ELECTION COMMITTEE NOTICE
See page 17 for important information regarding the election of the Election Committee members, who will conduct the August 2006 election of Officers and Executive Board members.
Offensive strategies continue

By John Bonilla, Business Manager

I’ve got good news to report this month in critical areas affecting our membership. As always, good news – especially regarding Gov. Schwarzenegger – is often temporary and fleeting, but I will back his decisions as long as they are smart ones. I do caution that political victories are fleeting and short-lived. We must forever keep our nose to the grindstone in this current political environment. Two crucial areas, transportation funding and health care, have been positively affected.

Budget includes Prop. 42 funding, advance repayment

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger recently announced his 2006-2007 Budget Proposal to fully fund Proposition 42 and send the state sales tax paid on gasoline purchases to fund vital transportation projects. In addition, he will call for advance repayment of outstanding loans of previous Prop. 42 funds in the amount of $920 million, to address the ongoing state budget deficiency. This will relieve the following year’s budget of that obligation and is a key element of taking steps now to address projected deficits in future budget years.

We look forward to working with the governor’s administration and the legislature to adopt these important transportation priorities in the coming year.

Prop. 42 fix initiative

Since the special election in California, Local 3 has wasted no time in getting on the offense. The unions of the Basic Crafts Alliance and the California Alliance for Jobs filed draft initiatives with the State Attorney General’s Office designed to close the loophole, which has allowed the diversion of Prop. 42 funds. We need a voter-approved Prop. 42 fix initiative to safeguard what is ours from ever being taken again.

We’ve begun the petition-gathering process to qualify the measure for the November 2006 ballot. We’ll be calling on all Local 3 staff and members to help us secure the signatures needed to make this happen. Stay tuned for further updates in Engineers News and from your district representatives.

Health care crisis: Local 3 gets informed

In 2003, the union and the rest of the nation faced a tough predicament: Health care costs were rising at an alarming rate, wreaking havoc on precious Trust Fund reserves. In March 2004, Local 3 set out to educate its membership on the costly national health care crisis and provide an update on changes made to the union’s health and welfare benefits plan.

These changes, along with the actions taken by the Local 3 membership, have stabilized our funds today; however, the health care crisis is still a concern and continues to affect millions. A 5 percent to 6 percent increase in costs is expected over the next year.

As is usually the case in the face of strife, Local 3 does not sit and wait. We are offering a new Health News insert in the Engineers News each month with tips and information on how each member can access personal power in addressing the health care crisis. We are researching cost-saving methods in prescriptions and hospital visits and working on educating the membership though district meeting presentations.

At the same time, we are working to protect and preserve your pension benefits. Pensions, as you are aware, have become a nationwide issue. Your plan is among the very best. However, this administration has had to face the consequences of low investment returns during the past five years, especially 2000-2002, and low interest rates. For almost two years now, we have been addressing these retirement issues and will continue to do so in the coming months. We’ve instructed our actuarial consultants to propose pension plan design changes to guarantee the security of our retirement plan. In consultation with the pension trustees, they are formulating several options that will be presented for your consideration in the round of district meetings beginning March 2.

Until then, however, let me assure you that our consultants inform us that our plan is still among the best of its kind, and there is no risk whatsoever to the pensions of our current retirees.

The spring presentations will be ready for viewing during our district and retirees’ meetings from March 2 – May 18. I encourage everyone to attend these meetings with your spouse. We will be covering a wide variety of topics, including our union’s finances, a dues reduction proposal, as well as updates on our health and welfare and pension plans, as previously mentioned. The March edition of Engineers News will also be devoted to these important topics.

I realize that every month, I throw a lot of information and numbers at you. I realize that health care and political updates are complicated and ever-changing, but so is the current political and social environment of this great union. Therefore, we must work together to understand all the issues at hand, so that we can be prepared and pro-active.

The general theme continues: Local 3 is active, informed and determined to get the issues and set them straight for our membership. Only with your help are we able to do this. There will always be more ahead regarding infrastructure funding and health care. We continue forward with informed strategies, and we won’t ever leave you in the dark.
In the News

Come one, come all
District Meetings: March 2 – May 18

This year’s annual spring presentations will cover a wide variety of topics to give you an unprecedented, in-depth look inside Local 3. All members are encouraged to attend the spring presentations at the March 2 – May 18 district and retiree meetings. Don’t forget to bring your spouse with you!

Freeways are safe thanks to Caltrans’ Kershner

Heroes stand out in all manner of ways. Unit 12 OE3 Caltrans Maintenance Worker Richard D. Kershner is a hero in one such way. In December, he rescued a kitten while performing a regular highway maintenance cleanup near I-80. He was picking up debris near homeless shelters and happened upon a kitten trapped behind a fallen branch. He approached the kitten, cleared away the branch and found a follower in the female cat. Now the rescuer and rescued are inseparable, and Richard has appropriately named the cat Freeway.

Work expected to shift from private to public

The work picture in California is expected to shift from the private sector to the public sector in 2006. Indicators include rising interest rates, which will slow private-sector building, and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s huge public works proposal announced Jan. 5 during his third State of the State address. The governor pledged bi-partisan cooperation to embark on a $222 billion building program to upgrade long-neglected public facilities and prepare for further population growth. “We will need more roads, more hospitals, more schools, more teachers, more police and fire, more water, more energy, more ports. More, more, more,” Schwarzenegger said. Again, this is the expected economic forecast. Stay tuned for further developments.

New year, new columns

Both Financial Secretary Russ Burns and Treasurer Carl Goff will be writing columns for Engineers News in 2006, beginning this month. Be sure to check out these new columns on pages 5 and 7. The other new column for the new year is “Teaching Techs,” written by Paul Schissler of the Northern California Surveyors Joint Apprenticeship Committee (NCSJAC). Look for it on page 7.

Talking Points

By Bob Miller, President

Worker pensions under attack!

It seems like hardly a week goes by that I don’t pick up a newspaper or turn on the TV or radio and get a story about worker pensions being attacked. When I first started working, employers took great pride in providing decent benefits and pensions for their workers. Now it seems more and more employers want to turn their backs on the very workers that made their businesses a success. Fortunately, most union members still have retirement benefits. In fact, 79 percent of union members are covered by pension plans, compared with only 44 percent of non-union workers.

Most union-negotiated pension plans, including Local 3’s plans, are defined-benefit pensions. These plans guarantee retirees a fixed monthly income for life. Since 1978, the number of defined-benefit plans has fallen from 128,041 to only 26,000 today. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, only 21 percent of all workers in the private sector have defined-benefit retirements. So, you can clearly see the “union advantage” enjoyed by Local 3 members, when it comes to retirement benefits.

I want to caution you: Don’t be fooled by stories about the great retirement benefits offered by 401(k) plans. A 401(k) plan is not a retirement plan. It is a salary-savings plan. It requires a worker to make a defined contribution to the plan. This amount is sometimes matched by the employer. This type of plan shifts investment risk and responsibility to the worker. It typically reduces employer costs. Unlike your defined-benefit plan, these plans do not guarantee a participant anything. In addition, they are not insured by the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation. If the participant’s investments go in the tank, so does his/her benefit. You also need to know that a 401(k) is only as good as the money you have in it at any point in time, not just what’s in it when you retire.

Over the past few years, thousands of retired workers have been forced to return to work because of 401(k) account losses. In the last five years, they’ve been hit hard by declines in the stock market. By now, they know that their 401(k) wasn’t as good as their employer had told them. Many of them didn’t understand that their plan didn’t guarantee them anything. Unfortunately, for most, it’s too late to do much about it. They can only try to hold on and hope that their investment returns will eventually improve.

Business Manager John Bonilla and his team of officers understand how important your retirement benefit is for your family’s financial future. It’s a responsibility that we take seriously. We are working hard to ensure that your plan remains among the best anywhere. We’re looking at the plan with some of the nation’s best investment managers, actuaries and fund consultants to see if any fine tuning is necessary. We’ve set performance benchmarks for these consultants, and we’re holding them accountable. We’re absolutely committed to keeping your retirement safe and secure.
The race forward

My purpose this month is twofold: I would first like to discuss the past year’s history of agreements and get you up-to-date on the current issues at the negotiating table, including the rock, sand and gravel industry and the satellite training center at the Yuba Goldfields. Then, I would like to shed some light on the purpose of the Grievance and Market and Geographic Area committees in light of their recent elections at the quarterly district meetings.

2005 reflects in my mind as a year of improved agreements, and this administration is committed now and always to improving your standard of living and working conditions. The four-year extension to the Master Agreement reflects increases that are unprecedented. We are able to negotiate these increases because of your skills and hard work and because of the employer-union relationship that this administration has achieved through a cooperative attitude from both sides of the table. Last but not least: Membership support is key to our success in these and all areas.

Negotiation news and current events

Because we don’t have a Master Agreement for rock, sand and gravel, your officers have been busy negotiating individual agreements in the districts:

Redding District 40: Officer-in-Charge Russ Burns and his team have done very well in negotiating improvements to all the existing rock, sand and gravel agreements in that area.

Yuba City District 60: District Rep. Dan Mostats, his crew and I have made considerable progress with all the signatory material producers in the area.

Sacramento District 80/Stockton District 30: This past year, Teichert’s main rock, sand and gravel agreement expired, which covered four plants in Sacramento District 80 and one in Stockton District 30. This agreement is also a multi-craft agreement, which consists of Operating Engineers, Laborers and Teamsters. Local 3 chaired the negotiations for all the crafts. In the end, Local 3 members overwhelmingly ratified a four-year agreement with economic increases of $9 per hour, and the Teamsters and Laborers received favorable increases as well.

Fresno District 50: We negotiated an agreement with Vulcan Materials, which includes three facilities. We made extensive improvements to the agreement that was overwhelmingly ratified by the members.

Upcoming negotiations in the rock, sand and gravel industry are as follows: In the Bay Area, Lone Star Industries, now owned by Cemex from Mexico, has several contracts up for renewal this year. Cemex is new to us, but we’ve had a good relationship with Lone Star for more than 30 years, and it’s our intent to continue the relationship in a positive manner.

Teichert Materials in Tracy is up for renewal this year, as is Teichert Pre-cast, which is a multi-union agreement. I look forward to chairing these agreements, and I’m confident we will have another good year for contract negotiations in all our related industries.

We continue our efforts to establish a satellite training center in the Yuba Goldfields. The Texas-owned Western Aggregates corporation continues to try and distort our efforts by initiating red tape through its political ties with the Bush administration. We remain confident we will break ground this year.

I believe we achieve these kinds of increases and bargaining improvements because of our members’ skills, participation and support and the cooperative employer relationship this union administration has achieved.

Grievance Committee and Market Geographic Committee information

Regarding the recent committee member elections, every year our Grievance Committee and Market Geographic Committee members are elected by the membership in their respective districts. Every Wednesday night, the Grievance Committee conducts union business in the district – politics, endorsements, grievances and so forth. Each district presents their monthly recommendations to the Executive Board. The system works well, and I take my hat off to those who sit on that committee.

The Market and Geographic Area Committee also plays an important role in the operation of this union. I can reflect back to the early nineties when several A.G.C. employers from Sacramento called for a meeting to discuss the area market with – at the time – new District Rep. John Bonilla and his young Sacramento staff. A.G.C. claimed they could not get work in the private market because their labor costs were too high. They demanded we cut our package to 70 percent, and if we did not give them relief, they would be forced to go non-union. Our saving grace was the Market and Geographic Committee. Because of their input and analysis, we were able to come to an agreement that when the employers were bidding private work and could prove there were non-union bidders on the bid list, they could petition the committee for relief. If they were successful in the bid, they were authorized to pay the wages and fringes agreed to by the committee for that specific project. When relief was given, fringes were always 100 percent and wages varied from 80 percent to 90 percent. This procedure has been used throughout the valley. Today, Local 3 maintains the market share for private work in the valley and such gains are due, in part, to this committee’s work and the contributions of the membership.

The main theme running throughout these updates and improvements in negotiations is that nothing is possible without member input and support. On behalf of your officers and myself, we thank you for making this union what it is. May we continue on in the race forward.

SAFETY

By Guy Prescott, Safety Director

Winter safety training courses

The 2006 winter safety training courses are available for signup. This winter we are offering a traditional 40-Hour Hazardous Waste Site Operator Training Course, an Eight-Hour Hazardous Waste Site Refresher Course, an OSHA 10-Hour Construction Site Worker Course and an OSHA 7600 Disaster Site Worker Training Course. The OSHA 10-Hour Course is a prerequisite for the Disaster Site Worker Training Course. Contact the host district dispatcher or the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC) to signup for classes.

All classes start at 8 a.m.

OSHA 10-Hour Construction Site Worker Course
Jan. 30-31 RMTC
Feb. 6-7 Salt Lake City District 12

OSHA 7600 Disaster Site Worker Training Course (OSHA 10-Hour Construction Site Worker Course must be completed before attending this class)
Feb. 1-2 RMTC
Feb. 8-9 Salt Lake City District 12

40-Hour Hazardous Waste Site Operator Training Course
Jan. 30-Feb. 3 RMTC
Feb. 6-10 Salt Lake City District 12

Eight-Hour Hazardous Waste Site Refresher Course
Jan. 31 RMTC
Feb. 3 RMTC
Feb. 7 Salt Lake City District 12
Feb. 10 Rohnert Park District 10
Feb. 10 Salt Lake City District 12
Feb. 25 Fresno District 50
March 4 Redding District 70
March 11 Oakland District 20
March 18 Rohnert Park District 10
The future holds a fight

I wish we were given the powers of a crystal ball to tell us with certainty what’s at stake for working people in 2006. But there’s very little mystery in Schwarzenegger’s agenda or his most current attacks on labor. It’s not difficult to prophesy that the Schwarzenegger administration is regrouping after the defeat of his special election to find ways to dilute our precious resources to make his re-election easier.

Proposition 226 co-author and Orange County Lawyer Mark Bucher is in cahoots with Schwarzenegger, having recently filed two initiatives that closely resemble the older proposition we fought so hard to defeat, Prop. 226, which would have required the written consent of public and private-sector union members to use our dues for any political purposes.

His most recent initiatives, 0140 and 0141, go after public employee dues and public, private and corporate contributions.

How are we retaliating? The future holds a fight, since labor friend and Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer is pushing a constitutional amendment to ban Schwarzenegger and any of his successors from ever calling a special election again without just cause. The last special election was estimated to cost taxpayers more than $40 million.

Frommer wants this constitutional amendment because of what the people of California are saying: The governor abused his power for his own personal gains. A recent poll found that 60 percent of voters thought the special election unnecessary.

Frommer intends to propose that no initiatives be placed on a special election ballot without the consent of the legislature, that the governor must first declare a state of emergency to call a special election and that initiatives placed on the ballot must pertain only to that emergency.

Signs point to a positive turn of events for labor with these kinds of proactive measures. Frommer is listening to the people, and that is what Local 3 does and will continue to do, until our voices are heard.

Stay tuned for more information about these initiatives and all other political updates. The future for labor is becoming more apparent, and as long as we band together and stay informed and active, the future looks good.

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2006 Political Calendar Dates

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<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Voter registration deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>May 22, 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>July 15 (mail), July 25, 2006 (office)</td>
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<td>Utah</td>
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<td>Hawaii</td>
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<tr>
<td>Candidate filing deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>California</td>
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<td>Nevada</td>
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<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>July 25, 2006</td>
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<td>Primary Election</td>
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<td>California</td>
<td>June 6, 2006</td>
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<td>June 27, 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Election voter registration deadline</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Utah</td>
<td>Oct. 18, 2006</td>
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<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>Oct. 9, 2006</td>
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It’s tax time: Watch out for IRS impersonators!

Cyber thieves are at it again. This time they’re posing as Internal Revenue Service (IRS) agents in an attempt to trick you out of your personal and financial information. Be aware of bogus e-mails claiming to come from taxrefund@irs.gov.

The IRS has issued a consumer alert about an Internet scam in which you may receive an e-mail promising a tax refund. The e-mail claims to be from the IRS, and then it directs you to a link requesting your Social Security number and other personal data, in order for you to be eligible for the refund. The scam is so sophisticated it will actually direct you to a legitimate U.S. government website. The link then bounces you off that site and onto a site owned by the criminals, who are ready and waiting to steal your financial identity.

With your sensitive information in hand, these cyber crooks can use your personal data to make purchases on your existing credit cards, open additional credit cards or get auto loans while creating major financial damage against your good name.

The IRS has seen numerous attempts to defraud the public and the federal government through a variety of Internet schemes. Last year, the IRS shut down a scheme in which perpetrators used e-mail to announce to unsuspecting taxpayers they were under audit and could set matters straight by divulging sensitive financial information. If you’re in doubt about the authenticity of an e-mail claiming to be from the IRS, call them at (800) 829-1040.

Always remember, the IRS will never ask for personal or financial information through unsolicited e-mails. If you’re entitled to a refund, it will be mailed to you. You may also choose direct deposit on the refund section of your tax return. Include your financial institution’s routing number and your account number. Make sure these numbers are accurate. Incorrect numbers can cause your refund to be misdirected or delayed. The Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union’s (OEFCU) nine-digit routing number is 321176260. To deposit your refund to your savings account, use the six-digit member number found on your statement. To deposit your refund to your checking account, use the 12-digit account number found on the bottom of your checks. All checking account numbers start with three zeros. That’s all you need to do to have your refund securely deposited electronically into your checking or savings account. This way, you’ll avoid checks lost in the mail, and you’ll receive your refund in half the time compared to regular mail. To securely check the status of your refund, go to “Where’s My Refund?” at www.irs.gov. Another way to check the status of your refund is to call the IRS refund hotline at (800) 829-1954.

With all this information on hand, you can now comfortably ignore all e-mail requests supposedly coming from the IRS. Whether the subject line promises refunds or threatens an audit, be cautious.

1099-R

Your 2005 1099-R form for pension payments and lump-sum annuity payments, including the details of any federal or state income tax you may have authorized, were mailed to you by Jan. 31. If you note any discrepancies with your personal records or did not receive your 1099-R, contact the Trust Fund office at (800) 251-5014 or the Fringe Benefits Service Center at (800) 532-2105.

Medicare Q&A

What happens when I become eligible for Medicare?

Members and spouses covered with the Pensioned Operating Engineers Health & Welfare Trust Fund eligible for Medicare benefits must enroll in parts A and B of the Medicare program. Failure to enroll will result in the plan’s denial of charges that would have been paid by Medicare, regardless of whether the eligible member or spouse has enrolled in the Medicare program. From the point the member or spouse becomes eligible for Medicare, the Pensioned Health & Welfare Trust Fund becomes the secondary payer. This means Medicare will pay on the charges first, and the Trust Fund will pay the appropriate remaining balance.

Members and spouses eligible for Medicare benefits and on the Kaiser plan must enroll in the Kaiser Senior Advantage Plan if they wish to remain with Kaiser. Once enrolled in the Senior Advantage Plan, all prescriptions must be purchased from Kaiser pharmacies. The American Diversified Pharmacies/RxAmerica plan is not available to Kaiser Senior Advantage members.

What if I have Medicare, but my spouse isn’t old enough for Medicare or vice-versa?

If the spouse or member is not yet eligible for Medicare benefits, the plan will pay the appropriate portion of the covered expenses. As soon as the spouse or member becomes eligible to enroll for Medicare, s/he must do so or will suffer the reduction in benefits described above.

Cyber thieves are at it again. This time they’re posing as Internal Revenue Service (IRS) agents in an attempt to trick you out of your personal and financial information. Be aware of bogus e-mails claiming to come from taxrefund@irs.gov.

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Program progress report

It has been 22 months since I returned as the administrator of the Northern California Surveyors Joint Apprenticeship Committee (NCSJAC). I feel a progress report is an adequate method to relate activities since March 1, 2004. I have reintroduced myself to many of my longtime union acquaintances and friends and am developing new and positive relationships with those NCSJAC works closely with. Contact with related entities and employers is a must in this position, and through office visits, meetings, phone calls and written notices, I am working to establish a good rapport with all of our business associates.

The Technical Engineers’ successful organizing efforts have made it possible to open additional apprentice and journey-level classes in the following areas: Auburn, Watsonville, and for the first time in the history of Local 3, we began an apprenticeship training program in Reno.

For the past two years, review of our program and the status of each individual apprentice has taken up a large portion of my time. Each apprentice’s progress and attendance record was reviewed by myself and the NCSJAC staff, and together, we have started getting this program back on track.

The problem with the program was twofold: 1) a poor retention rate and 2) lack of classroom progress on the part of the apprentice and journey upgrade. Immediate steps were taken with specific requirements for apprentices and journey upgrades that included mandatory classroom attendance and maintenance of related training progress. We implemented a mandatory eight-step program to improve the retention rate.

A sub-committee was established to review deficient individuals and disciplinary action was taken to correct the deficiencies. However, these activities have not taken away from our regular activities, such as:

- New entrants testing
- Curriculum updating
- Record keeping
- Indenture of new apprentices
- Registration of new journey upgrades
- Outreach programs
- Annual Hands-on Competition
- GPS classes

Overall, the past two years have been productive with the great support of the Local 3 officers, employees and dedicated instructors and staff of the NCSJAC. We look forward to continually improving our program by supporting our surveyors in the advancement of technology, which then provides our employers with highly skilled craftspeople.

Everything we do has a direct impact on those around us

The treasurer has had columns in *Engineers Notes* occasionally in years past. As the new year is off and running, I will now have monthly columns elaborating on what goes on in my department and what changes are being made in the areas I oversee: San Francisco District 01, Rohnert Park District 10 and Oakland District 20, along with contracts, safety and winter training and the Local 3 IT department.

As I sit and think about it now, I’ve been involved in some capacity with construction for 30 years—beginning as soon as I was old enough to operate equipment, first in Texas and then in California. I was initiated into Local 3 in June 1976 and worked on cranes and drilling equipment in the fields, became dispatcher in 1988 for District 90, was elected in 1993 to the Grievance Committee in District 01 and was rehired as dispatcher for District 01 in 1994. I continued on to positions including business agent, assistant district representative, district representative, member of the Trustees, executive director of contracts and then was finally appointed by Business Manager John Bonilla as treasurer on Dec. 31, 2004.

It all began in the family, for me, since I was introduced to construction by my uncle in Texas who was a business agent; in watching him, I knew I wanted to be on staff in the industry. Once I started working in the union, I aspired to get as high as I could, because the work done in all the areas I’ve been involved with—from dispatcher to treasurer—has been for such a strong cause. This local is so huge, that everything you do, from running a forklift to changing contract language has a direct impact on the wages, fringe benefits and working conditions of more than 40,000 people in four different states, and rarely will you ever see them all or fathom that effect. This great union is about just that—the services rendered to and by the membership. All contribute to the quality of life for thousands. That is what drives me on in this capacity.

Beyond my personal aim for this union, I oversee a range of specific areas and will elaborate upon each as the months go by.

Currently, Contracts Administrator Sharon Costello, staff and I are working hard in the Contracts Department to improve the turnaround rate of all incoming contracts. There are thousands upon thousands of old contracts and new ones coming in, because every single dues-paying member from technical engineers to public employees is working under some kind of collective bargaining agreement. The Contracts Department monitors, processes and updates all the language in every single contract between Operating Engineers Local 3 and signatory employers in our four-state jurisdiction. It can be a chaotic world, but since my term as officer in charge of contracts, our turnaround rate has improved, as has the mobility in the actual office!

Other areas worth introducing to you and elaborating upon later include the positive changes made to the Health and Welfare Plan, ground covered with the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program inherent to the Basic Crafts Alliance (BCA), the new dispatch module going live in April and a whole new computer software system intended to simplify the contract and database procedures. More updates on those areas to follow.

It has been wonderful working for and within this great union, and I look forward to sharing more about my departments and my goals within this column. This organization is built on the dedication and heart of every one of you, and I am happy to be a part of that and will do what I can as long as I can, to maintain and improve Local 3.

MISSION STATEMENT

At Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3, our mission is to build and maintain an organization that provides the best possible member service by:

- Providing quality jobs through organizing and political activism
- Negotiating the best possible wages, fringe benefits and working conditions
- Providing journey and apprentice level training that is second to none
Wanting what you have

Recent presidential administrations have not been as labor friendly as many of us would have liked. Our organization, the same as any corporate machine, has to function in the environment in which we exist.

That being said, we had a record year at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC). Over the years, the average number of students (apprentices and journey-level operators) who have come through RMTC was around 600, with a record year in 2004 of 869.

I’m happy to report that we set an even bigger record in 2005. A total of 1,599 journey-level operators and apprentices received training. This is a testament to the current officer administration and the work ethic and commitment of the instructors, coordinators, cafeteria staff and clerical personnel who work at RMTC. A big thank you to all.

As we look ahead to 2006, we already have our first class of more than 50 students. It starts all over again. We have all heard the expressions “top down,” “bottom up” and “inside out.” It makes no difference which way we go. We’ve got a big job to do.

Some people may think our Operating Engineers Community Action Team (OE CAT) is a low priority, but that is a mistake. Some call it citizenship, personal responsibility or any number of different acronyms. The truth of the matter is that community involvement is as big a part of the training we receive as Operating Engineers as anything we teach. We must be aware of the environmental and social conditions in which we live and work. If we are to continue to support those who went before us, we must be economically and socially aware of our political conditions, both in-house in our union, outside in our community and in our nation.

The biggest part of being prepared is being aware. It is not as important to have what you want as it is to want what you have. Focus on the positive, strengthen the weaknesses and continue to prosper in the new year. See you on the next one.

Automotive braking systems

Most vehicles come with one of three different types of braking systems: disc brakes, drum brakes and a combination of disc and drum brakes. Most modern vehicles come equipped with at least front disc and rear drum, while the better systems use disc brakes on all four wheels. The days of all drum brakes are gone.

Disc brakes have many advantages over drum brakes, and although there may be some disadvantages, when you need the brakes and hit the brake pedal, you’ll appreciate the four-wheel disc-braking system.

The disc brake shown here uses the brake fluid pressure to push the piston against the inner brake pad and at the same time, slide the caliper and the outer pad toward the disc, causing a clamping action on the disc. This friction causes the brake disc-rotor, which is attached to the vehicle’s wheel, to slow and/or stop the wheel from turning.

In this illustration, we are using the combination disc and drum brakes. When you step on the brake pedal, you force brake fluid from the master cylinder through the proportioning valve to the front and rear brakes, causing them to apply.

This is a simplified system, and in most cases, the master cylinder has a booster to assist in braking. Some of us remember when power brakes started appearing in cars. Before that, it was all muscle and – in panic situations – some prayer.

The proportioning valve distributes the proper amount of brake fluid to the front and rear brakes. In most vehicles, the front brakes do most of the braking. When you apply the brakes, the weight of the vehicle shifts toward the front wheels, so they require more force. If the same amount of force was applied to the rear brakes, they would try to lock up because of the loss of weight and traction on the rear wheels. This is one reason some manufacturers still use rear-drum brakes on certain models.

The drum brake shown here uses the brake fluid to fill the wheel cylinder, which expands the pistons in both directions, pressing the shoes and linings against the drum. This friction will slow and/or stop the drum, which is attached to the vehicle’s wheel.

Some disc brake pads have wear indicators that make a high-pitched squeal when the pads are worn. Oil and water on the braking surfaces will decrease the friction and make the brake less effective. If it’s oil, see a reputable mechanic. If it’s water, put a little pressure on the brake pedal to dry out the brakes. When traveling through puddles, slightly ride your brakes with your left foot to keep as much water as you can out. Then test your brakes right after exiting the water. You may have to dry them out some more.
Business Manager John Bonilla invites all Local 3 members and their families to attend the March 19 Semi-Annual Meeting at the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo, Calif. The meeting begins at 1 p.m. with registration at 10 a.m. A bag lunch will be served. The first Semi-Annual of 2006 is expected to draw a crowd of more than 2,000 members from across Local 3’s jurisdiction. So come out and join your union brothers and sisters for this exciting event, featuring:

- Updates from the officers about the state of your union
- Free health screenings
- Donated door prizes
- State-of-the-art outdoor equipment display
- OE3 stickers, T-shirts, jackets and hats for sale

The focus of this first 2006 Semi-Annual is to highlight the union’s nearly 70-year tradition of membership service. A tradition since 1939, membership service continues to be the No. 1 priority of Operating Engineers Local 3. Our mission is to build and maintain an organization that provides the best possible member service by: providing quality jobs through organizing and political activism, negotiating the best possible wages, fringe benefits and working conditions and providing journey- and apprentice-level training that is second to none.

All of us, the members, retirees, officers and staff, are dedicated to fulfilling the goals and objectives of our mission statement. Business Manager John Bonilla is committed to making the mission a reality and welcomes your active participation in helping us to achieve a better life for Local 3 members and their families.

Don’t miss it. Be a part of the union’s March 19 Semi-Annual Meeting.
Overlooking Lake Tahoe and the snow-capped mountains of the High Sierras, Local 3 Operating Engineers Bruce Maes, Ricardo Fernandez and Matt Dunlap of Bragg Crane are working 50- to 60-hour weeks, constructing three buildings for the new Village at Northstar.

“It’s pretty neat being up here in the mountains in all of this clean air,” said Bruce Maes, a 33-year Local 3 member. “Skiers are all over the place. They actually come right towards us – the lift is directly below me.”

Maes operates Crane One, a Liebherr 316 EC-H12, and 20-year member Ricardo Fernandez runs Crane Two, which is similar but slightly taller than Crane One. This is the first job for both cranes, which were sent in to the U.S. from Germany.

Crane One is 150-feet tall with a 197-foot jib. Crane Two stands 30 feet taller, at 180 feet, with a jib of equal length. The mobile crane working below Cranes One and Two is a Hydro 70-ton, operated by seven-year member Matt Dunlap.

The operators are working on Phase III of the project, which includes three five-story condominiums with retail space on the bottom floor. Phases I and II also included mixed-use, condo-retail buildings, as well as restaurants and an ice-skating rink. At buildout, the Village at Northstar will include seven new buildings, with 213 luxury condominiums.

To complete this project’s long to-do list, work crews took advantage of the dry season during the summer and fall of 2005 and continued into the winter season as weather permitted. Maes said it was busiest when they were working six and seven-10s and 12s, but the pace slowed down in December when the first snowstorms hit.

“We were so busy for a while there, it was getting to the point where you didn’t even know what day of the week it was,” Maes said.

The slowdown was a welcome change, especially for Maes, who is almost 55 and looking forward to retirement in April, when he plans to open his own business. In the meantime, he is taking some of the other operators, like Dunlap, under his wing and is getting them well trained on running tower cranes.

Maes is familiar with training, having gone through Local 3’s apprenticeship program in 1973 and having recently trained himself to use frequency drives. This is the latest technology in newer-model cranes, like Cranes One and Two. Maes said the learning curve to control the swing on the loads is pretty steep, especially if the operator is familiar with the older-style cranes, which aren’t equipped with frequency drives.

“The swing loaders don’t react the same,” Maes said. “The trolley and hoist are the same, but the swing loaders are a bear to get used to, if you’re used to the old style.”

Timing is everything when it comes to operating a crane. That goes for the swing loaders and for this jobsite in particular, since there are three cranes going at once and space is limited. The operators are in constant communication with each other throughout the day, so they know when and where the booms are moving.

As for the timing of Phase III completion, it depends on the weather. Cranes One and Two are expected to come down this summer. Then it’s on to the next job for two of these three crane operators. A new adventure in retirement awaits the other.
Surveyors map terrain, set boundaries in Birds Landing

Story and photos by Heidi Mills, managing editor

Editor’s note: This is a follow-up report on the article, “Shiloh Wind Project: Operators power up the Montezuma Hills,” which ran in the December 2005 edition of Engineers News.

Local 3 surveyors Tom Holmberg and Gordon Clegg are currently working on the reconfiguration of the I-80/Leisure Town Road interchange and the widening of the Nut Tree overcrossing. All’s well on this typical surveying project, involving Right of Way mapping using GPS methods and Land Net software resulting in Boundary and Design maps. Same goes for their other, not-so-typical project in Birds Landing, Calif., involving Aerial Mapping and Airborne GPS.

Both Holmberg and Clegg work for Andregg Geomatics, a well-respected surveying and mapping firm based in Vacaville, Calif., that became signatory to Local 3 in 2004. The company specializes in geomatics, which is the science and art of collecting, analyzing and managing measurements and spatial data concerning the physical features, environment and geographical information of the earth. All’s well with Holmberg and Clegg’s work.

Gordon Clegg has 10 years in the union and has been with Andregg since he began working on the Shiloh Wind Project in August 2005. As a fourth-generation engineer, there’s no doubt surveying is in his blood. He says jokingly that it’s a “hereditary illness” of sorts. In truth, he says he loves his job.

In Birds Landing, Clegg is responsible for laying out the haul roads, the site locations of the wind turbines and the cable trenches from the turbines to the electrical substations. In a typical week, Clegg splits his time between this project and the interchange project on I-80.

Twenty-year Local 3 member Tom Holmberg began working on the Shiloh Wind Project back in March 2005, when spring was in the air and the hills were green. As project manager, he spent two months with two crews on the ground, setting boundaries and conducting aerial mapping. The crews worked six-10s and six-12s to finish the work.

Holmberg said the Airborne GPS technology, which is a relatively new technology to the surveying industry, made this project unique and easier than it would’ve been with only ground GPS because of the hilly terrain and the sheer size of the site at 90 square miles.

Holmberg explained that the way Airborne GPS works is quite interesting, even to nonsurveyor types. There’s a GPS receiver in the airplane, along with a camera in the belly of the plane and another GPS on the ground on control points. When the camera’s shutter is released, data is stored.

“It took us one day to measure out all these hills,” Holmberg said. “Then we spent two months in the office, compiling the data.”

Only then, after the data was compiled into maps and surveyor crews had set the site boundaries, could the construction operators begin their work erecting the towers.

Surveyors are typically the “first in” and “last out” on project jobsites, because their job must be completed before construction work can begin, and then they return to check everything once construction is completed. It’s often necessary for them to conduct checkups throughout the process of construction as well.

Clegg and Holmberg will have more work ahead of them in the Montezuma Hills. Since Congress extended the funding of this project in December 2005, for another two years, more wind turbines are in order. That’s more work for Local 3 surveyors and construction operators. All’s well, indeed.


Brain teaser

Problem 105: A strip of land is to be purchased for a 150-foot-wide highway right-of-way. Calculate how much area is being taken without using coordinates.

Problem 106: Where did the extra square unit come from?

From left: Party Chief Jim Fisher and Chainman Jason Paris on the job Dec. 7 in Watsonville, Calif. These members work for Dunbar & Craig Land Surveyors, which is based in Santa Cruz.

Solutions can be found at www.profsurv.com. Click on the puzzle piece icon titled “Problem Corner.”

From left: Local 3 surveyors Tom Holmberg and Gordon Clegg work for Andregg Geomatics on the Shiloh Wind Project in Birds Landing, Calif.
Now is the time in District 30

We are already in the second month of the year, and now is the time to ensure you are prepared for the approaching work season. If you registered on the out-of-work list when the rains came last year, you should contact the Stockton District office ASAP to check on your status. If it is necessary, renew your registration. For the brothers and sisters who qualify for the “A” or “B” list, your out-of-work registration lasts for 84 days from the date you registered. A registration on the “C” list expires at the end of each month. The people called off the out-of-work list must monitor their status on the list and keep it current.

Another way to return to work quicker is to take advantage of training classes provided by Local 3. During the winter months, we have classes to enhance the skills of members, making them more valuable to the employers and increasing their work hours. In the Stockton Hall, we conduct eight-hour Hazmat refresher classes and gradesetting classes. Additional training is available at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC).

Contact the district office for more information on training at the Ranch.

Interest rates remain low enough to keep the private work market busy. As the rains diminish – depending on what Paxtony Phil has to say about it – we have a large volume of work waiting for members as soon as the ground allows the iron to hit the dirt. One project of particular interest is at Diablo Grande in the hills, west of I-5 and Patterson. This is a planned community/destination resort development that has provided significant hours of work for members. Similar to several projects in the Stockton District, this project has a total build-out of about 30 years, so there is about 25 more years of continuing work to provide job opportunities for members.

The Stockton District staff hopes everyone had a good holiday season and has a safe and productive year in 2006. We hope to see a large turnout at the Semi-Annual Meeting on March 19 at the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo. It is always a worthwhile event, so save the date. Hope to see you there.

District 04 Apprentice Spotlight

Michael F. Bullis. Michael is currently a third-step apprentice training with FCI Constructors.

Michael does oiling for Excavator Operator Billy Skinner. Michael sets and checks grade in metric and reads plans. He’s also getting seat time on the dozer and excavator and is excited about his training. The crew is excavating areas to accommodate pile drivers for the state Hwy. 4 bypass in Oakley, Calif. Michael hopes to become a gradesetter, blade operator or both.

“I’ve really learned a lot here at FCI; they are giving me some great training,” he said.

Special thanks to Michael and his family for all the time they have given in phone banking, precinct walking and attending the Vallejo City Council meetings. Michael has a positive attitude and is an exemplary, dedicated apprentice.

More news: Winter is upon us, but that doesn’t mean work has stopped for Northern Solano County. Several large projects are going and will continue through the rain.

In Vacaville, Rudolph & Sletten continues work on the Kaiser expansion job, along with MJB Pipeline, Conco, RGW and Zayas Excavating, to name a few. Next door to that project is the Genentech project. DPR has recently taken over as contract manager, so work will gear up as predicted. Numerous contractors are working on that project, as well. Bridge jobs are starting at Leisure Town Road and Nut Tree Road. Other contractors with work in Vacaville include DeSilva Gates, Teichert, Ghilotti Construction, Ghilotti Bros., MCM and St. Francis Electric.

Road work in Fairfield has slowed considerably, although the work picture looks good for next year. Several new projects broke ground just before the rain hit. Teichert started the next phase of the Peterson Ranch project, and Duran & Venables started the site work on a new school in Rolling Hills. Carone & Co. started work on a new school in Cordelia, and Ghilotti Construction, Ghilotti Bros. and North Bay Construction are stop and go on several local jobs.

For the rest of Northern Solano County, other projects like the Shiloh I Wind Project are still going, and in Rio Vista, Balfour Beatty continues work on the new sewage treatment plant.

With the recent rains, a number of new jobs are starting up in Napa and Western Solano County. Silverado Contractors began removing deck sections on the old Carquinez Bridge in Vallejo in preparation for its demolition. California Engineering Contractors will lower the middle section of the bridge using strand jacks. The final phase of the demolition involves the removal of the cantilevered sections using the strand jacks again.

Peninsula Crane and Rigging began the structural steel erection on a six-story addition at Kaiser Hospital in Vallejo. D’Arcy and Harty in Vallejo are well into a sewer project and expect completion soon. Argonaut Construction is widening American Canyon from 9 a.m. to noon, we are hosting a country breakfast. More information regarding the menu and location will follow. Plan to attend this function. The entire family will enjoy it. Remember to work safe.

FROM STOCKTON

President Bob Miller swears in 10 new members at a recent Fairfield District meeting. New members include: Adam Burton, Luisa Barrio, Steve McGrath, Matt Hilton, Rogue Flores, Dennis Weber, Christopher Forcier, Randy Lyon, William Lee and Curtis Gaddy.

FROM FAIRFIELD
Cold foam is the future in District 10

Argonaut Constructors brings the future to Fort Bragg in the form of new roadway recycling technology. Argonaut and Western Stabilization recently reconstructed Franklin Street from Cypress to Oak Street using a method known as cold-foam injection.

Cold-foam injection is also known as foamed asphalt-based stabilization and is a roadway recycling process in which the entire pavement and some of the underlying material is pulverized and treated with a foamed asphalt additive to produce an improved, stabilized base. In 1956, Professor Ladis Csanyi at Iowa State University discovered that hot liquid asphalt reacts when a small amount of cold water is injected into it. A foaming action expands the asphalt, making the asphalt mixable in the same way that beating an egg white makes it easier to mix with dry ingredients. Particles stick together and form a paste that doesn’t harden immediately.

The construction process enlists the use of recycling or mixing machines to pulverize the existing road surface. After the surface is pulverized, a dry cement or fly ash additive may be added. The mixing machine is then coupled to an asphalt tanker, also known as an oil truck, and a water truck. In a train-style operation, the recycler pushes the oil truck in front and pulls the water truck behind while injecting hot asphalt (oil) and cold water into the pulverized material as it mixes. While the foaming action may take less than 15 seconds, once mixed with aggregates, the foamed asphalt remains workable long enough to finish compacting, grading and rolling. Typically, the foamed asphalt is compacted with a sheep-foot roller, rough graded, compacted with a smooth-drum roller, fine graded, and then may be finished with a pneumatic rubber-tire roller.

The cold-foam injection method produces a high-quality product and is more environmentally friendly than traditional demolition and reconstruction, because it recycles materials from the existing roadway. These materials reduce the need to acquire and transport virgin materials, which are rising in cost, since permits for aggregate extraction become more difficult to obtain and local high-quality material sources decrease in production. The re-use of existing pavement conserves material and energy, since the old material is not hauled away and discarded. Reduced truck traffic to and from the jobsite translates into reduced fuel consumption and vehicle emission levels. Energy is also conserved, because only the bitumen needs to be heated. Air quality is not as severely impacted, because no evaporation occurs, and volatiles are not released as they would be in conventional asphalt construction. The foamed-asphalt process rebuilds the roadway from the bottom up and can eliminate symptomatic problems associated with the existing road bed, such as reflective cracking and shallow base failure. Foamed asphalt is more flexible and fatigue-resistant than cemented materials, with strength characteristics approaching those of cemented materials. Foamed asphalt can be used with a wider range of aggregate types than other cold mix processes. Foamed binder increases sheer strength and reduces moisture susceptibility of granular materials.

Compared to conventional road construction methods, such as dig-out and overlay or gut-out and rebuild, foamed asphalt decreases the time spent in the work zone. Distance from the hot plant is not a factor, since all heating and mixing is done at the worksite. Weather does not significantly affect the workability or the quality of the finished product, which allows work completion in cold weather and even light rain. Foamed asphalt can be compacted immediately and can carry traffic almost immediately following compaction. Often the entire process, from pulverizing and injecting to finished rolling, can be completed in 30 to 45 minutes. With a maximum workability window of about three-and-a-half hours, a highly skilled and talented team of Operating Engineers capable of producing finished roadway at an exceptional pace is essential to the success of the project. That is just what Argonaut Constructors and Western Stabilization provided the city of Fort Bragg with. Fort Bragg Engineer Laura B. Parsons was thrilled with the speed and efficiency of the project and the minimal impact construction had on the neighborhood businesses. Fort Bragg is looking forward to future projects using this method.

Foamed-asphalt-based stabilization produces a stronger, longer lasting pavement at a fraction of the cost and time required for conventional reconstruction. Foamed asphalt is a viable, cost effective and environmentally sensitive method to rehabilitate a roadway or street that has significantly deteriorated from wear or was not originally constructed with a proper structural section.

On a sad note, Retiree Dean Harlan passed away Dec. 27 at his home in Brookings, Ore. He was 80 years old. Dean was an Executive Board member in the 1970s in District 10 and a Local 3 member since 1962. Dean’s son, Dennis Harlan, is a retired Operating Engineer who teaches District 10’s gradesetting class. Dean’s grandson, Darcy, is a current member and Grievance Committee member. The Harlans seem to have Local 3 involvement in their blood. Condolences can be sent to his widow, Lawanda Harlan, at 98602 Camellia Drive, Brookings, Ore, 97415.

Mark your calendars for our annual Rohnert Park District picnic May 13 at the Founders’ Grove Sonoma County Fairgrounds from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Food will be served from noon to 2 p.m.
district reports

District 12 holds first toy drive

This past December, District 12 hosted its first-ever toy drive for the Primary Children’s Hospital in Salt Lake City. We were pleased to collect a huge amount of toys, clothing and other much-needed items for the hospital. A big thank you is in order for all members and their families who willingly contributed to this fine cause. The toy drive was such a success, we hope to continue this new tradition each holiday season.

The toys were delivered to the hospital on Dec. 20, just in time for Christmas. Our donations were well-received by the Primary Children’s Hospital staff, which included Local 3’s endorsed Utah House Representative Tim Cosgrove of District 44.

We offer our appreciation again to all those who contributed. We’re grateful for your support and know the kids had a happy Christmas thanks to you.

FROM YUBA CITY

New employers, new work in District 60

Hello, brothers and sisters. A new year is upon us. Yuba City District staff hopes everyone had fruitful holidays; may all your New Year’s resolutions come true. It should be a productive year for us. A lot of subdivision and private work is finishing up from last year, and there is more on the way. We need to keep our fingers crossed that the interest rates don’t skyrocket.

Public work also looks great this year. In December 2005, DeSilva Gates was the apparent low bidder on the Hwy. 149 project valued at more than $77 million. Since then, bids have pulled back. Caltrans re-advertised the job on Dec. 5, and will open the new bids Jan. 11. The top bidders were signatory employers. We should know soon who won the new bid and will keep you posted.

District 60 welcomes new signatory employer TEG Surveying from Chico and new members Scott Grigoruk, Clinton Whitehead, Jessie White and Casey Pilkinton.

Congratulations to all who helped defeat Schwarzenegger’s anti-union propositions. This was a job well done. Remember: We need to keep a watchful eye on those in government.

Become an Operating Engineers Community Action Team (OE CAT) activist now, by calling the Yuba City District office at (530) 743-7321.

Mark the following date and time on your calendar: Yuba City Pre-Retirement Meeting, Feb. 23, Veterans’ Memorial Center, 211 17th St., Marysville, Calif., 7 p.m.

Have a safe and prosperous season.

FROM FRESNO

District 50 organizes the unorganized

Welcome to 2006. We had an excellent work and organizing year in 2005, but we have much to look forward to this new year. Due to the increased highway funding, there will be lots of work. We hope some of the money will be used for Fresno District 50.

Some goals for this year include electing politicians to help us reach our long-term goals and to organize the unorganized with the help of new organizer and 10-year member Dean Carlton.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the following events:

- Feb. 2: Pre-Retirement Meeting, 7 p.m., Fresno Hall
- Feb. 25: Eight-Hour Hazmat Class, 7 a.m., Fresno Hall
- April 22: Fresno Spring Golf Tournament, 8 a.m., Airways Golf Course
- April 23: Fresno District Picnic, 12 p.m., Kearney Park

Congratulations to Mario Villarreal for his advancement to journey-level operator on Dec. 12. Mario began working as a laborer for Emmett’s Excavation in November 1999 and was sponsored into the Operating Engineers apprenticeship program in November 2001.

We also congratulate the following apprentices in their apprenticeship advancement: Lance Mathis, James Quesada and Ryan Shannon.

FROM MORGAN HILL

Property transfers and plans keep District 90 hopping

District 90 is happy to welcome the new year with planned construction projects keeping the four-county area busy for the next eight to 10 years. Fort Ord, a military installation located on Monterey Peninsula, was downsized in 1993. Then a new development agency, Fort Ord Re-Use Authority (FORA), was organized.

The Re-Use Authority is developing a general plan, and the affected communities within its scope are negotiating and implementing their respective plans. This is a large undertaking. It affects a number of cities, and the estimated cost for construction is $6 billion to $8 billion.

FORA has a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) beginning this year. The program anticipates $122 million for transportation and transit projects to include about $27 million in state highways, $87 million in offsite improvements, $86 million in onsite (Fort Ord) improvements and $12 million allocated to transit centers and vehicles.

Lots more is scheduled down the road. Monterey County will receive a property transfer of more than 21,000 acres of land, the city of Marina will get more than 3,100 acres, city of Seaside will get about 3,000 acres, city of Del Rey Oaks will get 361 acres and city of Monterey will get 136 acres. Each individual community has its own project in the works. Marina has been the most proactive and certified its housing element this past year. The following development projects are scheduled to begin: Marina Heights, a 1,050-housing-unit project on 248 acres, Cypress Knolls, a gated senior community with 480 duplexes, 72 affordable rental units and a 60-bed assisted living facility and University Villages, a mixed-use village center with retail and office spaces and 1,237 new housing units.

Currently, Granite Construction, DeSilva Gates and Pacific States Environmental are working at Fort Ord on a number of initial projects.

District 90 will report all new changes as they happen.
Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Contest Rules for 2006

Applications available at district offices, credit union branches and www.oe3.org

The Local 3 officers and Executive Board understand that the workplace is rapidly changing, and many jobs now require new 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 that 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 senior high school students who have, or will be, graduated at the end of either: 1) the fall semester (beginning in 2005) or: 2) the spring semester (beginning in 2006), in public, private or parochial schools who are planning to attend a college or university anywhere in the U.S. 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, 2006 and March 31, 2006.

AWARDING ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Upon receipt of the application and required forms, Local 3 will not indicate in any way that one applicant should be favored over another. Based on factors normally used in awarding academic scholarships, the University Scholarship Selection Committee will submit recommendations for finalists to the Local 3 Executive Board. The list of potential winners and their qualifications will be reviewed and studied by the Executive Board and the scholarship winners 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 the random-draw scholarships; therefore, only one application is required. Twenty $500 random-draw scholarships will be awarded at Local 3’s July Executive Board meeting. Applicants need not be present to win.

INSTRUCTIONS

All of the following items must be received by March 31, 2006:

1. The application is to be filled out and returned by the applicant.
2. The report on the applicant and transcript is to be filled out by the high school principal or person he or she designates and returned directly to Local 3 by the official completing it.
3. One to three letters of recommendation giving information about the applicant's character and ability. These may be from teachers, community leaders, family friends or others who know the applicant. Please submit all letters of recommendation with the application.
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.

RANDOM-DRAW SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to the four academic scholarships, Local 3 will award 20 $500 random-draw scholarships. The names of all applicants will be entered into a drawing held at Local 3’s July Executive Board meeting. Applicants need not be present to win.

Random-draw 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 a 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.

Applications will be accepted from Jan. 1, 2006 to March 31, 2006. 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

Academic and random-draw scholarship applications are available at the local’s district offices, credit union branches and www.oe3.org. It is the applicant’s responsibility to submit the application on time to:

Robert L. Wise
Recording-Corresponding Secretary
Operating Engineers Local 3
1620 South Loop Road
Alameda, CA 94502-7090

Yes!

I would like to support the Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Fund. Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of:

[ ] $20  [ ] $50  [ ] $100  [ ] Other __________

CLIP OUT & MAIL TO: ROBERT L. WISE, RECORDING-CORRESPONDING SECRETARY • OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL UNION NO. 3 • 1620 SOUTH LOOP RD., ALAMEDA, CA 94502-7090
District Meetings
All meetings convene at 7 p.m.

February 2006

2nd District 10: Ukiah*
    Hampton Inn
    1160 Airport Blvd.

7th District 40: Eureka
    Best Western Bayshore Inn
    3500 Broadway

8th District 70: Redding
    Engineers’ Building
    20308 Engineers Lane

9th District 60: Oroville
    Southside Oroville Community Center
    2959 Lower Wyandotte

23rd District 01: Burlingame
    Machinists’ Hall
    1511 Rollins Road

March 2006

2nd District 04: Fairfield*
    Cordelia Fire District
    2155 Cordelia Road

6th District 17: Kauai
    Kauai High School Cafeteria
    Lihue

7th District 17: Honolulu
    Washington Intermediate Cafeteria
    1633 S. King St.

8th District 17: Hilo
    Hilo ILWU Hall
    100 W. Lanikaula St.

9th District 17: Kona
    King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel
    75-5660 Palani Road

10th District 17: Maui
    Maui Beach Hotel
    170 Kaahumanu Ave.

22nd District 12: Salt Lake City*
    Hilton Salt Lake City Airport
    5151 Wiley Post Way

23rd District 01: Reno
    Engineers’ Building
    1290 Corporate Blvd.

April 2006

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

5th District 50: Fresno
    Cedar Lanes
    3131 N. Cedar

6th District 30: Stockton
    Italian Athletic Club
    3541 Cherryland Drive

13th District 80: West Sacramento
    ILWU Hall
    600 4th St.

20th District 20: Concord
    Concord Centre
    5298 Clayton Road

* Please note location change.

Election of Market and Geographic Area Committee Members

Business Manager John Bonilla has announced the election of Market and Geographic Area Committee Members will take place at each district’s regularly scheduled district meeting, except for Hawaii, during the first quarter of 2006 with eligibility rules as follows:

1) Must be a member in good standing of the parent local.
2) Must be living in the committee’s geographical area.
3) Must be working/making a living in the industry in that area.
4) Must be an “A” Journey-level operator.
5) Cannot be an owner-operator.
6) No member will be nominated unless s/he is present at the meeting and will accept the nomination and position, if elected.
7) No member is allowed to serve more than two consecutive terms on the Market and Geographic Area Committees.

The schedule of the meetings at which these elections will be held appears on this page under “District Meetings.”

2006 Grievance Committee Election

Rec. Corres. Secretary Rob Wise has announced that in accordance with Article X, Section 10 of the Local Union Bylaws, the election of Grievance Committees will take place at the first regular quarterly district meeting of 2006.

The schedule of meetings at which these elections will be held appears on this page under “District Meetings.”

Pre-Retirement Meetings

Planning for your retirement is important. Your Local 3 retirement benefits will generally comprise a major portion of your retirement income. We encourage you and your spouse to attend these meetings and become familiar with all aspects of your retirement benefits. These benefits have a direct bearing on your financial security and deserve your attention.

All meetings convene at 7 p.m.

STOCKTON
    Tuesday, Jan. 31
    Operating Engineers’ Building
    1916 N. Broadway

FRESNO
    Thursday, Feb. 2
    Operating Engineers’ Building
    4856 N. Cedar

MORGAN HILL
    Tuesday, Feb. 7
    Operating Engineers’ Building
    325 Digital Drive

WATSONVILLE
    Wednesday, Feb. 8
    VFW Post 1716
    1960 Freedom Blvd.
    Freedom

CONCORD
    Wednesday, Feb. 15
    Centre Concord
    5298 Clayton Road

MORNING HILL
    Wednesday, Feb. 16
    Operating Engineers’ Building
    1620 South Loop Road
    Alameda

EUREKA
    Tuesday, Feb. 21
    Best Western Bayshore Inn
    3500 Broadway

REDDING
    Wednesday, Feb. 22
    Operating Engineers’ Building
    20308 Engineers Lane

YUBA CITY
    Thursday, Feb. 23
    Veterans’ Memorial Center
    211 17th St.
    Marysville

OE3 welcomes new members

Local 3 is proud to welcome the following new members who were sworn in at the December 2005 district meetings:

District 04: Fairfield
    Luisa Barrio
    Adam Burton
    Rogue E. Flores
    Christopher Forcier
    Curtis Gaddy
    Matt Hilton
    William Lee III
    Randy Lyon
    Steve McGrath
    Dennis Weber Sr.

District 11: Reno
    Michael T. Findley
    Matthew R. Hobbs

The following member was inadvertently omitted from the 51-plus years of service list in the December 2005 issue of Engineers News:

Nolen D. Young 0418171

Operating Engineers Local 3 welcomes the following new contractors:

Oakland District 20
    California Track and Engineering

Fresno District 50
    Advanced GeoSolutions

Alameda
Election committee notice

Rec. Corres. Secretary Rob Wise announces that in conformity with Article XII, Section 3(b), Elections, of the Local Union Bylaws, elections will be held at the first regular district meeting in each district beginning in March for Members of the Election Committee, which will conduct an election in August 2006 of Officers and Executive Board Members.

ARTICLE XII, SECTION 3, ELECTIONS:

(a) The election of Officers and District Members of the Local Union Executive Board shall be held during the month of August by mail referendum vote of the Membership of this Local Union under the supervision of the Election Committee and a nationally known firm of certified public accountants, selected by the Executive Board, with such other technical and legal assistance as may be provided.

(b) The election shall be conducted by a committee known as the Election Committee, composed of one (1) Member from each District in which nominations will be made. The Member shall be nominated and elected by secret ballot at the regular quarterly or specially called District Meetings by vote of those Members present whose last known address, as shown on the records of the Local Union ten (10) days prior to the first such District Meeting in March preceding the election, was within the area covered by the District. Each nominee shall be a registered voter in the District in which he or she is nominated, shall have been a Member of Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 for one (1) year preceding his or her nomination and election, and shall not be a candidate, or nominator of a candidate for any Office or Position.

The nominee for Committee Member in each District receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected, and, in the event he or she is unable, or unwilling to serve, shall be replaced by the nominee with the next highest number of votes, and so on, until the list of nominees is exhausted.

Meetings to elect the Election Committee:

- All meetings convene at 7 p.m.
- Thursday, March 2 *
  - District 04: Fairfield Cordelia Fire District
  - 2155 Cordelia Road
- Monday, March 6
  - District 17: Kauai
  - Kauai High School Cafeteria
- Tuesday, March 7
  - District 17: Honolulu
  - Washington Intermediate School Cafeteria
  - 1633 S. King St.
- Wednesday, March 8
  - District 17: Hilo
  - ILWU Hall
  - 100 W. LaniKaula St.
- Thursday, March 9
  - District 17: Kona
  - King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel
  - 75-5660 Kalani Road
- Friday, March 10
  - District 17: Maui
  - Maui Beach Hotel
  - 170 Kaahumanu Ave.
- Wednesday, March 22 *
  - District 12: Salt Lake City
  - Hilton Salt Lake City Airport
  - 5151 Wiley Post Way
- Thursday, March 23
  - District 11: Reno
  - Engineers’ Building
  - 1290 Corporate Blvd.

Tuesday, April 4
- District 90: Morgan Hill
- Engineers’ Building
- 325 Digital Drive

Wednesday, April 5
- District 50: Fresno
- Cedar Lanes
- 3131 N. Cedar

Thursday, April 6
- District 30: Stockton
- Italian Athletic Club
- 3541 Cherryland Drive

Tuesday, May 9
- District 40: Eureka
- Best Western Bayshore Inn
- 3500 Broadway

Wednesday, May 10
- District 70: Redding
- Engineers’ Building
- 20308 Engineers Lane

Tuesday, May 11
- District 60: Marysville
- Veterans’ Memorial Center
- 211 17th St.

Thursday, May 18
- District 01: Burlingame
- Machinists’ Hall
- 1511 Rollins Road

*Please note location change.

HONORARY MEMBERS

The following retirees have 35 or more years of membership in Local 3 as of December 2005 and are eligible for Honorary Membership effective Jan. 1, 2006, unless otherwise noted.

Ken Allen * 0879522
Arlyn Anderson 1414699
Gary Burg 1461530
Oscar F. Carlson 0726672
Herbert W. DeCambra 2077246
Don Hays Sr. 2031618
Jack P. Russo 1351484
Paul V. Sarazen 1391988
George Shim 1391992
Paul Szezkojlo 1446738
Gary Webster 1463803

Stockton District 30
Utah District 12
Oakland District 20
Out of Area District 99
Hawaii District 17
Hawaii District 17
Morgan Hill District 90
Hawaii District 17
Hawaii District 17
Out of Area District 99

* Effective October 2005

Deceased Dependents

AA, Gertrude. Wife of AA, Albert 11-15-05
Adamson, Cecelia. Wife of Adamson, Silas L. 10-24-05
Angelina, Angelina. Wife of Angelin, Conrad (dec) 12-09-05
Caswell, Flora. Wife of Caswell, Cecil (dec) 11-12-05
Gano, Carole. Wife of Gano, Donald 10-11-05
Griffin, Essie. Wife of Griffin, Robert (dec) 11-11-05
Hunt, Jacqueline. Wife of Hunt, Claude (dec) 11-25-05
Kalei, Josephine. Wife of Kalei, Walter 11-28-05
Kennedy, Darlene. Wife of Kennedy, Robert C. 11-13-05
McNees, Brenda. Wife of McNees, Carson L. 12-04-05
Oliveira, Blanca. Wife of Oliveira, Donald 12-08-05
Pearson, Carol. Wife of Pearson, Ivan 11-12-05
Ruiz, Janet. Wife of Ruiz, Gilbert C. 12-15-05
Fujimoto, Carole. Ex-spouse of Shibuya, Rodgers 10-23-05
Vaillant, Leta. Wife of Vaillant, Robert 11-18-05
Welch, Kathryn. Wife of Welch, Calvin 12-06-05

Departed Members

Our condolences to the family and friends of the following departed members:

Blair, Howard
Martinez, CA
12-18-05

Campbell, David
Oakley, CA
12-08-05

Cameron, John
Yerington, NV
09-07-05

Castlesberry, Bill
Marysville, CA
10-23-05

Davis, Melvin
Sacramento, CA
10-20-05

Dietrich, Henry
Fremont, CA
09-27-05

Eckles, Arnold
Placerville, CA
10-18-05

Faulk, Timothy
Montague, CA
10-12-05

Galvin, Everett
Clayton, CA
10-24-05

Godfrey, John
Willoxs, CA
10-04-05

Green, Harold
Ogden, UT
10-03-05

Griffiths, Robert
Stockton, CA
11-12-05

Hargraves, Delbert
Livermore, CA
10-10-05

Hayter, Darrell
Susanville, CA
11-08-05

Hill, Thomas
Newark, CA
11-14-05

Hollingsworth, Robert
Livermore, CA
10-30-05

Lamoree, David
Benicia, CA
10-23-05

Langford, Jeffrey
Taylorsville, UT
10-25-05

Lee, James
Kerman, CA
08-05-05

McKenzie, Brooke
Rio Linda, CA
10-16-05

Medina, Edwin
Westlake Village, CA
11-18-05

O’Neil, Jack
Arnold, CA
10-26-05

Perry, Gene
Taylor, AZ
11-05-05

Phillips, Earl
Novato, CA
11-19-05

Posten, Peter
Clovis, CA
10-30-05

Reed, Stanley
Fresno, CA
11-12-05

Reynolds, Richard
Sierra Vista, AZ
11-29-05

Rivas, Augustine
Sunnyvale, CA
11-01-05

Russell, Raymond
San Francisco, CA
11-14-05

Sharpe, Kenneth
San Pablo, CA
12-16-05

Silverii, Carmen
Meadow Vista, CA
09-09-05

Spangler, Tim
Manteca, CA
11-18-05

Strang, William
Santa Cruz, CA
10-25-05

Torrijos, Robert
Lathrop, CA
11-19-05

Vail, F.
Spokane, WA
10-06-05
Swap Shop ads MUST include your registration number and contact phone number in order to be included. Ads received later than the first of the month will be printed in the following month.
Weather can’t shut down the shoot

The Nevada economy continues its strong performance. Unemployment is at a national low at about 4 percent. Job growth average is between 6 percent and 7 percent.

The work picture for construction jobs in 2006 is promising. Residential growth may slow; however, road, highway and commercial site work will increase. Many big projects have been completed, including the train trench and part of the Carson Bypass. Other sizeable projects starting soon include another phase of the Carson Bypass, the roadway for I-580 South and the new addition to the Tracy Power Plant.

The start of a new year brings new responsibilities. This is a reminder to keep the hall updated on all address and phone number changes, make sure you are registered to vote and read all Local 3 correspondence.

Operating Engineers Health and Welfare improvements have been made due to the stability of the Health and Welfare Fund. To ensure the continued stability of the fund, use only Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) doctors, hospitals and labs and whenever possible, use generic drugs.

The first Reno snow storm of the year found local unions gathering together for the first AFL-CIO trap shoot of 2006. Local 3 was represented by Eli Walker Jr., Leo Roysdon, Sonny Williams and Paul McKenzie. The rain and snow may have shut down the work, but it didn’t shut down the shoot. The AFL-CIO trap shoots are a fund-raiser for political candidates supported by union affiliates in the state. Later in the year, unions from Southern Nevada will come to the line in Las Vegas, while unions from Northern Nevada will shoot in Reno to crown a state champion for the year.

Remember: Work safe and stay active in Local 3 and volunteer for Operating Engineers Community Action Team (OE CAT) activities. See you at our next district meeting on March 23.

Kauai gets busy

As mentioned before, not since 1992’s Hurricane Iniki has there been such a boom in the construction industry on this island. Local 3 signatory contractors and members are busy and will remain busy through 2007 as Honolulu-based contractors are back and bidding on more and more work. Some of the larger contractors currently on Kauai are Earthworks, Goodfellow Brothers, Parsons/RCI, Koga Engineering and Niu Construction.

Current and upcoming large projects include: $1.5 billion Kauai Lagoons; Coco Palms’ 200 condos with 104 hotel rooms, restaurants and a spa; a Schuler Homes 56-unit development in Puhi; Courtyard by Marriott’s 195-unit condo resort development in Waipouli; Alexander & Baldwin’s 135 condos and single-family homes development in Port Allen; Knudsen Trust’s $40 million project in Poipu and Poipu Realty Partners’ 635 multi-family unit near Poipu Village.

Members fish Oahu

Local 3’s silver fishermen are the “reel” deal. Mixing business with pleasure, Local 3 members went fishing on the island of Oahu. Known by many as the “silver fisherman,” these guys not only know how to operate equipment, they also master the seas, especially Retiree Albert Vesely, who took 45 minutes reeling in a 201-pound Blue Marlin, proving once again, Local 3 members truly are jacks of all trades.
Hello from the North Coast. We wish everyone a prosperous new year with hopes of a safe and productive 2006 work season.

First, we want to remind members that our first quarter Eureka District meeting is Feb. 7 at the Bayshore Inn Best Western in Eureka at 7 p.m. The first meeting of the calendar year is always important. We elect Grievance and Market Geographic Area Committees, and we have an update evaluation of the work picture for the upcoming season.

Next, we want to remind everyone that the Eureka Crab Feed is Feb. 18. This annual event is our version of a picnic. We have good rates at local hotels. Ticket prices are $20 for retirees, $25 for active members and $40 at the door. Please get your tickets early, as this event can and has sold out. There may not be tickets available at the door. We have a lot of great prizes for our dutch raffle – including our famous redwood carved bears. Music will be provided by Skid Marx and his Incredible Staynes. Please call (707) 443-7328 for tickets or room information.

As far as the work picture goes, Kiewit is hoping to break ground at Humboldt State University on a $35 million project in March. Going to bid this year is the Alton Overpass and frontage roads at Hwys. 36 near Fortuna and Hwys. 101. Both Mad River bridges on Hwys. 101 at McKinleyville will be going to bid sooner than we thought and may begin this year as opposed to 2007. Please attend the Feb. 7 Eureka District meeting for updates on these projects.

Wishing everyone a safe and prosperous work season,
Steve, Carol, Nancy and Tina

**Many projects go to bid in District 40**

With the start of the new year, we are thankful we could work through Christmas. The projection for 2006 is busy. We will continue the West Park Project on Fiddyment Road where Teichert, Ford Construction, Lund, Kiewit, Top Grade and Marques Pipeline are plugging away. Teichert also has the Athens Connector Project, a road connecting Athens to Foothills Boulevard, which will decrease traffic for casino-bound travelers. Construction throughout the Roseville, Lincoln and Rocklin areas is still heavy. 

**Harry Crab Tunnel a success**

The completed Harry Crab Tunnel will decrease stalled traffic for drivers heading north on Sunrise Boulevard. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new tunnel was held Dec. 16.

After two years of hard work, R&L Brosamer and the city of Roseville are happy to have completed the Harry Crab Tunnel at the Douglas Boulevard and Sunrise interchange. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Dec. 16. More than a dozen classic hot rods were the first vehicles to enter the tunnel, followed by two Roseville buses.

The tunnel is designed for traffic heading north on Sunrise Boulevard. These drivers can enter the tunnel and come out on the eastbound I-80 onramp. As for traffic heading east on Douglas, drivers can access Sunrise southbound by taking the new crossover ramp that goes over I-80. The cost of this project was more than $35 million.

Please come to the annual Eureka Crab Feed

**When:** Presidents Day Weekend Saturday, Feb. 18

**Where:** Eureka Elks Club
445 Herrick Ave., Eureka, Calif.

**Schedule:** No-host cocktails 4:30 p.m.
Dinner 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

**Cost:** $20 per person
$25 per retiree
$40 at the door

**Menu:** Crab, pasta, salad and all the trimmings
Door prizes • Dutch raffle

There is limited seating, so buy your tickets now. Please call the Eureka office, (707) 443-7328 or your district office.

**FROM SACRAMENTO**

District 80 Business Agent John Bonilla Jr. presents member Frank Munar with his 40-year pin. Frank recently retired in January.

From left: Member Ramon Sanchez receives his 25-year pin from Business Agent Rob Carrion.