local 3 members may apply for an academic scholarship. One parent of the applicant must be a Local 3 member for at least one year, immediately preceding the date of the application.

Children of deceased Local 3 members are eligible to apply for the scholarships. The parent of the applicant must have been a Local 3 member in good standing for at least one year immediately preceding the date of death.

The applicants must be seniors in high school who have, or will be, graduated at the end of either: 1) the fall semester (beginning in 2008) or 2) the spring semester (beginning in 2009), in public, private or parochial schools who are planning to attend a college or university anywhere in the United States during the academic year and who are able to meet the academic requirements for entrance in the university or college of their choice. Students selected for a scholarship must have achieved not less than a B cumulative average in their high school work.

Applications will be accepted between Jan. 1, 2009 and March 31, 2009.

AWARDING ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Upon receipt of the application and required forms, Local 3 will not exercise any choice among the various applicants or indicate in any way that one applicant should be favored over another. Based on factors normally used in awarding academic scholarships, the University of Berkeley Scholarship Selection Committee will submit recommendations for finalists to the Scholarship Foundation’s Board of Directors. The list of potential winners and their qualifications will be reviewed by the Board and the winners will be selected.

Academic scholarship winners will be announced at Local 3’s June Executive Board meeting. Checks will be deposited in the winning students’ names at the college or university they plan to attend.

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

OE3 MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to the four academic scholarships, Local 3’s Scholarship Foundation will award 20 $500 Merit Scholarships through a raffle drawing to be held at Local 3’s July Executive Board meeting. Applicants need not be present to win.

OE3 Merit Scholarships are available only to the sons, daughters, stepchildren and foster children of Local 3 members. One parent of the applicant must be a Local 3 member for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the application. Children of deceased Local 3 members are eligible to apply for the scholarships if the parent was a Local 3 member for at least one year immediately preceding the date of death.

Children of Local 3 members who plan to attend college or trade school are eligible to apply. They will not be judged on academic qualifications. All applicants who apply for the Local 3 academic scholarships and do not win will automatically qualify for this drawing. A second application is not necessary.

Applications will be accepted from Jan. 1, 2009 to March 31, 2009. Previous winners are not eligible to apply.

The money will be funded when the college or trade school confirms the winner is a full-time student.

WHERE TO GET APPLICATIONS

OE3 Academic and Merit Scholarship applications are available at the local’s district offices, Credit Union branches and online at www.oe3.org. It is the applicant’s responsibility to submit the application to the address below, which must be received no later than March 31, 2009:

Robert L. Wise
Recording-Corresponding Secretary
Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3
1620 South Loop Road
Alameda, CA 94502-7090

4. A recent photograph, preferably two inches by three inches, with the applicant’s name written on the back. The photo should be clear enough to reproduce in the Engineers News.
5. The name, address and phone number of the applicant’s local newspaper for the purpose of sending a press release on behalf of each winner.
Share certificates for your cash reserves

Share certificates from your Credit Union can be an ideal tool for investing funds you do not need in the immediate future.

Share certificates are promissory notes issued by Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 Federal Credit Union (OEFCU). They are time deposits usually having maturities ranging from six months to as long as five years. The most popular terms are from 180 days to two years. Since they are time deposits, they usually offer higher interest rates than savings accounts, but they have penalties for early withdrawals. Share certificates with longer maturities usually pay higher rates. Below is an example of how longer maturities offer higher rates:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Maturity</th>
<th>6 months</th>
<th>1 year</th>
<th>2 years</th>
<th>3 years</th>
<th>5 years</th>
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<tr>
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<td>2.80%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>3.75%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rates Listed above are as of Oct. 16, 2008.

Rates change depending on the market. Call (800) 877-4444 for a current quote.

When choosing the length of a share certificate to buy, it is important to consider your liquidity needs and know that interest rates will change over time. Buying a five-year certificate with a 4.5 percent rate may be attractive today, but if rates rise in the next couple of years, you are locked into that 4.5 percent rate until maturity. However, some share-certificate offers allow conditional withdrawals of funds, one time, at any point in the maturation term, while retaining a minimum balance, or the flexibility of adding funds at any point in the term.

One method to use is the “laddering of maturities” strategy. For example, instead of buying one five-year certificate, buy equal amounts of one-, two-, three-, four- and five-year certificates. As each certificate matures, you then reinvest the proceeds into a five-year share certificate. While you would not have as high of an initial rate, over time all your funds would end up in higher rate five-year certificates, and you would have annual liquidity of one-fifth of your funds. If rates rise, you could take advantage of the higher rates with new purchases. If rates fall, you still have the initial higher-rate certificates that you already own.

Share certificates offered by OEFCU are insured up to $100,000 by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Funds (NCUSIF), an arm of the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA). American Share Insurance (ASI), the nation's largest private credit-union-deposit insurer, provides an additional $100,000 of “excess” insurance for deposits in excess of the NCUSIF limit. There are ownership rules applied to determining the insurance limit, and you should thoroughly investigate these rules if you are considering having more than $200,000 under a single name.

For more details on how to make your money work harder for you, contact Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 Federal Credit Union at (800) 877-4444 and speak to a member services share certificate specialist.

Whether You’re Trying to Minimize Your Credit Card Debt or Attempting to Refinance Your Home or Your Car, We’re Here to Help.

In a world with so many financial obligations and options, it’s no wonder money management often seems overwhelming. That’s why our credit union has partnered with a financial fitness program called Balance™. Through this partnership, you as an OEFCU Member, now have access to FREE, confidential financial counseling service any time you need it!

Credit Report Review - Employers and creditors often use credit reports to assess a person’s financial “fitness”. A counselor will review your credit report with you, making sure you know your rights. BALANCE™ can even tell you how to acquire a FREE credit report.

InfoLine - Certified financial counselors are available to answer your questions about money management and other personal finance matters.

Money Management Counseling - If you’d like to get out of debt, improve your credit score or avoid bankruptcy, a counselor can help you design a realistic spending and savings plan.

Debt Management Plan - Consolidate your credit card payments, lower payment amounts, and even reduce or eliminate interest and fees to get out of debt.

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Monday–Thursday, 5am–8pm Friday, 5am–5pm Saturday, 8am–5pm (PST)

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State’s financial problems cause tough year

By Rick Davis, business representative

Here we are in November with another year about to close, and it has been a difficult one. I did not close one contract in 2008, I saw layoffs in most of my units and I had no financial gain in any of them. I wish I could be more positive about what is coming in 2009, but I do not see much light at the end of the tunnel. Hopefully the layoffs and cuts will end soon, and I can obtain some gain in my units without losing any more ground.

What has happened this past year because of the financial problems throughout the state?

In Alpine County, some employees were laid off, positions were cut and reorganization occurred. Negotiations continued throughout the year because no one in the county’s administration could project their finances any farther out than six months. The county did hire a Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), who appears to have a working knowledge of public finance, but how that will make things more workable is yet to be seen. It seems Alpine County likes to spend money on administrative positions and keep employees who are the chosen ones, but when it comes to spending money on the employees who make the county work, it just doesn’t happen.

El Dorado County was like watching a slow moving train wreck. Negotiations lasted all year with no results. A coalition of union representatives worked together in an attempt to obtain a retirement enhancement for all the county’s employees by saving the county money as it pertained to retiree health benefits, but at the time of this article, efforts have been in vain. In El Dorado County there were also layoffs, cuts and reorganization with no salary enhancements or Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) for a majority of the county employees, but if you were in the Deputy Sheriff’s Association (DSA), it was a pretty good year. The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors believe it is fair and equitable to lay off employees and make cuts while giving deputies a raise. Coming from a law enforcement background, I can appreciate valuing your deputies, but laying off employees and giving nothing to the employees who make the county work is wrong and insensitive to working men and women. It will be an interesting year ahead with every unit in El Dorado County in negotiations.

The situation in Sierra County is similar to others, except, at the time of this article, there have been no layoffs. Again, there was no money for enhancements of any kind, and negotiations dragged on and on with no results because of incompetent state legislators. As with all my other units, we will negotiate in 2009, carried over from 2008.

In Plumas County, officials decided that if they did not need to provide a public service because of a state mandate, they were simply going to do away with the service and the department. As a result, employees were laid off. Other layoffs occurred due to financial problems. Plumas County also talked about furloughs for all employees, a reduction and/or removal of take-home vehicles and no new hires. As of this writing, furloughs have not occurred. Local 3 is doing everything legally possible on the dissolving of a department and delaying the implementation of reducing the take-home vehicles.

Looks like I will start 2009 with every unit I have in some type of negotiation. The carryovers from 2007 will join the carryovers from 2008, which will join the units in 2009. If the state cannot get its act together, 2009 will be a lot like the past two years. Unfortunately, it is our members – the working men and women who make county government work – who will suffer.

On a more positive note, the holiday season is upon us, and I want to take this time to wish the best to all of you and your families. Have a happy Thanksgiving. Enjoy your family and friends.
Let the games begin

By Fred Klingel, business representative

“We will, we will rock you” or “Let the games begin” should be our slogan for public sector agencies. Over the past few months, I have noticed that is exactly how we must view and approach our public agency administrators. These administrators or managers have it in their heads that they can “manhandle” their employees as they wish. No matter where we go, the scenarios are almost identical – only the names and actors are different. Violations of the Police Officers’ Bill of Rights (POBR) have to be challenged almost on a daily basis. Violations of the Myers-Millias-Brown Act (MMBA) come next, followed by civil rights and common decency. However, my biggest pet peeves are the “Good ol’ boys” and the statement: “We have always done it this way.”

It doesn’t matter whether it is a cop shop, miscellaneous worker, clerical worker, supervisory worker or mid-manager, the treatment is the same. Managers feel that no matter how long an individual has been employed or how great he or she has been, they must roast them at the stake. Of course, some employees can’t stay out of trouble, but 20 years of good service should not be wiped out by one incident of stupidity. The reprimand should depend on the incident and how gross the act in question was.

The government code, labor laws, rules of evidence and procedures are easy to understand. Also, look at some of the cases that have been ruled upon from various small courts all the way to the Supreme Court. Review the courts’ decisions on these cases and use them as a guide. Administrators and executive managers need to learn that they will also be held accountable for their actions. They expect their employees to follow the rules, and they must too.

So, let the games begin. To public agency administrators: We will hold you accountable when it comes to disciplining our members. Follow the rules and laws that have been set, and treat them right. Don’t violate their rights, and we won’t have to file Unfair Labor Practices (ULPs) with the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) or ask for writs or injunctions in Superior Court. If you don’t understand the rules or procedures, just ask and we will gladly educate you. It will make both our jobs easier and our members – your employees – happier.

Let’s ride this out; things will get better

By Mike Minton, business representative

To say that the District 60 Public Employee Division has been busy would be a huge understatement. Without a state budget for so long, negotiations for successor Memorandum Of Understandings (MOUs) were near impossible. No employer was willing to commit to any economic agreement until they knew just how badly the state would hit, when a budget was finally agreed upon.

Marysville Joint Unified School District negotiations have been settled with a two-year contract that gives them a 4.53 percent salary increase the first year. Retirees will lose part of their medical benefits beginning 2010. Many other employees suffered layoffs and reduction in hours due to the state’s budget cuts.

This came before we even knew what additional cuts would be mandated by the state when the budget was finalized.

The city of Marysville’s public works employees we represent are looking at some severe cutbacks and layoffs right now. It appears they will be going to the public for a vote to increase their sales tax by one-half percent just to try to keep their heads above water. They are having difficulty just making their monthly payroll.

There are many other stories like this throughout District 60, other districts and the rest of the state for that matter, and it doesn’t appear it will get any better for another year or two. The one thing we need to remember is that we are all in this together, and we all have the same issues, problems and concerns. Local 3 is doing everything in its power to deal with these issues and make your lives a little less stressful. However, we can’t create jobs and increase revenue where there is none. We have to ride this out, and I’m sure that within the next year or two, things will get better. Jobs should return and revenues should start to increase again, which will allow for increases in wages and benefits. Until then, hang in there.

Charlie Simino and Tina Stothers hook up a mower for work in the city of Marysville.

Operating Engineers Local 3
Presents
ALASKA
TEN Night Cruise on Princess Cruise Line’s Sea Princess
May 24, 2009
Roundtrip from San Francisco

Bring your families and invite your friends to join us on a fabulous cruise on the Sea Princess from San Francisco to Alaska’s historic and beautiful Inside Passage. The Sea Princess is a floating resort with wonderful restaurants, great entertainment, a spa and sports facilities for you to enjoy. Best of all, on Princess you have “Personal Choice,” meaning you choose when and where you want to dine, and you can dress casually if you wish. Our group rates include a $50 per person tax-deductible contribution to the OE3 Scholarship Fund and current fuel surcharges (U.S. tax not included).

Inside – J & JJ $1,189 per person, double occupancy
Outside – E $2,114 per person, double occupancy
Balcony – BC $2,224 per person, double occupancy

Limited selection of cabin types/rates in different categories. Deposit amounts vary with type of cabin ($210 pp for J & JJ, $419 pp for BC)
Third, fourth and single rates available
Final payment due March 6, 2009

E-mail OE3Cruises@yahoo.com or call (888) 713-0441 for information TODAY.
California and Hawaii annuity funds

Both California and Hawaii have an annuity trust fund. Each fund has its own rules and regulations set forth in the plans' Summary Plan Descriptions (SPDs). Always refer to a fund's SPD for full details. The funds are not identical, but they do share many provisions. Below are some of the most frequently asked questions regarding these funds. Personal statements for both funds are due mid-year. Be sure to check your statement for accuracy.

What are annuity funds?

Annuity funds for California and Hawaii are supplemental retirement plans. Benefits from these plans are paid in addition to the monthly Pension benefit you may be entitled to from the Pension Trust Fund.

When is my annuity money vested?

You are immediately vested for all contributions made on your behalf to the annuity fund.

How does the annuity fund work?

Your employer makes a pre-tax contribution on your behalf as required by the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). This money, along with investment income, accumulates on a tax-deferred basis. This means the money compounds and continues to grow without you having to pay any taxes. Therefore, the fund's assets accumulate much faster than they could without this tax-favored status. These assets are then used to provide a higher level of retirement income than would be possible with taxed personal savings. You will not be taxed on the money until you begin distribution.

Why can't I get my money anytime I want it?

As mentioned earlier, the annuity is a retirement plan. The plan has what is known as a qualified status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). This status allows for the tax-favored treatment described above, however, because it is intended for retirement income, the IRS also places restrictions on when the money can be withdrawn.

Does the annuity have loan provisions?

The California Annuity does include loan provisions. These provisions are also subject to the IRS guidelines. Loans are not permitted under the provisions of the Hawaii Fund.

When do retire, how is my annuity paid?

At retirement, you will have several options as to how your money will be paid. You may withdraw the money in a lump sum, purchase an annuity or roll the money over to an IRA. Because of tax consequences, you should talk to your financial advisor or tax person to decide on which distribution method is best for you.

Who can I talk to if I need additional information?

You may call the Trust Fund office at (800) 532-2105 or the Fringe Benefits Service Center at (800) 532-2105 or (510) 748-7450. Hawaii members may contact the Honolulu Fund office at (800) 660-9126.

Hearing aid benefit increase

The hearing aid benefit has been increased to $1,350 per ear during any four-year period. Included in this maximum is the cost of a hearing examination and hearing aid device.

In addition, a new discounted hearing aid network provided by HearPO is now available. HearPO is a national network of hearing health care professionals with locations across the United States. When you use a HearPO provider you will receive an average discount of 25 percent off retail prices for hearing aid products and 30 percent off HearPO designated usual and customary charges for testing services. To find a HearPO provider, call (888) HEARING or (888) 432-7464.

As always, feel free to obtain hearing aids from any provider, including the Hearing Care Plan (HCP). With just one call, HCP will verify eligibility, set an appointment and process all necessary forms. To make an appointment, call (800) 322-4327.

To check your eligibility or get more information regarding your hearing aid benefit, contact the Trust Fund office at (800) 251-5014, or the Fringe Benefits Service Center at (800) 532-2105.

Retiree Association Meetings

The Retiree Association meetings continue this month. The Local 3 officers look forward to joining retirees and their spouses for concise reports, good refreshments and plenty of fellowship. See the schedule below for the meeting in your area.
Thanks to all involved in election efforts

With the election completed, we can breathe a sigh of relief without any campaign commercials interrupting our football games. While we relish this tranquility, I want to share some thoughts about the political campaigns that affect the well-being of our union and its membership. Getting Out The Vote (GOTV) is a lot of hard work, and I appreciate everyone’s efforts.

Within each district of our four-state jurisdiction, there is a Grievance/Political Action Committee (PAC). This committee is comprised of a district representative, an executive board representative and three members. As an employee of the union, the district representative is the only committee member not elected by the members within the respective district. With a few exceptions, this committee meets every Wednesday night at the district office to interview candidates and review local ballot measures. After thorough discussion and consideration, the committee makes recommendations to the brothers and sisters within their district. These recommendations then appear in the Engineers News. I greatly appreciate the service to our union by the rank-and-file members of these committees. There are times when several candidates are scheduled for an interview on the same night, making it necessary for the committee to put in a long shift. For their dedication and willingness to serve our union, I thank you!

After the interview process ends and the recommendations are made, it’s time for the most difficult part of the campaign – recruiting volunteers who are willing and able to make phone calls and walk precincts. These tasks are not as intimidating or grueling as you may think because we are communicating with union members. They may not be members of Operating Engineers, but they are members of a union. That is why these are called labor-to-labor campaigns. Regardless of which union, we are on common ground. To the members who volunteer to make the phone calls and knock on doors, I thank you! To the members and their families who answered the phone or opened the door to greet a union volunteer and then listened as they may have stumbled and fumbled while making their presentation, I thank you for your patience and consideration.

The value of our volunteers’ work cannot be quantified in simple dollars and cents. The elected officials who benefited from our efforts or the ballot measure that became a reality due to our political involvement will help create an environment in which our members and their employers can prosper. The work we have just completed will affect our lives for many years to come, and so for everyone involved, I thank you! For more on these members, please see page 6 and visit oe3.org.

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LOANS!

When it comes to low interest rates on car and truck loans, personal loans, and home equity loans, few if any financial institutions can beat your UNION Credit Union ...OEFU.

You’re UNION ... and we’re UNION ! And, in this day and age, you want to make absolutely sure you’re doing business with a sound financial organization and most important, people you can trust.

Car loans, truck loans, personal loans, vacation loans, home equity loans, RV and boat loans .... we do them all ... and more!

So before you walk into a dealer showroom, or over extend yourself on high interest rate credit cards ... pick up the phone and call us. (It’s toll free, 800 877-4444, it just takes a minute, and why would you want to pay any more than necessary on ANY kind of loan!)
Business Manager Russ Burns looks forward to the future.

With between $30 and $40 billion worth of work for Local 3 members on the Nov. 4 ballot, as well as several big projects already in the books, Burns felt confident informing the membership at the Sept. 28 Semi-Annual Meeting that the future looks good.

“... There are a lot of measures out there in your communities today that will generate work for the Operating Engineers – $4 billion in work for Northern California can be passed in November,” he informed the crowd. “We’ve already got quite a bit of work left from the mega-bond 1B, somewhere around $8 billion ... Right now we’ve got $4 billion on the books for refinery work. Again, it’s not going to put all of us to work, but it’s going to help ease the pain until the private residential comes back.”

International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) General President Vincent Giblin sees a similar future. The keynote speaker at the event, Giblin commended the strength of Local 3 within the entire IUOE’s scope.
and its determination to advance labor organizations across the country by setting such a strong example. He specifically mentioned the endurance of the Valley Power strikers, noting that their “toughness” is a message to us all about staying in the fight through and through.

The future also looks bright for Rec. Corres. Secretary Rob Wise, who announced his retirement after 16 years in his current officer position and 28 years on staff. Wise thanked the union, the membership and his wife.

The Semi-Annual event, held at the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo, was a success for everyone. Members partook in the Hot Rod and Motorcycle Show, viewing the entries and casting a vote for their favorite. They registered to vote and met Local 3 endorsed candidates. They visited with vendors, getting their blood-pressure checked and their caricatures drawn. And they all seemed to enjoy the barbecue lunch with their families and fellow OE3 members.

Thanks for coming out, and we’ll see you again next time.

See more photos at www.oe3.org
EUREKA  I  Golden State Bridge gets Mad River Bridges project

Work is slowly moving along. Our season was adequate for our members and employers.

Golden State Bridge was the low bidder at more than $39 million on the Mad River Bridges project. The project has 1,670 working days. The Eureka District is pleased to have the company working in the area again.

As of this writing, the Alton Interchange does not have bids opened, but a peek at the bidders’ list was exciting. Many Local 3 signatories are on the list.

Gordon N. Ball anticipates starting on the Redcrest Sink project this month or next. There are 265 listed working days on that project.

MORGAN HILL  I  Time to give thanks

The beginning of the holiday season has arrived. The Morgan Hill District staff wishes everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving. It’s a tough economy with slow to sporadic work, but hopefully everyone can find something to give thanks for. Sometimes it takes a little looking, but our lives always offer something. This month marks the end to all the political commercials, which is something to be thankful for. We hope there will be no “hanging chads” to deal with this election. Maybe the economy will move ahead, and the work picture will improve with it. It’s much better to dispatch our brothers and sisters to work instead of registering them on the out-of-work list. For those who came into this trade in the last 10 years, this is not a normal season. It will get better.

In Big Sur, Granite Construction is on standby with a $3.5 million bond for emergency repair work related to the fire damage this year. This work will employ many members this winter. Main contractor Shinnick has the wastewater treatment plant underway in Soledad. The company currently has 14 members working on the two-year project. Condon-Johnson & Associates is the subcontractor on the jobsite handling the drilling as Granite Rock provides concrete. Other subcontractors include J. J. Albanese doing the concrete pumping and finishing.

In Santa Cruz, Sybion Reid is working on a pedestrian bridge worth $2.5 million.

Now is a good time to upgrade your skills. District 90 is taking names of those interested in a grade-checking class. If interested, call the hall at (408) 465-8260. As soon as enough people commit, we will have another round of classes held in Morgan Hill. Even if you don’t become a gradesetter, the ability to read and understand the stakes makes you a better and more valuable employee.

For those who haven’t heard, former Dispatcher Joseph Morrison passed away Aug. 18. His cancer finally won out over his tremendous spirit. He is dearly missed by staff and membership alike. Joe often recalled how his father taught him: “The measure of a man is how he acts in his worst hour.” Joe was a fighter to the very end. He never gave up hope and never complained about his illness. His father would have been very proud of his son. Joe is survived by his wife, Caroline; his three sons, Branden, Ryan and Tyler; a grandson, Parker; his mother, Kozuko; his sister, Mary; and brothers Jim and Henry. The District 90 staff sends heartfelt wishes to his family.

On a lighter note, congratulations to Granite Foreman Ray Akino on 25 years of Local 3 service. He works in the Santa Clara Division.

SACRAMENTO  I  Behind the scenes at C.C. Myers and CTM

District 80’s Contractor of the Month spotlights Local 3 members at the C.C. Myers and CTM shops in Rancho Cordova.

At the C.C. Myers shop, Local 3 members fabricate and gather materials for falsework needed on C.C. Myers’ bridge projects. The materials include panels for the exterior and interior sections of bridges. Falsework is also created for the structuring in and around bridges.

On an average day, one Local 3 panel builder can make 80 4-feet-by-8-feet panels, or more than 100 smaller ones.

As busy as the C.C. Myers shop is, this production line is amazing. Each member has a particular task. Teamwork is what they preach, and goals are what they reach.

In Santa Cruz, Sybion Reid is working on a pedestrian bridge worth $2.5 million.

CTM’s specialties are concrete-barrier railing, center dividers, side-railing for bridges and median-railing – all form in place.

CTM also employs knuckle-boom operators who haul the forms to the jobs, set them in place and strip them when it’s time to move to the next section.

C.C. Myers and CTM make a great team. Production, production and more production is what they strive to achieve. Product, product and the best product is what they like you to see!
HAWAII  Organizing is a group effort

Work in District 60 finally started this season. It was a slow start, but we dispatched hands in early August. Work should continue until the snow flies.

Granite’s Hwy. 149 project in Oroville is almost finished except for the “punch list.” About six operators remain. The company’s Hwy. 20 project is all but a memory now.

DeSilva Gates is going strong on Hwy. 70 at Nicolaus. It’s in full swing and will continue into next season. DeSilva’s hot plant is working two shifts with all the material being furnished by Kino, a good Local 3 signatory.

Teichert has the Three River Levee setback south of Marysville, which has supplied good work in our district. Teichert also has Envirocon, Geocon and Inquip as subcontractors that have all signed a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with Local 3. The company is working six-12s on this project. The Teichert Marysville plant is showing signs of a slowdown, but the Hallwood Plant is still holding its own.

Baldwin has a fair amount of work in Butte County.

Nehemiah Construction has a nice bridge job on Hwy. 20 west of Williams, with Becho as a subcontractor doing the foundation work.

The $600 million Gemma Power Plant is doing some dirt work using Lund Construction, however, there is still a holdup on permits with the

HAWAII  Work booming at Chevron Refinery

The North Salt Lake Chevron Refinery is working on its $200 million Star project. The project includes cleanup of sulfur that the flare stack releases by reprocessing. The project started in November 2007 and is scheduled to finish next year. At its peak, the project will employ 450 trade-union employees, including more than 50 Operating Engineers.

Harder is the prime mechanical contractor at the refinery and is using signatory contractors to perform various projects. Granite built the crane pad for the massive 1,400-ton Lampson Transi-Lift crane. This crane features 460 feet of boom and performs lifts up to 505,000 pounds for the drum replacement of the coker plant. Granite also handles other jobs for Harder at the refinery.

Ames Construction is also at the refinery managing jobs for Chevron.

Mountain Crane is the main crane rental for the refinery and will have as many as 10 to 12 cranes ranging from 20 to 300 tons performing tasks for Harder and Chevron. Mountain continues to grow as a major player in the Intermountain West’s crane-rental market.

District 12’s annual holiday drive is taking a new direction this year: We are holding a food drive to help those in need. Many families in Utah are experiencing hardship with the struggling economy and rising food and fuel prices. Local food banks and other organizations are in desperate need of donations. Please bring non-perishable items to the hall (1958 West North Temple, Salt Lake City), or give them to your business representative between now and the middle of December to help these families in need.

HAWAII  Staff provides security for Obama

In the early morning of Aug. 8, Trustee and District Rep. Kalani Mahoe was called upon by Hawaii Democratic Party Chairman Brian Schaltz to assist the Secret Service and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) with the security of Presidential Candidate Barack Obama. Within two hours, Mahoe mobilized enough Local 3 members to help with crowd control and security. More than 4,000 people attended the rally at Keehi Lagoon.

Mahoe has served in other political realms too. As a personal friend and a key supporter of Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann, Mahoe is always ready to take a stand for steel-on-steel rail initiatives. At a recent rail rally held outside the Hawaii State Capital, Mahoe brought a group of more than 80 Local 3 members to wave signs in support of the mass transit system, while 10 semi trucks with “Go Rail” signs circled the area. Mahoe understands the economic influx the rail transit will bring to Local 3 and the construction industry.
Agents, activists keep the PLAs coming in district

The three counties that constitute District 01 – San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin – continue to show economic resilience in the face of the broader financial upheaval. The work picture remains good. Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) negotiated by the Building and Construction Trades Councils (BCTCs) with agencies such as the Public Utilities Commission, the School District, Mission Bay and the Community College District of each county help keep projects union in an increasingly competitive market.

Local business agents and union activists attend town-hall meetings, planning commissions and boards of supervisors meetings. They continue to get to the podium to support PLAs and let our elected officials know going union makes economic sense with a safer work place and projects delivered on time and on budget.

San Francisco County

San Francisco’s Mission Bay – south of the ball park – continues to be a high employment area with buildings at every stage of completion. Malcolm Drilling, Foundation Constructors, Ranger Pipeline, NTK, McGuire and Hester, A&B and Coneco are just a few of the contractors working under the Mission Bay PLA.

San Mateo County

In San Mateo, Kiewit is running three shifts on the Devil’s Slide Tunnel, and Disney completed the bridge approach to the north side. R&L Brosamer and DeSilva Gates continue the Hwy. 101 widening project south of Millbrae Avenue.

Marin County

As anyone who drives Hwy. 101 through Marin County knows, the highway widening project dominates the work picture. Ghiotti Bros., Inc. has crews working day and night attempting to keep traffic moving as the company adds a lane to both directions. Subcontractors on the project include R.M. Harris, Delta Grinding and W.C. Maloney. Farther south on Hwy. 101, Shimmick Construction is starting a retrofit of the Golden Gate Bridge’s northern section.
STOCKTON  I  Season, staff change in district

Greetings from the Stockton District. Fall is upon us, and with fall comes change. Speaking of change, the Stockton Hall is also experiencing it. Former District Rep. Kris Morgan is now the executive director of training at the Rancho Murrieta Training Center (RMT). Nate Tucker was promoted to Stockton’s district representative, Mike Pickens is now a business agent and Doug Kilgore is now the apprenticeship coordinator. Feel free to stop by and see us.

The work picture has picked up in the area with new projects underway, including the Pelendale Road widening, the Hwy. 219 widening and state Route 132 overlay – all by George Reed Inc. Other projects include the Cape Horn Tunnel rehabilitation project awarded to Drill Tech; the $19.1 million Tertiary Wastewater Treatment Plant in Modesto awarded to Pacific Mechanical Corporation; the Downtown Beautification Project Phase II in Riverbank with Sierra Nevada Construction; and the New Hope Flood Control Project awarded to Independent Construction.

Ongoing projects include the Floyd Avenue improvements with George Reed, the Wilma Way overcrossing with Sierra Nevada Construction and Mozingo Construction, and the Jamestown Landfill with Sukut. Nehemiah Construction broke ground on the Whitmore Avenue overcrossing, and Teichert Construction and MCM Construction are still working on the Angels Camp Bypass.

REDDING  I  Continuing the American tradition

It’s November, and the work season is winding down. Some projects continuing in District 70 include: Erick Ammon, Inc. on the Dart Gulch Project in Lewiston; J.F. Shea Construction, Inc. on the Stillwater Business Park in Redding; and Steve Manning Construction on the federal lands highway project in Hyampom – Hwy. 36 in Susanville and Lassen County overlays from Doyle to Herlong. Ron Hale Construction is wrapping up Gas Point Road in Cottonwood, while Sierra Equipment Rental is on Hwy. 299 at Buckhorn Summit. Golden State Bridge will continue through winter on the Hwy. 44 bridge over the Sacramento River in Redding. Kiewit is also working through the winter on the Cypress Street Bridge in Redding. Shasta Constructors continues on the North Street Bridge in Anderson and also on the Thomas Creek Bridge in Corning. Ford Construction is at the High Desert Prison in Susanville.

District 70 would like to welcome our newest contractor, Titan DVBE, into the network of signatory contractors in Northern California.

With the work picture the way it is, every working member needs to hold themselves at a higher level, be the best operator possible and look out for their brothers and sisters. Don’t let your fellow Operating Engineers sit at home, while you watch laborers, non-members or non-union subcontractors run your equipment. Call the hall at (530) 222-6097 to report anyone who is not a member in good standing operating equipment on your job! In the Bylaws regarding duties of members, it states: “No member shall fail to report to the local union known violations of the contract.” We are all trying to earn a livelihood for ourselves and our families, though we must have a higher standard of skill and a common bond within our membership. We have a proud, 112-year International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) tradition that began with the need in our industry for a labor organization. This union continued by the determination of skilled American men and women caring about the welfare of each other – people who gave their time, energy and thought in attending union meetings and being interested in union affairs.

With that being said, let’s continue this American tradition as Operating Engineers by attending the Redding District meetings Nov. 12. The Retiree Meeting starts at 1:30 p.m. at the Frontier Senior Center in Anderson. The regular quarterly meeting starts at 7 p.m. at the Redding Hall, 20308 Engineers’ Lane. See you there.
**FAIRFIELD**  Asta Construction has long history of partnership with OE3

In District 04, Asta Construction is keeping members busy, including Loader Operator Gary Davis and Excavator Operator Mike Gomes. They are moving about 250,000 tons of native fill to Sherman Island. Davis is a 20-year member who has been with Asta his entire OE3 career. The company has been in business for 65 years and a signatory employer for more than 30 years. The company employs up to 35 Operating Engineers during peak season and specializes in levee work, railroads, military work, natural gas and oil fields.

Work at the new Verizon facility in Fairfield, which was supposed to start this past spring, has been placed on hold. Verizon executives are returning to the planning commission with new ideas. Construction will likely begin next year.

District 04 would like to congratulate Heavy Duty Repair (HDR) Apprentice Nick Fender who advanced to journeyman status in September.

**FRESNO**  District honors former member

The Fresno District continues to offer gradesetting classes each quarter. The classes are geared more toward beginners, but GPS is taught during the last few classes. Contact the Fresno Hall for more information at (559) 229-4083.

Members are anxious to get as many hours worked as possible, and rightfully so. If you are eligible for a 10-year letter, you may solicit work from any employer. If you are unsure of your eligibility for a 10-year letter, contact the hall at (559) 229-4083 for verification. For those who have been dispatched and worked for any employer within the last five years, you may solicit work only from those employers. The hall can provide a printout of your dispatch history and a listing of “Where’s the Work?” for your use.

Emmett’s Excavation will soon be working on the Reedley Sports Park estimated at $1.9 million. Other projects in the area include the Hwy. 145 crossing for the Madera Irrigation District by Floyd Johnston Construction, the Tulare Wastewater Treatment Plant W.M. Lyles Co, storm drain projects by Bill Nelson General Engineering and several road improvement projects with George Reed Inc., W. Jaxon Baker and Teichert Construction.

Thank you to all members who attended the Oct. 23 district meeting and the Sept. 13 breakfast picnic. It is difficult to express how important it is to become involved in as many events as possible; this is how you stay informed. No one knew this better than former member and Business Rep. Ray Ronell. Ray passed away Sept. 5 and will be missed by many. Before serving as a business representative from 1995 until his retirement in 2005, he participated in Local 3’s Apprenticeship Program and worked for several signatory contractors as a gradesetter and foreman. Before this, he thought an Operating Engineer was affiliated with the railroad! He arrived at his first jobsite looking for railroad tracks, since he thought he was going to be a locomotive engineer! Instead, he became one of the strongest union members in Local 3. He left a lasting impression on everyone he came in contact with. The Fresno District is known for taking that extra step for the membership, and members have Ray to thank for this. He literally taught the staff to take those extra steps, and we have not forgotten it or him.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

**Apprenticeship Spotlight**

This month’s Apprenticeship Spotlight is on Joshua Pierce and Jeremiah Swan. Pierce works for FCI and Swan works for Emmett’s Excavation.

Member Tim Gibbs works for George Reed Construction in Yosemite Valley.

The Yosemite Valley paving crew for George Reed includes, front row, Jose Galvin. Back row, from left: Kristin Ketner, Arthur Burr, Alan Sherwin, John Thompson and Mike Cognetti.
NEVADA  District reports productive year

Work is steady this fall in Northern Nevada. Many members are busy finishing up jobs before the white stuff comes.

In September, the Nevada Transportation Board decided $450 million worth of highway construction and improvement projects would go out this fiscal year, with the bulk of the funding going to the Las Vegas area; however, the North McCarran Boulevard widening in Reno has been funded at a cost of about $14 million.

Road and Highway Builders is working on the Carson Bypass and was the apparent low-bidder on an I-80 job in California beginning at the state line. Granite Construction, Lucky Concrete, Pacific Rim Construction, G.A. Engineering, Diversified Concrete Cutting, Penhall and Acme Concrete Pumping are working on the AAA baseball stadium in downtown Reno. Otis Bay Ecological Restoration and Q&D Construction are working on the Truckee River restoration project at the Ranch 102 exit off I-80. K.G. Walters has the water treatment plant in Fernley, the arsenic treatment plant in Gardnerville and the Marlette Hobart Water System in Carson County. Reno Tahoe Construction continues on the white-water park in Sparks. Sierra Nevada Construction, A&KW Crane Service and Lift Services Inc. are working on the new Reno-Tahoe Airport Tower. Granite Construction and Q&D Construction are also finishing at the airport.

In other news: The Annual Big Dig Event held Sept. 20 at Granite Construction’s Lockwood property was a “big” success for Local 3, as many members and staff participated. All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society.

We congratulate Brock and Kristy Randolph on the Aug. 4 birth of their new baby girl, Jenna.

From Elko

The weather is starting to change in Elko. Old Man Winter is right around the corner. Ames Construction started on the General Molly Mine project near Eureka, Nev. The company also started a job for Barrick Gold at the Cortez Mine – a road relocation. Both jobs should be good winter jobs depending on snow and ice.

N.A. Degerstrom, Inc. continues working at the Rossi Mine north of Winnemucca and the Spirit Mine north of Wells. Canyon Construction is finishing at the Midas Mine and at the prison job near Ely.

This was a productive year for union contractors in Northeastern Nevada.

We would like to thank all the brothers and sisters from Newmont Mining – Carlin Mine who attended the recent barbecue for the membership. The weather was great and food delicious. It was good to see the participation of members and their families.

The District 11 Reno and Elko staff wishes all of you and yours a happy Thanksgiving.

OAKLAND  Apprentices, volunteers spotlighted

District 20 would like to extend a big thanks to our Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) volunteers who put in countless hours for this last election. The election was wildly successful, and the union would not have been able to get the issues passed and the people elected who will support Local 3 without the membership support and volunteerism. We would really like to thank Mike Colley, Jake Adamson and Scott Ross. These members went above and beyond the call of duty. The three of them collectively put in hundreds of hours this past year walking picket lines, walking precincts, making phone calls, stuffing envelopes and doing whatever it took to get the job done.

The work picture remains iffy. Sukut Construction from Southern California is rebuilding abutments at the San Pablo Dam in Richmond and has several dozen operators moving dirt, drilling and doing heavy lifting to reinforce the dam. This is a $50 million project with two shifts continuing for the next two years.

Bay Cities continues calling operators out of the hall for the re-engineering of McDonald Avenue in Richmond and the re-paving of Hwy. 24 from Orinda to Walnut Creek.

Refinery work remains strong in the district with the billion-dollar Chevron retrofit. Local 3 fought hard at the Richmond City Council to get this work permitted, and members are seeing the benefits of that political work. The job is employing dozens of operators for many years. Flour also continues to employ operators. Conoco Phillips continues to upgrade its refinery.

Remember: As of April 1, 2009, members will need their Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) card to be able to work at the refineries.

The TWIC card will also be required for anywhere that the Department of Homeland Security deems to be a sensitive or critical infrastructure, including labs, ports and airports. The good news is that through June 30, 2009, if you pass the screening, Local 3 will re-reimburse you for the cost. Increase your work opportunities; get that TWIC card!

Apprenticeship Spotlight

This month’s Apprenticeship Spotlight is on Ashaki Gregory, Roxanna Castillo, Mario Anaya and Ryan Federighi. The Oakland District congratulates you on your hard work!

First-Step Apprentice Ashaki Gregory runs an excavator for Bay Cities Paving on 23rd Street in Richmond.

Second-Step Apprentice Mario Anaya on the job for Bay Cities Paving.

Vertical Drill Rig Apprentice Ryan Federighi.
OE3 Scholarship Fund
Giving gifts that last a lifetime

A charity is only as strong as its contributors want it to be, and the Local 3 Scholarship Fund is no exception. Today the fund is strong, both financially and in the support it receives from Local 3. It has grown substantially in the last five years, with much of the success due to an increase in donations from members and the employer community. Many contributions are from longtime supporters, but new members and organizations have recently become acquainted with the fund.

If Local 3 has touched you or your family, please consider the scholarship fund as an opportunity to give back to the union. Gifts to the fund make it possible for members to play a role in helping young adults understand the importance and economic relevance of union membership. Every gift makes the scholarship fund stronger.

A partnership between Local 3, employers and related businesses created the scholarship fund to provide financial assistance for the children of Local 3 members and encourage and enable their academic success. The Thomas Morton Foundation and the Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union each donated $5,000 to sponsor our second place female and male winners.

As the demand for meaningful scholarships increased, Local 3 developed new fund-raising opportunities. In 2007, many Local 3 members participated in a cruise to Mexico with $50 of the fee earmarked as a donation to the scholarship fund. Members continued this opportunity with a special cruise to the Southern Caribbean in January 2008.

The Tom Stapleton Golf Tournament is held annually in September and remains the biggest source of revenue for the fund. The 2008 tournament raised more than $195,000.

Most contributions come in the form of traditional cash donations, but some have chosen more creative donation methods. Because of tax considerations, some contributions can result in the donor being able to give a gift that is greater than he or she thought possible. These gifts help build the strength and future of the scholarship fund and allow the donor to experience giving the gift of a lifetime.

The Local 3 Scholarship Fund offers a variety of ways to contribute:

- **Cash gifts.** Gifts to the general scholarship fund can be in any amount.
- **Memorial and honor gifts.** You can contribute to the scholarship fund in memory or honor of a loved one, friend, or colleague or to commemorate a special occasion. Written acknowledgment of your gift and the amount will appear in scholarship and media correspondence. A $500 minimum is necessary to establish a named gift, and there are four donation levels:
  - **Bronze** $500
  - **Silver** $1,000
  - **Gold** $5,000
  - **Platinum** $6,000
- **Bequests.** Gifts made through your will will allow you to retain control of your assets during your lifetime and distribute them as you wish upon your death. Our members and friends may choose to include a gift to the Local 3 Scholarship Fund. The most common types of bequests are leaving a fixed dollar amount or specific property. A charitable bequest may reduce your estate tax. Consulting an attorney is advisable any time you make or change a will.
- **Securities.** There may be an advantage to giving marketable securities – stocks, bonds or mutual funds – instead of cash. In some cases, you may receive a charitable deduction on your taxes, as well as avoid taxes on capital gains. Consult your financial adviser for details.

If you would like more information on donating to the scholarship fund, please contact the fund’s treasurer, Rec. Corres. Secretary Rob Wise, at (510) 748-7400.

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**AOPA offers Expo in San Jose**

Are you a member of the Aircraft Owners’ and Pilots Association (AOPA)? This not-for-profit organization dedicated to general aviation is popular among Local 3 members, according to Retiree Harold Puckeylow, who you might have seen flying his plane over Local 3 retiree picnics.

Puckeylow brought to our attention the upcoming AOPA Exposition held Nov. 6-8 at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center, 150 West San Carlos Street. The event offers the latest in general aviation technology. Register online at aopa.org or call (800) 872-2672 or (301) 695-2000. You might run into Puckeylow too!
Honorary Membership

The following retirees have 35 or more years of membership in Local 3 as of September and have been determined to be eligible for Honorary Membership effective Oct. 1, 2008.

Tom Anderson 1328124 District 12: Utah
Renato J. Casatta 1142691 District 99: Out of Area
Stan L. Clark 0955188 District 50: Fresno
Ron Eversten 1562909 District 80: Sacramento
Norman A. Gilliam 0540929 District 99: Out of Area
Julio Gutierrez 1344629 District 99: Out of Area
Marvin Hamroker 107055 District 12: Utah
Bill Hilton 1235164 District 50: Fresno
Mitchell Kealoh, Sr. 1578471 District 17: Hawaii
Lum Leong 148789 District 30: Stockton
Robert Lopez 155334 District 30: Stockton
Kerry Lowe 1151070 District 30: Stockton
Glen Mitchell 1296085 District 30: Stockton
Robert Roberts 1519687 District 30: Stockton
John P. Roderick 1372812 District 17: Hawaii
Herbert Tokamats 1482332 District 17: Hawaii
Vine Wheelock 0959349 District 60: Yuba City
Albert L. Wilson 1457076 District 99: Out of Area
George Yoshida 1364714 District 17: Hawaii

DEPARTED MEMBERS

Allen, James
District 99
08-01-08
Shandon, CA
08-19-08
Atkinson, Hoise
Union City, CA
District 20
07-28-08
Brawley, Robert
American Canyon, CA
District 04
08-10-08
Bustos, Bonnie
Elko, NV
District 11
08-13-08
Cathey, Ray
Grants Pass, OR
District 99
07-25-08
Cloud, Charles
Petaluma, CA
District 10
08-04-08
Finn, Peter
Reno, NV
District 11
08-14-08
Gard, Steven
Fairfield, CA
District 04
08-03-08
Guardado, Mark Sr.
San Francisco, CA
District 01
09-02-08
Hagie, Larry
Campbell, CA
District 90
08-19-08
Hamilton, Marvin
Stockton, CA
District 30
07-25-08
Hart, Daniel
Coalinga, CA
District 50
08-09-08
Hatifield, Paul
Modesto, CA
District 30
07-26-08
Haviland, Jean
Cambridge, CA
District 80
07-31-08
Hender, Ronald
Benicia, CA
District 04
08-23-08
Bosley, Nancy
District 30: Stockton
Henderson, George
1364717
District 17: Hawaii

DECEASED DEPENDENTS

Arakawa, June. Wife of Arakawa, Tomu (dec)
08-27-08
Barnes, Lyley. Wife of Barnes, Oscar
11-86
Bettis, Sandy. Wife of Bettis, Kenneth
08-08-08

USPS statement for Engineers News

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) requires publication of the following statement of ownership, management and circulation for all newsletters having periodical mailing privileges, such as Engineers News. Please note the circulation numbers listed reflect the body of initiated Local 3 members in good standing with the union.

**Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>News</th>
<th>Periodicity</th>
<th>Circulation</th>
<th>Newsletters Initially Published In 1998</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engineers News</td>
<td>3 times each</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>38,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Annual Average No. Copies Each Issue:**
- 40,000

**Newsletters Per Issue:**
- 38,400

**Newsletters Published Since Incorporation:**
- 38,400

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- 112,500

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**Non-Member Publisher Revenue:**
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Walk this way

A new study shows people who start a walking program for their health get more out of it by using a pedometer, a device that counts their steps. People who use pedometers increase their physical activity by about 2,000 steps a day – about a mile. They also seem to lower their blood pressure and lose weight.

This conclusion, reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association, comes from an analysis of 26 studies that included a total of 2,767 participants. Most were observational studies, which mean the researchers simply watched what the volunteers did, while eight had some scientific controls.

Pedometer users in the controlled trials increased their physical activity by 2,491 steps per day more than those who didn’t use the devices. The comparable increase for pedometer users in observational trials was 2,183 steps per day.

Pedometer users also had their systolic blood pressure – the higher number – fall by an average of 3.8 millimeters. A 2-mm reduction is associated with a 10 percent reduction in stroke mortality and a 7 percent reduction in death from blood-vessel conditions. Pedometer users also reduced their body-mass index by 0.4 percent – about 2.5 pounds for a 195-pound individual.

One valuable input of pedometer use was that it seemed to increase motivation for more physical activity.

It’s generally agreed that most Americans need more physical activity. Two-thirds of U.S. adults are overweight or obese, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that only 45 percent of Americans get enough physical activity, usually defined as at least 30 minutes a day.

One major advantage of pedometer use in an exercise program is that it caters to the American quest for numbers.

Pedometers can be simple and inexpensive or sophisticated and expensive. Doctors say a good one can be purchased for at least $15.

For more information or a guide to using pedometers, visit healthfinder.org.

Hands-free or hands off

Are you complying with the cell phone laws?

By Tara McGovern, Director of Government Relations
Engineering & Utility Contractors Association

On July 1, the following laws regarding the use of wireless telephones became effective:

1. All drivers are prohibited from using a handheld phone while driving, unless it is equipped with a hands-free option.
2. Drivers under 18 are prohibited from using a wireless telephone while driving, even if it is equipped with a hands-free device.

What does the law specify?

- Both laws offer exceptions during emergencies to contact emergency services.
- Push-To-Talk phones (such as Nextel) are not exempt except when the driver is operating a commercial truck that requires a commercial A or B license to operate, other agricultural equipment or farm vehicles until July 1, 2011.
- Yes, you can be pulled over, cited and fined up to $50 per violation.
- Dialing while driving is not prohibited, but “strongly discouraged.”
- The speakerphone feature can be utilized to comply with this law.

On January 1, 2009, a law banning text messaging while driving will also become effective, with penalties of $20 for the first offense and $50 for subsequent offenses.

“I know some folks say, ‘Do we really need a law, isn’t it common sense?’” stated Senator S. Joseph “Joe” Simitian, who authored both of the bills. “Unfortunately, common sense isn’t all that common.”

To find out more about this law, visit www.chp.ca.gov/pdf/media/cell_phone_faq.pdf.

Aim for Action

Aim for Action is a monthly wellness feature focused on helping our membership live healthier, more productive lives while achieving lower health-care premiums. Look for Aim for Action each month for simple, straightforward ideas to improve your health.

Aim:

Cut fatty fast food out of your diet.

Action:

Fortunately, these days there are healthy options for lunch-on-the-go. Instead of stopping for a greasy, high-calorie burger, swing into Subway for a quick sandwich (nutrition information can be found right on the napkins), or try quick Mexican food at Chipotle Mexican Grill, which claims to serve naturally raised meat and fresh produce.

Take a moment to cut out the contact information listed below, and post it on your fridge, bathroom mirror or dashboard – somewhere you’ll see it every day as a reminder to strive toward healthy living!

OE3 HEALTH HOTLINES

Fringe Benefits Service Center (800) 532-2105
Assistance and Recovery Program (ARP) (800) 562-3277
Matria Health (866) 676-0740
• 24/7 Nurse Advice (General health information)
• Disease Management (Diabetes, Coronary Artery Disease, Heart failure and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)
Kaiser California (800) 464-4000 (normal business hours)
(888) 576-6225 (after hours)
Kaiser Hawaii (800) 966-5955
HealthNet (800) 893-5597
Tobacco Cessation
California (800) NO BUTTS and (800) 844-CHEW
Hawaii (800) QUIT NOW
Nevada (800) QUIT NOW
Utah (888) 567-TRUTH
FOR SALE: 1710 Ford Diesel with transmission, 4WD. All for $10,500. Also have 1996 Ford Diesel with fuel injection. Contact (408) 243-1181. Reg# 0661943.

FOR SALE: Wellsaw bandsaw, 119776. For Sale: Torsion axle trailer in good condition. $3,800. OBO Call (932) 223-5013. Reg# 1238583.


FOR SALE: Wellssaw bandsaw, model #118, very clean, 3-phase, 2 horse. $3,800 OBO Call (530) 743-9672. Reg# 1883840.


WANTED: Looking for rear tire tiller, heavy duty, any condition, or a 3 pt. hitch tiller for small Kabota tractor. also a 410 break open box. (530) 346-2918. Reg# 1271053.

FOR SALE: in Chico, 1862 Sq Ft 3brm 2 1/2 Bth Multi Story Home close to schools 14,000+ Sq Ft park like yard. Freshly painted, new lighting fixtures, ceiling fans, floors in kitchen, family and entry, newer roof, AC, dual pane windows. 2 car garage + RV/Boat parking. Deeply discounted $329,450. Chico MLS # 200707823 Call Joel (707) 545-3251. Reg# 1897337.


FOR SALE: 1999 Dodge 1500 Ram Club Cab, Prior fleet vehicle, AC, short bed, running boards, tool box, new Sony CD/DVD stereo with 4 Sony speakers, bed liner. New transmission, radiator cleaner out, new oil, and new plugs. Registration good until 04/09, passes SMOG. Kool blue $85,000, selling for $3,800. Contact Jerry (530) 315-3222. Reg# 2183587.

FOR SALE: Jet Milling Machine: Model AM-V0-AIR Power Feed. 1/2 HP,1800 RPM. Table size 8"x8", spindle taper R8, Spindle travel-3" Table travel (long-20") Table travel (cross) 8", Knee travel 13". Head lift 4". Low price. Like new. $1,950. Call (707) 576-4452 after 6 p.m. Reg# 2206831.

FOR SALE: 2004 House trailer, forest river, 28 ft. central air and heat, queen bed, stored under cover, sleeps 4 comfortably. $12,000. (925) 946-9166. Reg# 0517925.

FOR SALE: 34-ft 1982 Southwind Motorhome, 20,000, or new 354 motorhome in Nevada. 3 air conditioners, 5 Gensen. Sleeps 8. Blacked out windows. $8400. (831) 359-8831 e-mail kimmieshugart@aol.com Pictures available. Reg# 2475071.

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Has the real estate market gone to the birds? For one Dutra Construction crew it has.

The signatory company won a $4 million project to restore 7,000 acres of salt ponds to its natural state, making a home for native ducks.

Dutra Construction Supervisor and 29-year member Mike Rubke oversees the project that employs 15 Operating Engineers and three apprentices. Dozers, excavators and graders are turning existing salt ponds into freshwater habitat.

Owned by the Department of Fish and Game and contracted to Ducks Unlimited, the property consists of 12 salt ponds off Green Island Road. Initially natural marshland, the land was purchased and used to harvest salt. Because of the struggling economy, the company sold the property, and the Department of Fish and Game will eventually use it as hunting grounds.

The Dutra crew went to work in June on the first of at least five phases. Work will stop before winter hits and continue in the spring.

Dutra is currently focusing on the northern 4,000 acres of the project, harvesting salt remnants out of an existing salt pond and backfilling with dirt spoils extracted from a freshwater pond onsite. The freshwater pond will eventually drain into the nearby salt pond, forming one large water source. Crews will also build five miles of levees.

Rubke says the job has been going well for the crew so far. Their only opponent has been the mud.

The thick, soggy ground regularly claims dozers, acting like quicksand to the heavy equipment. But help is always nearby. A heavy wire cord located on the back of each dozer makes for easy recovery. Dozer Operator Albert Carabajal jokes that the record for getting stuck in the mud in one day – which he holds – is four. Despite the soggy conditions, the company still boasts an impressive safety record.

When completed, this project will not only benefit the birds, but will also help the Sacramento International Airport, located near the project.

“Go back to the airport where there are the birds,” Rubke says. “We need to keep them away from the airport.”

Gone to the birds

*Dutra Construction restores natural bird habitat in Napa*

*Story and photos by Jamie Johnston, associate editor*

GreenPiece

“Going green” isn’t just for hippies and Hollywood anymore. It seems everyone is finding a way to help the planet and be more environmentally friendly. That includes us. More and more often, Local 3 members get dispatched to more ecological jobsites, and Engineers News wants to highlight these projects. Starting this month, we will routinely feature one of these jobs – our own “green piece,” if you will.