For The Good & Welfare
By Russ Burns, business manager

Bylaws resolution ready for membership approval

I want to start off by thanking our Bylaws Committee for their hard work these past couple of months on behalf of the Local 3 membership. The committee met for the first time in January and spent two days together discussing Article VI of our bylaws, the section on membership dues. They did a fantastic job working through the issues, discussing the ideas brought forth by the members in their districts and incorporating that feedback into their resolution. I was impressed to see how well the membership and the Bylaws Committee worked together in accomplishing this important task. It was also impressive to see how well the committee worked with the officers at these meetings.

If you attended your last district meeting, you probably heard the story about how the Bylaws Committee respectfully asked the officers to step outside the conference room while in the middle of one of their meetings. The committee's explanation in doing so was that they wanted to discuss an issue among themselves and no one else. With equal respect, the officers left the meeting until they were called back in to hear the committee's decision on the issue. The meeting proceeded, and in the end, the committee came up with what everyone feels is a good resolution. That resolution is now being circulated at the district halls and district meetings for membership approval.

According to the bylaws, we must collect 300 signatures from members in good standing in order to make any revisions to the bylaws. From there, the Bylaws Committee has to verify the signatures on the resolution, and then it can go to the Executive Board for approval. If approved by E-board, the resolution will be distributed to the membership at the Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 18 at the Solano County Fairgrounds. An affirmative vote by the membership at the Semi-Annual will move the resolution for a vote of the membership in each district during special-called meetings in April. As you can see, this is a long and involved process that requires the cooperation of all the Local 3 membership, officers and staff. While it may seem burdensome, the process is necessary to accomplish our goal of revising the bylaws.

I think it's important that we all continue working together to support the Bylaws Committee as they move forward in their objective of revising our bylaws.

The committee will resume meeting in March to make further changes to the bylaws, beginning with the first section through the end. Chairman Bill Burns has informed me the committee intends to work their way through each and every section.

As with the dues resolution, any future resolutions proposed by the Bylaws Committee will be distributed for your review and approval.

In closing, I want to offer my sincerest thanks to the membership for offering up your thoughts and ideas to the Bylaws Committee. Your feedback is what we need to continue with our revisions. If you need to get in touch with your committee representatives, you can talk with them at your next district meeting or through your district office.

As always, I look forward to seeing you and your families March 18 at the Semi-Annual.

In solidarity,

Russ Burns
Business Manager
IUOE General Vice President

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Engineers News (ISSN 176-560) is published monthly by Local 3 of the International Union of Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO, 1620 South Loop Rd., Alameda, CA 94502. Periodical postage paid at Alameda, CA and additional mailing offices. Engineers News is sent without charge to all members of Operating Engineers Local 3 in good standing. Non-member subscription price is $6 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Address Change, 1620 South Loop Rd., Alameda, CA 94502.
In the News

Engineers News calls for Letters to the Editor

In response to the membership's overwhelming feedback for a Letters to the Editor section in the Engineers News, we are making an official call for your letters. We plan on offering this service to you with the newly designed edition of the paper in April 2007. Consider this a section for your comments and questions about articles and information featured in Engineers News. The Letters to the Editor is another way the Local 3 officer administration is working to encourage member feedback and transparency within the union.

Please note: Any concerns regarding issues not related to Engineers News should be addressed at your local district meetings.

Letters to the Editor should be 200 or fewer words and are subject to editing. The use of offensive language and unsubstantiated, personal accusations will not be permitted. Letters must include your name, address and registration number.

To submit a letter by mail:
Letters to the Editor
Operating Engineers Local 3
3920 Lennane Dr.
Sacramento, CA 95834

By fax: (916) 419-3487

By e-mail: newsletters@oe3.org

Happy writing!

Members build playground at women's center in San Jose

A women's care center in San Jose now has a colorful playground complete with a swing set, slide and monkey bars, thanks to a group of Local 3 volunteers and Top Grade Construction.

The need for a playground at the Parisi House on the Hill, a residential care center for women and their children, prompted the center's coordinator to contact the local Building and Construction Trades Council for help late last summer. The council in turn contacted Local 3, and within a matter of weeks, Top Grade Construction had committed the people-power and machinery to get the job done.

During one Saturday in October, Local 3 members Steve Egger, Mike Holthouse, Martin Calderon, Richard Ritter and Margarito Montiel worked to grade, level and compact the playground area. Then they put down an even layer of base rock.

"We were glad to do it," said Top Grade Superintendent Steve Egger. "Whenever we can help with something like this, we do it. If you know anything about Top Grade, you know that's our motto: 'Whatever it takes.'"

Many thanks to these Local 3 members and Top Grade Construction – you make this union proud.

Talking Points

Getting there together

By Fred Herschbach, president

Some days, I wake up and the smile is still on my face. It's certainly not because of the weather or because I get to sleep in – it's because of all of you. When I was a member in the field – don't get me wrong – I loved it. I loved the work and the prospect of the finish line – knowing that I was building something that would exist when it had not before. But on jobsites, I met only the people on that particular project. Addressing all of your concerns and listening to your thoughts during my time as your president has opened my eyes to just how large we really are. I know you've heard the number before, 40,000 members, but you can't really fathom until you've traveled through the jurisdiction as I have and seen and met so many people all a part of Local 3, and their say is invaluable.

This is most apparent now, since the Bylaws Committee you elected has been meeting. Their membership-dues resolution is now being circulated among the district halls to be brought to your attention for approval in the near future. They are a great crew, and they want nothing more than to do what's right by this local. There will be more information on this ahead, but the existence of a Bylaws Committee reminds me just how democratic we are and how invaluable your say really is. It is great to be a part of such a large organization, a powerful organization, and to still feel important and necessary – that's what unions are all about.

I keep smiling because as I keep meeting people, I am more proud of Local 3 every day. Take for instance your Executive Board: They go after the details and leave no stone unturned. They ask the right questions and do a great job.

And the new faces coming up – the apprentices – are learning whole new skill-sets, skills focused on the future, which is where we must be in order to survive and thrive. Please note: Focused on the future is this spring's Semi-Annual theme, and I hope you can come on out, visit some interactive booths, check out the new Local 3 shirts and get informed about your future. Within the apprenticeship program, we're working hard to make some positive changes with that future always in mind and again, this comes down to people – great people in the apprenticeship program and on staff training them. Great people making me smile.

Speaking of staff, the current district-representative training has proven successful, as Treasurer Dan Reding and I have been working with the reps to ensure the agents are representing the members in the best way possible. They can only do that, brothers and sisters, with your feedback, so again, I urge you to attend every meeting you can, sort through the information and help us help you.

In closing, I want to thank you again for giving me cause for smiling. There is plenty of good in the road ahead, and we're getting there together.
VOTE: Voice of the Engineer

By now you’ve probably seen the new Carhartt jackets Local 3 agents and coordinators are wearing out in the field. If you looked at their jackets closely, you might have also noticed the logo on the chest. This is the new logo of the Local 3 VOTE program, formerly the Operating Engineers Community Action Team (OE CAT). VOTE is a reference to the act of casting a ballot in an election, but it is also an acronym that stands for Voice of the Engineer.

With a new officer administration comes new ideas, new faces and ultimately – change. Changing the name from OE CAT to VOTE is just one new aspect of the program. The officers have also decided upon new and improved gifts for our volunteer participants, including Carhartt jackets, Stanley thermoses, six-inch buck knives and belt buckles.

As we’ve done in the past, gifts will be awarded based on the amount of volunteer hours members contribute during a designated election cycle. In addition, we will continue the tradition of recognizing a Volunteer of the Year from each district at the September Semi-Annual Meeting.

You will learn in the coming months that although some aspects of the program have changed, the concept has not. The primary purpose of the VOTE program is to build power and strength for working people through the election of labor-friendly candidates and legislation. It is our duty as citizens and union activists to meet the challenge of making our communities a better place to live and work. It is our duty to vote. Therefore, we encourage all members – active and retired – to get informed and involved in Local 3 by joining the VOTE program. To find out what you can do, contact your business agent or district office for a schedule of activities in your area.

LABOR NEWS WATCH

In an effort to keep our membership informed of labor issues in the news across the nation, we have added a new section to the Engineers News: Labor News Watch. We hope this information helps you understand the issues and trends important to the livelihood of the labor movement and that it motivates you to get involved.

Tell Congress to raise the minimum wage

With your help, we can hold the new Congress to its promise to make a minimum-wage increase one of its first priorities. As lawmakers receive thousands of messages from worker activists around the country, please add your voice.

Full-time workers at the minimum wage earn just $206 a week. That’s not enough to keep even a small family out of poverty. For many hard-working, low-wage earners, it’s not enough to put food on the table, a roof overhead and shoes on the children’s feet.

Facts & Stats
1. Minimum-wage workers haven’t gotten a raise in nine years.
2. Yes, in America you CAN work full-time and still be poor.
3. Nine big, fat raises – that’s what congressional leaders have given themselves while blocking attempts to raise the minimum wage.
4. Those congressional pay raises add up to $31,600 per member per year – three times a minimum-wage worker’s total annual salary.
5. In 2003, workers paid an average of $2,283 for employment-based family health insurance. That’s 20 percent of a minimum-wage worker’s $10,712 full-time, full-year earnings.
6. At the current federal minimum-wage rate of $5.15, a minimum-wage worker has to work 11.2 hours to pay for one tank of gas.
7. The chair of the Arizona anti-increase group, Jobs First, said most minimum-wage workers who are not high school students or first-jobbers are “people who are retired and say, ‘Hey, we want to do this more as a way of biding our time.’” Ask the grandma taking your order at a local fast-food place if she’s doing it for fun.
8. Even greedy Wal-Mart supports a minimum-wage increase so its low-wage customers can afford to buy more.
9. Many of the people we pay the least care for the people we love the most. Home-health aides caring for our elderly parents and child-care workers would benefit from a minimum-wage increase.
10. Most Americans want the minimum wage increased. Congressional leaders are NOT blocking the increase to please their constituents. Please encourage others you know to call their members of Congress today, and urge at least 10 friends to contact their representatives with this message:
   • I strongly urge you to vote to increase the nation’s minimum wage from $5.15 an hour to $7.25 with no anti-worker amendments.
   • Minimum-wage workers have not gotten a raise since 1997 – it’s long overdue.
   • We elected this new Congress to work for working families. Start by passing a clean minimum-wage bill.

What the governor’s health-care proposal means for you

In January, Gov. Schwarzenegger announced a proposal for health-care reform. While the governor’s proposal includes some positive elements, it is the wrong prescription for California’s health-care crisis. The governor’s plan shifts the responsibility for health-care costs onto already overburdened workers and their families.

This proposal will be a boon to insurance companies, but a bust for most workers. We are concerned about the governor’s proposal for three fundamental reasons:
1. This plan requires all Californians to buy health insurance with no guarantee it will be affordable or that coverage will be adequate.
2. It is a burden on the middle class. For families who earn over 250 percent of the federal poverty level ($50,000 for a family of four), there will be no subsidy available.
3. With a low contribution rate required for employers, there is a risk they may drop their health-care coverage and instead pay the 4 percent-of-payroll option under Schwarzenegger’s plan. This is significantly less than what many employers currently pay.

The governor’s proposal does not meet the principles labor has adopted for health-care reform this year. For more information on labor’s health-care principles and other reform proposals, visit http://www.calaborfed.org/issues_politics/healthcare/index.html.
Sign up on the out-of-work list

With the winter weather upon us, we have received a number of questions regarding the procedure on filing for unemployment. The following outlines the general process for surveyors and inspectors.

Surveyors

1. Contact the dispatcher in your local office, and get on the out-of-work list for your classification. Be sure you are a member in good standing, and your dues are current. Inform the dispatcher where you are willing to travel to secure work, and ensure the phone number on file is current. If you have a cell phone, make sure that number is available.

2. The following is a list of surveyor classifications:
   - 4021 – licensed land surveyor >2000 hours
   - 4025 – licensed land surveyor <2000 hours
   - 1171 – certified chief of party (any one certification, up to five certifications)
   - 1131 – one or two certifications
   - 1151 – three or four certifications
   - 1161 – five certifications
   - 3761 – instrumentman
   - 1111 – employer-qualified chainman (NCSJAC) Apprenticeship Program and allows the member to be dispatched to other participating employers should the need arise.

   All self-qualified member employees must take the Journey-level Qualification Test – an assessment test within 90 days from the first date of employment. This ensures the self-qualified member receives the quality training offered by the Northern California Surveyors Joint Apprenticeship Committee (NCSJAC) Apprenticeship Program and allows the member to be dispatched to other participating employers should the need arise.

Inspectors

1. Sign up on the out-of-work lists in the areas you are willing to work.

2. The following is a list of inspector classifications:
   - 9111 – trainee
   - 9121 – engineer tech
   - 9131 – senior engineer tech 1
   - 9141 – senior engineer tech 2
   - 9151 – tech 1
   - 9161 – tech 2
   - 9722 – construction inspector apprentice, period 1
   - 9723 – construction inspector apprentice, period 2
   - 9724 – construction inspector apprentice, period 3
   - 9725 – construction inspector apprentice, period 4
   - 9726 – construction inspector apprentice, period 5
   - 9911 – first-period apprentice
   - 9921 – second-period apprentice
   - 9931 – third-period apprentice
   - 9941 – fourth-period apprentice
   - 9951 – fifth-period apprentice
   - 9961 – sixth-period apprentice
   - 9971 – seventh-period apprentice
   - 9981 – eighth-period apprentice
   - 9111 – trainee
   - 9121 – instrumentman
   - 6311 – chainman/rodman

   3. Once you have signed up on the out-of-work lists, call a business representative – we may be able to direct you to an employer in need of your skills. Special inspectors are in extremely high demand. Special inspectors are in extremely high demand. This current shortage is dependent upon the number and types of certifications you hold.

Organizing

Workers will not suffer in the dark

In the old days of unionism, an organizer could take a simple straight-forward approach to organizing workers. If you were bottom-up organizing, a willing workforce and the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) were all you needed to successfully organize and get a contract. Top-down organizing was easier, because you didn’t have as many non-union competitors ready to undercut the union employers at any chance.

Today, the situation is much more complex. Workers and union organizers who rely solely on the NLRB to organize are almost guaranteed to fail. As I have touched on in previous columns, these workers usually face harassment, intimidation and loss of their jobs if they take on an employer with the NLRB as their only resource.

This year, brothers and sisters, we bring all our resources to support workers wanting to form a union with Local 3. Whether it is top-down organizing or bottom-up organizing, we must approach organizing campaigns in new and innovative ways.

Organizing drives require the cooperation of the entire membership. We need to get back to the days when the saying, “an injury to one is an injury to all,” meant something. We must stand by workers who are brave enough to organize in today’s hostile labor environment. We must do our best to take back our market share, stave off attacks on our livelihood and protect the rights so many have worked hard to preserve.

It is also imperative we ask our politicians, community leaders and stakeholders to support our organizing efforts. In addition, we need to employ cunning strategies and tactics to support organizing, so workers trying to organize have some leverage in their uphill battles.

Most importantly, we must let employers know that if they harass, intimidate or fire workers attempting to form a union with the largest and most powerful construction trades local in the U.S. – the Operating Engineers Local 3 – their dirty deeds will not go unnoticed. Workers will not suffer in the dark. The employers violating workers’ constitutional right to freedom of association will be held accountable by the entire membership and community, and we will demand they give us a voice in the workplace.
Fringe Benefits
By Charlie Warren, director

Pension Fund Q&A

What is the pension fund?

The Pension Trust Fund is a plan that allows members to earn a monthly pension benefit when they are eligible to retire. To be eligible for a pension benefit at retirement, a member must earn the required years of Credited Service (pension credit) to vest under the plan rules and meet other conditions, such as attaining the age requirements, filing the necessary application and retiring.

How do I earn Credited Service (pension credit)?

Credited Service is based on hours worked and contributions from your employer as required by the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). You need at least 1,000 hours reported by your employer, per calendar year, for a full year of Credited Service. Fractional credit may be earned if you work at least 350 hours but less than 1,000 hours. Credit is currently granted as follows:

- 1,000 or more hours: 1 year of Credited Service
- 750 to 999 hours: 3/4 year of Credited Service
- 500 to 749 hours: 1/2 year of Credited Service
- 350 to 499 hours: 1/4 year of Credited Service
- Less than 350 hours: no credit

If I work more than 1,000 hours in a year, can I earn more than one year of Credited Service?

No. One credit in a calendar year is the most you can earn; however, if you have more than 1,000 hours, the value of your credit increases.

How is the value of my credit determined?

The formula below is used to determine the value of Credited Service:

\[
\text{Value of Credit} = \text{Hours reported} \times \text{Contribution rate} \times \text{Benefit-factor percent}
\]

For example, if you work 1,400 hours with a contribution rate of 4.00 and a benefit-percent factor of 3 percent, you would plug in the numbers as follows: 1,400 X 4.00 X 3 percent = $8168 per month at full retirement age.

Who can I talk to if I need additional information?

You may call the Trust Fund office at (800) 251-5014 or (510) 433-4422 or the Fringe Benefits Service Center at (800) 532-2105 or (510) 748-7450. Refer to the Summary Plan Description for full details.

Pre-Retirement Meetings

It's never too early to plan for your retirement and learn a bit about our excellent plans. Join us at the next meeting in your area. We'll have plenty of time to discuss the pension, retiree medical and annuity plans with you and your spouse. See you there.

All meetings convene at 7 p.m.

District 90: WATSONVILLE
Thursday, Feb. 1
VFW Post 1716
1960 Freedom Blvd.
Fremont

District 30: STOCKTON
Tuesday, Feb. 6
Operating Engineers’ Building
1916 N. Broadway

District 50: SACRAMENTO
Wednesday, Feb. 7
Operating Engineers’ Building
4044 N. Freeway Blvd., Ste. 200

District 20: OAKLAND
Thursday, Feb. 15
Operating Engineers’ Building
1620 South Loop Road
Alameda

District 40: EUREKA
Tuesday, Feb. 20
Best Western Bayshore Inn
3500 Broadway

District 70: REDDING
Wednesday, Feb. 21
Operating Engineers’ Building
20308 Engineers Lane

District 60: YUBA CITY
Thursday, Feb. 22
Veterans’ Memorial Center
211 17th St.
Marysville

District 20: CONCORD
Tuesday, Feb. 27
Centre Concord
5298 Clayton Road

District 50: FRESNO
Wednesday, Feb. 28
Operating Engineers’ Building
4856 N. Cedar

In sympathy

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Auburn Chapter Chairman Al Dalton. Al was one of Local 3’s charter members and helped build Local 3 to be the great union it is today. We will miss him a lot. We wish to extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Mary, and to the entire Dalton family.

Vard Gregory Stockton · 1946 – 2007
Remembered as the guy who could do the hard jobs

Vard Stockton passed away Jan. 4, 2007, with family members by his side at home in Healdsburg, Calif. He fought a valiant but short fight with liver cancer. Vard was a Local 3 Operating Engineer since 1970, having started in the industry as an apprentice working for Case Drilling. He soon developed a taste for cranes and went to work for Santa Rosa Crane and Rigging and then later, Marin Van and Storage, which became Reliable Crane and Rigging. Throughout the years, Vard’s hard work and tenacity turned into a full partnership as an owner.

With more than 36 years of service to the union and the industry, Vard developed a reputation as someone who could do the “hard jobs.” He not only estimated and set up work, he would run the crane – any crane – to get the job done. Right up until he became ill, Vard Stockton was a crane operator at heart and a damn fine one at that.

Quite a few of you apprentices and operators out there owe a debt of gratitude to Vard, the man who was willing to take a chance on you, show you what he knew and share his experiences to get the job done right, safely – albeit sometimes at the limit. Many of you learned, earned or burned your stripes while working on one of the many “Vard’s jobs” that earned you a good living.

The crane and rigging industry and the Operating Engineers lost someone who the likes of will not be seen again. If you were fortunate to have crossed Vard’s path in your career, you know what we mean.

Vard leaves behind his wife, Konda Stockton; son, Vard Stockton Jr. (a second-generation Operating Engineer); and daughter, Shainnie Wade.
2007 winter training schedule

Winter safety training classes are well underway. Now is the time to update or add to your safety certification. Below is the remaining 2007 winter safety training schedule. Classes fill up quickly, so sign up early to ensure your seat. Classes without the minimum number of signups are subject to cancellation.

California schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 9</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.</td>
<td>District 10: Rohnert Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.</td>
<td>District 10: Eureka</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 24</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Alameda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 26 - March 2</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.</td>
<td>RMTC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 26-27</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.</td>
<td>RMTC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 28, March 1</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.</td>
<td>RMTC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.</td>
<td>District 70: Redding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.</td>
<td>District 10: Rohnert Park</td>
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To sign up for classes in California, call your district office dispatcher.

Nevada schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 3</td>
<td>8 a.m. – 5 p.m.</td>
<td>Reno Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 5-9</td>
<td>8 a.m. – 5 p.m.</td>
<td>Nevada Training Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 10</td>
<td>8 a.m. – 5 p.m.</td>
<td>Nevada Training Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 8</td>
<td>8 a.m. – 5 p.m.</td>
<td>Nevada Training Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Nevada Training Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Nevada Training Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>8 a.m. – 5 p.m.</td>
<td>Reno Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 14</td>
<td>7 a.m. – 5 p.m.</td>
<td>Reno Hall</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

To sign up for classes in Nevada, call (775) 575-2729 or sign up at dispatch.


Please note: Utah and Hawaii training classes have ended or are in session for the winter.

Apprenticeship Spotlight

District 50: Fresno

We congratulate David Jimenez for advancing to journey-level operator. David works for Granite Construction in Fresno and has experience on the skip loader, loader, backhoe, excavator, support blade, forklift, dozer, compactor, cold roller and asphalt roller. He also has experience in gradesetting and gradechecking and as a screedman and assistant to the engineer.

We also congratulate several apprentices on their advancements through the program, including Mark Rodriguez, Lance Mathis, Bennie Provencio, Kyle Mittel, Luis Alvarado and Carri Martin.

Mark Rodriguez recently advanced to second-period apprentice. He works for Bill Nelson General Engineering as a lube truck apprentice.

Lance Mathis advanced to third-period apprentice. Lance is a mechanic for Don Berry Construction.


Luis Alvarado and Carri Martin advanced to fifth-period apprentices. Luis works for Lee’s Paving, and Carri works for Emmett’s Excavation.
When is it best to refinance your home?

Addressing the issue from four points of view

If you are like most people, your home is your most valuable financial asset, and your mortgage is your largest debt. Consequently, periodically examining your existing mortgage and potential mortgage options makes sense. As part of this review, be sure to include four factors – interest rate, type of mortgage, your future plans and tax consequences.

First, consider interest rates

Even though mortgage rates have increased since 2003 (when rates were at record lows), they are currently very low compared to historical norms. If you did not refinance or get your original mortgage during the last period of low rates, be sure to compare your existing rate with current rates. Our union credit union, Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union (OEFCU), will take the time to provide you with the information you need.

Second, consider the kind of mortgage that best fits your needs

Interest rates charged on mortgages vary greatly depending on the type of mortgage:

- Fixed-rate mortgages offer the benefit of “locking in” a rate and knowing exactly what your payments will be for the term of the mortgage. In most cases, the longer the term of the loan, the higher the rate. For example, the rate on a 30-year mortgage might be 6.25 percent compared to only 5.75 percent for a 15-year mortgage. For a mortgage of $250,000, the difference in total interest payments over the life of the mortgage is more than $171,000.

- Adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) usually offer lower rates and payments initially; however, the rate may be revised periodically as the financial world changes. ARMs with shorter initial rate terms usually offer lower interest rates than those with longer initial interest-rate terms.

Third, consider your future plans

When reviewing your mortgage options, be sure to factor in how long you think you intend to stay in your home, as well as your ability to handle potentially higher rates in the future if you opt for an ARM. If you plan to downsize and move to a smaller home in a few years, a five-year ARM will provide a much lower interest rate than a traditional 15- or 30-year fixed-rate mortgage. When determining if refinancing with a different type of mortgage makes sense, you owe it to yourself to seek professional assistance from an independent party that’s not looking to make a commission on your decision. This is where OEFCU can help you. Ask the credit union for a couple of options, and have them “run the numbers” for you. OEFCU home loans and refinancing is available in all 50 states.

Fourth, consider the tax benefits

If you itemize your tax deductions, the interest you pay on your mortgage or a home-equity loan is probably deductible. Refinancing your mortgage and taking cash out or using a home-equity loan from our credit union could provide the money to pay off higher interest-rate loans, like credit cards or auto loans. Refinancing can also provide you with a tax deduction. Check with your tax adviser for details before you make a decision.

Seize the day and take control

No one knows whether interest rates are going up or down in the future. But remember, current interest rates are low compared to historical norms. Be sure to examine your mortgage in light of today’s rates while making sure your mortgage matches your plans for the future.

If you’d like your options spelled out for you, so you can make positive, informed decisions, contact the OEFCU Lending Center at (877) 516-8657 or contact a member-service representative at (800) 877-4444. They’ll help you find an affordable loan to fit your current situation.
Operating Engineers Local 3: Focused on the future

Local 3 Semi-Annual Meeting · Sunday, March 18, 2007 · Solano County Fairgrounds

It’s time to prepare for another Semi-Annual Meeting, and since the focal point of this year’s event is focused on the future, Business Manager Russ Burns is pleased to invite you, your family and friends and hopes you’ll focus ahead and plan to attend this March 18 meeting at the Solano County Fairgrounds.

You can be sure the agenda of events will offer up the usual array of fun for adults and kids alike, such as health-screening booths, the Rancho Murieta state-of-the-art outdoor equipment display, donated door prizes and the balloon-giving clown. Yet, there will also be some surprises, including some new OE3 T-shirts, hats and jackets, as well as an Engineers News historical display with archived papers dating back to the 40’s.

Operating Engineers Local 3 is focused on the future – technologically and philosophically. We continue to improve our training facilities with journey-level upgrade classes, the newest equipment and an intensive apprenticeship program in order to produce the best-skilled operators in the industry. We continue to maintain our transparent policy of letting you know the latest OE3 details as soon as we do. And yet we are not an industry full of complacency. We are ever aware of what’s ahead for the labor industry nation-wide, as well as within our own solid organization. We are also aware that we pack the political clout, the trained expertise and the negotiating skills because we come from a long line of men and women who fought the hardest battles before – we continue to honor our retirees.

The state of your union will be discussed at this event, and all points mentioned above will be clarified in detail, including the latest news from your Bylaws Committee. So, it’s worth the trip, and bring your family.

10 a.m. Registration, Health/Information/Equipment Fair
11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Fair continues through lunch
1 p.m. Meeting called to order
Post-meeting – 3:30 p.m. Health/Information/Equipment Fair resumes

Directions to the Solano County Fairgrounds

From Concord
Take I-680 north, go over Benicia Bridge
Take I-780 to Vallejo/Benicia (right lane)
Take I-80 east toward Sacramento
Take Hwy. 37 San Rafael exit
Take Fairgrounds Drive/Marine World exit
Turn left at stop light (Fairgrounds Drive)

From Napa
Take Hwy. 29 south to Vallejo
Where Hwy. 29 and Hwy. 37 meet, take Hwy. 37 east
Take Fairgrounds Drive/Marine World exit
Turn right at stop light (Fairgrounds Drive)

From San Francisco
Take I-80 west over the Bay Bridge toward Sacramento
Go about 25-30 miles, across Carquinez Bridge
Take Hwy. 37 Napa exit
Take Fairgrounds Drive/Marine World exit
Turn left at stop light (Fairgrounds Drive)

From Sacramento
Take I-80 west toward San Francisco
Take Hwy. 37 San Rafael exit
Take Fairgrounds Drive/Marine World exit
Turn left at stop light (Fairgrounds Drive)

Note: Once you turn on Fairgrounds Drive, Local 3 staff will show you where you can park.
Mixed-use development planned for Silicon Valley

Story and photos by Heidi Mills, managing editor

From a hilltop overlooking one of the largest demolition projects underway in the Silicon Valley, excavators can be seen in motion as far as the eye can see. The view is a mesmerizing process of powerful mechanical arms working to lift, lower and turn piles of rubble in surprisingly close proximity. No demolition balls are swinging; the job requires only excavators with thumb and crimper attachments.

The buildings coming down on this massive 332-acre site once belonged to the computer giant IBM and housed 11,000 of its workers. IBM sold the land to Hitachi Global Storage Technologies, Inc. in 2003 to capitalize on the profit of this prime piece of real estate. Nestled below beautiful green hills, the acreage is located in South San Jose near the Cottle Road exit off Hwy. 101.

With approval from the city of San Jose, Hitachi is now moving forward with plans for a more modern, mixed-use development. The company intends to convert the former IBM hub into a transit-oriented community with 3,400 residences, stores and greenbelts. A fire station, school and large strip mall with stores like Lowe’s Home Improvement are also planned for development.

To date, the city has re-zoned 125 acres for residential, retail and open-space use. Hitachi will retain 158 acres of industrial-zoned land for its own business and will develop an industrial campus to accommodate about 3 million square feet of office space and other commercial buildings. More than 40 acres will be devoted to roads and mass transit.

DeSilva Gates is the general contractor of the IBM-Hitachi Project and responsible for the dirt work, which includes earthmoving and subgrade. This phase of the project will employ 10 Local 3 members and a fleet of scrapers for the movement of 150,000 yards of dirt.

FERMA Corp. is the subcontractor on the job responsible for the majority of the demolition. Alongside the excavators, FERMA has dozers, loaders, compactors and a drop hammer working to clear away the rubble. The drop hammer is the most unique piece of equipment on the job and by far the noisiest, as it is used to impact and crack the foundations of the old buildings being torn down. Once the drop hammer cracks the foundation, excavators break down the concrete into smaller pieces and then feed them into portable rock crushers. The concrete that rolls off the crushers on conveyor belts will be reused as base rock for the new development. Other materials from the demolished buildings, such as metal, rebar and glass, are also being separated for recycle.

A subcontractor along with FERMA, Preston Pipelines has its hands full tearing out the old underground and placing new underground for the new facilities. Rudolph and Sletten is also involved as a subcontractor to the demolition work.

Nearly 50 Local 3 Operating Engineers are currently involved with the IBM-Hitachi Project. Dozens more will be dispatched to the site once the demolition is completed and construction commences on the new, mixed-use development.
FEBRUARY 2007 ENGINEERS NEWS

First-step Apprentice Daniel Foster runs a compactor for FERMA on the IBM jobsite in South San Jose.

Excavator Operator Alan Garcia works for FERMA at the IBM demolition site off Hwy. 101 in South San Jose.

Seven-year member Javier Garcia operates an excavator with a crimper attachment on the South San Jose IBM jobsite.

The seven-year member Javier Garcia operates an excavator with a crimper attachment on the South San Jose IBM jobsite.

Excavator Operator Elfuego Revolorio uses a crimper attachment to crush concrete for the portable rock crusher.

Operator Alex Calderon uses an excavator to remove underground pipeline from a nearby building on the IBM-Hitachi Project. He has 36 years in Local 3 and is looking forward to retiring in July.

First-step Apprentice Daniel Foster runs a compactor for FERMA on the IBM jobsite in South San Jose.

Excavator Operator Alan Garcia works for FERMA at the IBM demolition site off Hwy. 101 in South San Jose.

Seven-year member Javier Garcia operates an excavator with a crimper attachment on the South San Jose IBM jobsite.
Mechanic’s “hobby” somewhat of a local legend
Nooner and wife have sanctuary for kids and horses

By Mandy Jessup, associate editor

Upon first introductions, Heavy-Duty Repair (HDR) Mechanic Troy Nooner is a quiet man. He has worked at Peterson Tractor in Chico for 12 years – the same amount of time he has been an OE3 member. He seems most comfortable in the repair shop rebuilding transmissions and going about his business, the likes of which have not always been easy, since Troy has done about everything – mobile-home repair to gas station attendant – but the union was the best thing he joined.

“I never got paid like this with the benefits and never had anybody look out for my interests like Local 3 does,” he said.

Troy does not like to smile for photographs, and he thinks his quiet demeanor is just a case of “talking only when he has something to say.”

Yet, people still talk, and through word of mouth and the occasional Tehama County news stories, his after-work lifestyle became an interesting subject: He and his wife of 15 years, Christina, own a 22-acre horse ranch that has blossomed into a sanctuary for horses and people alike.

Aptly named Sunshine Sanctuary for Kids and Horses, the Nooner home provides an environment where kids, their parents and horses can feel safe learning from another while sharing love and compassion. For most visitors of the sanctuary, the time spent there is a cycle of nurturing and bonding with one or all of the 25 to 30 horses the Nooners care for (many of which were abandoned, neglected or abused), and in turn, feeling nurtured and loved themselves.

According to Troy, “When you put animals in the equation, things just happen.”

His wife agrees. The sanctuary rarely turns anyone away and has had partnerships with the local schools in Tehama County, Child Protective Services (CPS) and child abuse prevention programs.

“We help at-risk children, but anyone can come,” Christina said.

The sanctuary began after being just that – a sanctuary – for an injured, two-week-old foal. Christina rescued eight years ago, after its mother abandoned it. Christina knew she couldn’t let the U.C. Davis veterinarian hospital euthanize the foal, even though it had a one percent chance of surviving. Instead, Christina nurtured the foal back to health, sleeping with it at night and feeding it every two hours. Its survival was a miracle just like the sunshine, and so became its name and the name of the ranch.

Eventually, Sunshine Sanctuary grew as a place where injured or unwanted horses found a sanctuary, and in that process of healing, children and their parents felt healed from the struggles life hands down.

Animals are always “in the here and now,” Christina explains. “Horses are prey animals and not predators. They force people to meet them in the middle and leave aggression and fear at the door.”

When people deal with an animal in kindness and compassion, they learn that such behaviors reap tremendous awards.

“That is what being a Sunshine Kid is all about,” Nooner says. Before being accepted as a Sunshine Kid, children must make a pledge to treat all beings with kindness and to do their personal best in school.

Being a “Sunshine Kid,” has given hundreds of children something to look forward to when maybe their home situations were not the best or they could not afford to have a horse of their own to ride. It has also given adolescents an outlet away from trouble.

According to Ashley Bolt, 17, who has been coming to Sunshine Sanctuary for five years, Sunshine Sanctuary is her second home and has saved her.

“Where would I be without it?” Bolt plans to attend Shasta College in the fall to pursue veterinary medicine.

In dealing with gentle horses, children learn boundaries, patience and trust, while gaining self-esteem and the ability to give and follow directions. They also give older horses that would otherwise be euthanized or left to pasture, the ability to feel needed.

“This teaches children that they should be nice to Grandma and visit with her,” laughs Christina.

During the holidays, the Nooners put on a Christmas carnival, where some 500 children show up to ride the gentle horses and sit on Troy “Santa” Nooner’s lap. Through toy donations from the surrounding community, every child gets a toy.

Christina feels the work she does is her “angel work,” and it is possible because of Troy.

His job as a repair mechanic keeps the sanctuary running, though it’s not always easy, since the Nooners spend roughly $50,000 a year on feed for the horses, and that does not include medical care or equipment.

While the Nooners rarely turn away anyone who can’t pay, they have started charging for lessons, adopting out horses to good homes and calling for horse sponsor-ships from the public to keep costs down. They are also in need of volunteers to help teach kids to ride, as well as to care for the animals – some more “angel work” an OE3 retiree might be interested in.

Retirement is something Troy Nooner looks forward to, although he knows he won’t ever fully quit working, since he has a 22-acre sanctuary-ranch to maintain.

Working is clearly at the heart of the Nooners’ lifestyle, but as Christina feels, it’s the work of the angels that are “always here,” at the Sunshine Sanctuary.

If you or someone you know would like to help the Nooners through volunteer time or donations (the organization is a non-profit), contact the Sunshine Sanctuary at (530) 529-0183 or send donations to: Sunshine Sanctuary, 10931 Singer Ave., Los Molinos, Calif., 96055.
FROM BURLINGAME

San Francisco Recycle members get new contract

Spring is around the corner, and the work picture in District 01 looks good with more than $800 million in projects due to start. Some of the larger jobs include Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) at $90 million in Palo Alto, Kiewit with the $298 million Devil’s Slide Tunnel in Pacifica, Nibbi Brothers with the $55 million job at Mission Bay in San Francisco and Webcor with the $50 million Presidio Trust Project and the $65 million Foundry Square Project.

The historic PG&E plant on Evans Street in the Bayview section of San Francisco is history. Demolition started with Sheedy Crane taking down the 200-foot smoke stacks that have silhouetted the skyline for decades. The tank farm has already been removed by Iconco/LVI.

OE3 members at San Francisco Recycle recently ratified a new, five-year contract. OE3 members at San Francisco Recycle recently ratified a new, five-year contract. A special thanks to negotiation committee members Brad Paris and Dean Taylor for their hard work during the long negotiation period.

In Marin, Maggiora Ghilotti, Gordon N. Ball, Reliable Crane, Hillside Drilling and Condon Johnson are repairing storm damage and potential hazardous sections on Hwy. 1. W.K. McKlellan is doing underground work in Petaluma.

All and all, things look good in Marin County this winter.

Please welcome new Apprenticeship Coordinator Charlie Lavery to our office.

A reminder to all: The first 2007 Burlingame District meeting is Feb. 22 at 1511 Rollins Road in Burlingame at 7 p.m.

FROM MORGAN HILL

Hillsdale Rock Quarry staying busy through winter

Work in the Morgan Hill District is looking good with several large projects continuing throughout the winter season, including the IBM demolition in San Jose, construction of a new Target on Cochrane Road off Hwy. 101 and the expansion of the City of Hollister Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Hillsdale Rock Quarry in Hollister is also staying busy this winter, as it has for nearly 50 years. Owner Hank Matoza Jr. is a 59-year Local 3 member and one of the best signatories in the district. Matoza started his business in 1961 off Hillsdale Avenue in San Jose and moved to its current location in Hollister some years later. Because the Hollister pit spans 30 acres, it will take more than 50 years to extract all the material from the site. Ten Operating Engineers currently work for the Hillsdale Rock Quarry in Hollister.

In closing, we want to remind everyone to be safe, and please call the hall with any questions or concerns: (408) 465-8260.

Hillside Rock Quarry Foreman Ignacio “Nacho” Manglona at the company’s sand pit in Hollister. Manglona is a 25-year Local 3 member.

Hank Matoza Jr. is a 59-year Local 3 member and owner of Hillsdale Rock Quarry in Hollister, Calif., a Local 3 signatory for nearly 50 years.

FROM NEVADA

Peppermill Hotel Expansion keeps members busy

With winter upon us in Northern Nevada, most companies have slowed down. Granite Construction, Q&D Construction, Sierra Nevada Construction and TW/RTC keep a few members working on private jobs and performing winter maintenance on equipment.

The new year also brings some great new work for District 11. The $51 million second phase of the Carson City Freeway Bypass Project is due to bid Feb. 8.

Another project keeping members busy this upcoming season is the Cabella’s Sporting Goods Store recently awarded to T.W. Construction.

L.G. Constructors keeps several contractors busy at the Tracy Clark Power Plant, including Steel City Erectors, PMC, PSF Industries, Granite Construction, PAR Electric, Aker Kvaerner Songer and Harder Mechanical.

Work continues on the Peppermill Hotel Expansion with Lift Services erecting two tower cranes and also using two support cranes. TW/RTC and Pacific Rim continue underground and grading operations.

Lift Services’ twin-tower cranes work on the Peppermill Hotel Expansion Project, a job that employs many Operating Engineers.
Changes in the past and ahead

A new year brings reflection on what the Fresno District has attained since the beginning of September 2006. First of all, we have many new faces in the district office and some familiar faces in new positions. Much has also changed in the work picture, since the housing market in the area has dropped nearly 30 percent. The District 50 staff has been working hard to meet our goal of visiting all plants, shops, Unit 12 yards and major construction projects once every month. This goal has been difficult, but we will keep at it.

We are also working hard on grievance settlements, from as little as $65 a settlement to more than $40,000 a settlement. We attended training classes in the district hall and at Alameda to help us serve the membership better than ever. Politics is never-ending, but without political power, we wouldn’t have projects like the FCI and Granite Hwy. 99 jobs or Agee’s work in Livingston. The rock, sand and gravel, concrete batching and pumping and overlays work is also a product of politics.

Speaking of politics, Secretary Kathy Tarango-Smith, Business Rep. Doug Gorman and District Rep. Sam Uhler have been working tirelessly on a project for the city of Dos Palos that should pay off for years to come.

Under Business Manager Russ Burns and the current officer administration, the future looks good. We may have some humps along the road, but by standing together, we should have higher wages and a staff with more and better training than ever before. Also within the year, new contracts will be signed, such as the one with Bush Engineering of Hanford that the staff recently achieved. Bush does about $50 million in public works – mostly in schools – which will provide good, high-scale jobs for our members. Welcome to Dave Bush and his staff.

$4.5 billion expected for highway projects in District 10

In the Redwood Empire, work continues on several projects, even as the winter rains begin to roll in. The $111.5 million Hwy. 101 widening project through the heart of Santa Rosa remains on track for a 2008 completion, but stormy weather, extended concrete drying times and difficulty working in the rain-soaked ground has caused delays for some portions of the project. Overall, the three-mile project, which will add a carpool lane in each direction, remains on schedule as crews focus on areas not exposed to the elements.

Financial help for Sonoma County highway projects could be arriving soon. Nearly $4.5 billion is expected to be released early next year from Proposition 1B, the $20 billion transportation bond approved by voters Nov. 7 for highway projects targeting congestion relief, of which $1.8 billion goes to Northern California counties.

The Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission is requesting $1.9 billion, including $308 million for Sonoma County. Sonoma County is asking for $95 million to add a carpool lane between Steele Lane and Central Windsor, $78 million for a carpool lane between Wilfred Avenue and Railroad Avenue and $136 million for a carpool lane from the Petaluma Bridge through the Novato Narrows.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission recently voted on the list of eligible projects and proposals. The list will soon go to the California Transportation Commission which will review it alongside a Caltrans’ list before making a final decision. Final approval is due this month. More updates to follow.

Damage from last year’s winter storms, landslides and pavement failures exceeded $25 million in District 10 and created good work for our members. Some of the emergency projects from last year continue and others are getting started. Ghiolotti Bros. recently began a slide repair and wall project on Hwy. 128, and Argonaut Constructors started an emergency repair for Caltrans on Hwy. 1. Granite Construction is finishing up a retaining wall at Bodega Bay and starting a viaduct on River Road at Rio Nido. In addition, Granite Construction is expected to get back to its projects at Hwy. 20 and River Rock Casino as soon as weather permits. Granite also picked up a $250,000 railroad crossing in Redwood Valley for Mendocino County.

North Bay Construction reports it will do more than $100 million worth of work this year, and 80 percent of that amount is backlogged. Some of the new projects include the Payran Street reconstruction, Emyra Road widening, Mason Street widening, Aston Park Apartments in Sacramento and overlays in Tiburon and Petulama at Point Reyes Road.

North Bay is also proud to announce it’s gone “green” by using biodiesel on some projects.

Argonaut picked up the $4 million Franklin Street reconstruction project in Fort Bragg. Golden State Bridge was the low bidder on the 10-mile bridge project on Hwy. 1 north of Ft. Bragg with Mendocino Construction Services as the grading and paving subcontractor.
Signatory contractors win bid for Legacy Highway

The 2007 District 12 work picture looks good. W.W. Clyde & Company, Geneva Rock Products and Ames Construction were awarded the Legacy Highway Project with a 2008 completion date. The quarter-cent sales tax approved by voters in Salt Lake and Utah counties should advance transportation projects, including rail and highway work.

The private development market remains strong, and several projects will resume in the Park City area come spring. Wheeler Machinery Company and H&E Equipment have both stayed extremely busy. H&E Equipment opened a new sales and service facility in St. George in November 2006. Geneva Rock Products is looking forward to another busy year.

A new wash plant at the Point of the Mountain should come online this spring along with plans for expanding concrete-batch plants. A new concrete-batch plant opened in Payson in 2006.

Frehner Construction will begin a road-widening project between Moab and Monticello, beginning February or March.

All in all, the Utah District is staying busy.

Yuba-Sutter Disposal improves contract

On Dec. 16, 2006, the Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority reported it had reached the halfway mark of its $300 million effort to fix the Yuba County levee system. This announcement translates to good news for the Ladd quarry and crew, if they continue to keep busy. In some pits, mining tapered off with the weather but hopefully just long enough for winter maintenance. Soon, it’s back to work to get ahead of the demand for materials required for the forecasted projects.

The spring jobs are lining up, and everyone is hoping for an early start and a long construction season. Granite Construction has the $33 million Hwy. 20 realignment and widening job in Yuba County, the $3 million median-barrier project on Hwy. 70 in Butte County and more work on Hwy. 149.

Teichert has the $14 million Hwy. 20 widening and resurfacing project in Sutter County. Beebe will be subcontracting for Turner Construction on the sitework, demo and excavation of the new, $64 million Caltrans District 3 headquarters.

Yuba-Sutter Disposal also looks good with a 24 percent increase over four years and language improvements to its contract. Thanks to those members who showed up to take an active part in their future by attending pre-negotiation meetings. A special thanks goes to rank-and-file bargaining-team members Don Gillespie, Jim Knerr and Maria Gonzalez, as they were an essential part of our negotiating team. Also, congratulations to Sonny McRay on his 40-year service pin. He started working at Yuba-Sutter Disposal, Inc. (YSDI) in February 1967.

Things look good in District 60 with a promising work picture. Let's “git-er-done!”

District 17 covers ground

Oahu spotlights Healy Tibbits Builders, Inc.

Healy Tibbits Builders, Inc. does marine construction and also pile driving for foundations. The company employs more than 25 Operating Engineers and does work from Nanakuli to Waikiki and also on Maui.

Paving companies merge in Maui

A wise man once said, “Keep our family strong as one – we will survive.” The same could be said for Rim Rock dba Goodfellow Brothers and Grace Pacific Corp., since both companies’ Maui locations merged Nov. 1 to become Maui Paving LLC.

Hawaii welcomes new members

Congratulations to the 14 new OE3 members on the island of Hawaii, the two new members from Hilo and the 12 new members from Kona. Nine of these new members work for Isimoto Contracting and five work for Goodfellow Bros.

Kauai reports on Delta Construction’s Kukuiula Subdivision

Located on the south side of the island of Kauai, the Kukuiula Subdivision is an ongoing development providing work for Local 3 members until 2008. The Kukuiula Subdivision is located in Koloa near Poipu and consists of million-dollar homes with acre lots. Delta Construction is building the water tanks for the subdivision.
Local 3 Bylaws Committee

In June, the Local 3 Executive Board passed a motion to elect a Bylaws Committee of rank-and-file members from each district to update the union's bylaws. The officers pictured at right were elected to the committee by the membership during the fourth-quarter district meetings. They met for the first time in January to discuss Local 3's dues and dues structure as written in Article VI (dues).

During introductions at the meeting, the committee's Secretary Ken Green made a comment that was echoed by everyone in the room. Green said he was “here to represent the membership.” According to elected Chairman Bill Burns, the committee fulfilled that goal: “We hashed out a lot of issues, waded through lots of information and came to a resolution that we feel is fair for the members and good for the union.”

The resolution will be distributed to the membership at the next Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 18, 2007, at the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo, Calif. An affirmative vote by the membership at the Semi-Annual will move the resolution for a vote of the members in each district during the month of April.

The Bylaws Committee will continue to meet beginning in March to make further changes to the bylaws. Chairman Burns said the committee plans to go through the language and each of the articles in the bylaws: “We’re going to start at the front and work through it,” he said.

Business Manager Russ Burns and the Local 3 officers want the membership to know that all future resolutions proposed by the Bylaws Committee will be distributed to the membership for review and approval. In addition, the officers want to encourage all members to offer their thoughts on the bylaws to their district’s elected committee member. Committee members can be reached at district meetings or through the district offices. Stay tuned to your Engineers News for further updates from the Bylaws Committee.

Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Contest Rules for 2007

Applications available at district offices, credit union branches and online at www.o3.org

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 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 payable to 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 30, 2007.

1. The application and essay are 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.

WHERE TO GET APPLICATIONS

Academic and random-draw scholarship applications are available at the local’s district offices, credit union branches and online at www.o3.org. It is the applicant’s responsibility to submit the application to the address below, which must be received no later than March 30, 2007:

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

Front row, from left: Tom Romero - District 60, Larry Braden - District 50, Sonny Bergau - District 17 and Myron Pederson - District 20. Second row, from left: Jim Aja - District 30, Greg Tedesco - District 90, Jim Killean - District 10 and Ken Green - District 70. Third row, from left: Ray Lewis - District 12, Bill Burns - District 40, Dennis Griffith - District 11 and Don Incardona - District 99. Back row, from left: Ron Thompson - District 80, Jack Short - District 04 and Joe Wendt - District 01.
The following members were inadvertently omitted from the December 2006 issue of Engineers News:
56 Years of Membership
Merrill McCarthy 0402912
59 Years of Membership
Bert Charley 0439921

Election of Market and Geographic Area Committee

Business Manager Russ Burns has announced the election of Market and Geographic Area Committee members will take place at each district’s regularly scheduled district meeting, except for those held during the first quarter of 2007 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 he or she 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 Committee.

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

2007 Grievance Committee Election

Rec. Corres. Secretary Rob Wise has announced the election of Grievance Committees will take place at the first regular quarterly district meetings of 2007.
The schedule of meetings at which these elections will be held appears on this page under district meetings.

Local 3 district offices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Office Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Burlingame</td>
<td>(650) 652-7969</td>
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<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Fairfield</td>
<td>(707) 429-5008</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Rohnert Park</td>
<td>(707) 585-2487</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>(775) 857-4440</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>(707) 657-4440</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Elko</td>
<td>(775) 733-8761</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Salt Lake City</td>
<td>(801) 596-2677</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
<td>(510) 748-7446</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Stockton</td>
<td>(209) 943-7321</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>Yuba City</td>
<td>(530) 743-7321</td>
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<td>70</td>
<td>Redding</td>
<td>(530) 222-6093</td>
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<td>80</td>
<td>Sacramento</td>
<td>(916) 382-6170</td>
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<td>90</td>
<td>Morgan Hill</td>
<td>(408) 465-8260</td>
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<th>DEPARTED MEMBERS</th>
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<td>Almoot, Leo</td>
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<td>Church, J.</td>
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<td>Fish, Bobby</td>
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<td>Hendersen, Everett</td>
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<td>Higashihara, Tom</td>
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<td>Hopkins, Joe</td>
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<td>Sparks, NV</td>
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<td>Madden, Gabe</td>
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<td>Hayashi, Tom</td>
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<td>Moore, John</td>
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<td>O'Reilly, Vernon</td>
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<td>Orellana, Jose</td>
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<td>Mayor, Alice</td>
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<td>Powell, Mary</td>
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<td>Ruby, Esther</td>
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<td>Seronello, Shirley</td>
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<td>Sharp, Bonnie</td>
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<td>Wall, Clinton</td>
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FOR SALE: '83 John Deere 510 B backhoe. No cab, no 4 and 1 loader, extend-a-hoe, buckets, (12, 18, 24, 36-in) turbo, 2-wheel drive.
Pipe forks and Ham House auger. 12-in. drill bit only $150.00. Call p.m. (831) 461-1066. Reg#
Members urged to pass zoning for Balloon Tract

Hello from the North Coast.

It’s that time of year again: Work is slow, and the weather is bad, so it’s time for the Eureka Crab Feed. This year’s event is Feb. 17 at the Elk’s Club. Tickets are still available at all Northern California district offices or by calling (707) 443-7328. We have room rates at several area hotels, and this year’s music will be none other than the famous Dr. Squid. This is a step up from last year’s entertainment — the jukebox roll-of-quarters revue! Hope you see you there.

As for the work picture, Mercer Fraser is plugging along between showers and doing maintenance on rock, hot and batch plants as well as rolling stock to prepare for the upcoming season. The company has a good-sized backlog of work, so when the weather clears, it should continue to employ the majority of operators in District 40 again.

Granite Construction continues to bid aggressively and has built a top-notch core group of operators who can flat get it done. The company also has a bit of backlog, so when the weather is clear, Granite will be rolling. Granite’s mechanics — Ray Sidell, Ryan Berti, Tim Ireland and Clarence Day — are busy getting the iron in shape. These guys do a great job and run a tight ship.

Wahlund Construction recently completed a construction fence around the Balloon Tract, the future home of a 38-acre development that will supply plenty of work for Local 3 members. We need our District 40 members to help get the zoning for this project passed. This is a perfect example of how we can all pull together and help out our union by mobilizing within the Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program. Please call the hall to find out what you can do.

In Fortuna, Peterson Tractor has a lot of equipment in the lot ready to go for another productive year in 2007. The members at Peterson put in lots of year-round hours making sure the yellow iron is ready, up and moving in case of breakdowns.

We all look forward to the construction of a new, 163-megawatt power plant in Eureka for PG&E. Negotiation of a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) is underway, and this project should bring 250 construction jobs for about one-and-a-half years beginning in the spring of 2008. We will keep you informed of the progress.

The Eureka District 40 staff wishes everyone a happy, safe and prosperous new year. We also want to let our members know we have a new face in the office: Joel Duckworth has been hired as an organizer and will be splitting his time between Redding and Eureka. Please call him with any organizing leads. Welcome aboard, Joel.

The next Eureka District meeting is Feb. 6, 2007 at the Red Lion Inn in Eureka at 7 p.m.

Dutra deepens Port of Oakland to 52 feet

In western Solano and Napa counties, work is still rocking along. By having less than two inches of rain in December, most jobs are still on the move. Ghilotti Bros. recently finished a paving job on Hwy. 29 between St. Helena and Calistoga. Harold Smith & Sons is also busy daily batching out many yards of concrete. Again, an honorable mention goes to Syar Industries’ quarries in Napa and at the Lake Herman plant in Vallejo, which recently had more than 950 loads go out in one day during the holiday season. Imagine that!

We sent out the chant: Rain, rain, stay away; come again another day.

In northern Solano County, work is a little slow but looks good for the upcoming season. Dutra is cruising along in Rio Vista and looks to get busier.

The company continues to pick up sights to repair levees in the Delta. In Dixon, all of the Building Trades continue to work toward getting the new Dixon Downs Project approved. In Vacaville, there’s plenty of work between Genentech, Kaiser and all the residential work left over from last season.

Last but not least, in Fairfield there’s also plenty of residential work left over from last season along with a ton of small jobs. The $46 million modernization Waterman Water Treatment Plant recently went to bid, and Kiewit was an extremely close second on the bid sheet. We’re hoping the low bid gets thrown out and Kiewit gets the project, which should keep plenty of Operating Engineers busy for quite a while.

As for the dredging picture, one project has loomed for the past few years. The next phase of the Port of Oakland Deepening is finally here. The first phase began in 1998 when the port went from 37 feet to 42 feet. Dutra Dredging started and completed that phase, which took about two years to complete. Since then, the Port of Oakland has added another three feet to its channels. Now with the “3E” Project, the port will be deepened to 52 feet. At this depth, the port will remain competitive in the shipping industry.

Now, on to the good stuff about this project: The 3E Project has been awarded to Manson/Dutra on a joint-venture bid. Scheduled to begin this February, Manson will bring in H.R. Morris, a cutter-suction dredge that will dig for about three or four months. During that period, we will have about 25-30 Operating Engineers working. Once that section is complete, the fun part starts: The remainder of the project will be dug with derrick barges. Most likely, the dredge barge (DB) NJord and the DB Valhalla will be the diggers of choice. They will load scows and send them to offshore at Hamilton Field in Marin County where the Liberty Off-loader will pump 38,000 feet of mud to the fill site, which will require a booster-pump configuration. This portion of the project will employ about 60-70 Operating Engineers for Manson and Dutra.

As you can see, the dredging picture looks bright, and don’t worry if you aren’t on this project, because the rest of the annual dredge work is still going. With all this work, it looks to be another great year for Local 3’s dredgers.

In the true spirit of the holiday season, Local 3 members in the Fairfield District participated in a toy drive benefiting the children of Mission Solano, a shelter for homeless families. More than 50 Local 3 members, their families and friends met Dec. 16 to deliver a truckload of toys to the kids. Everyone enjoyed a pancake breakfast at the hall before a motorcycle ride through downtown Fairfield to Mission Solano. The smiles all around made for a memorable day. Thanks to all who donated and participated in this year’s event, and a special thanks to Business Rep. Angelo “Santa” Cellini for going all out in his red suit.
Fifty-year member recalls the good ‘ole days

The work we perform as union representatives presents many interesting assignments, and some are more desirable than others. However, every single job provides opportunities.

Delivering clocks or watches to our 50-year members is one of the most enjoyable tasks, and we recently had the pleasure of meeting with Jim Davis and his wife, Loretta, to present him his 50-year clock. We had an enjoyable visit and learned that during his 36 years in the field, Jim worked for most of the “usual suspects” throughout the Local 3 jurisdiction during the boom years, when you could quit a job today and get a dispatch to work for a different employer tomorrow. Some of his more notable projects include Hwy. 5, the Oroville tunnel, the Don Pedro Dam, the New Melones Dam, the Helms Project east of Fresno and the gold mines near Carlin, Nev.

In spite of occasional wet weather, work continues when possible throughout the Stockton District. DeSilva Gates is on schedule to complete its Hwy. 99 project later this year. This job has provided good hours for our members. O.C. Jones continues work on its Hwy. 205 widening project, which mainly involves the bridges. The dirt work for this improvement project will begin later this year, as weather conditions allow. The project is scheduled for completion in 2008.

Sacramento skyline full of tower cranes, material lifts

We want to start off by welcoming you into the new year; we hope your holiday season was joyful and rewarding. While some of the area’s projects are winding down due to the rainy season, the work picture still looks good.

Downtown Sacramento is hopping

Stacey and Witbeck is putting the final touches on the light-rail connection to the Amtrak station downtown. The project has kept several operators busy working days and some nights. Also in the downtown area, operators work on the ground and in the air with eight tower cranes and several material lifts up or soon to be erected. One tower crane and material lift is working on the $38 million, 15-floor Marriott Residence Inn.

At 500 Capitol Mall, Inconco is tearing down the old Wells Fargo building with two excavators and a truck crane. Rudolph and Sletten will erect a 24-story office building and parking structure using a tower crane and material lift.

At 621 Capitol Mall, one tower crane and one double-material lift work on the U.S. Bank Tower – a $75 million, 25-floor parking structure and office complex.

At 1818 L St., another tower crane sets iron and panels on the L Street Lofts, consisting of one level of space, three levels of parking and five levels of residential units.

The Twin Towers Project is currently on hold, but there are plans for work to continue with three cranes driving the last piles. Sheedy Hoist is erecting the three tower cranes and will erect one single- and four double-material lifts, which will keep 12 operators busy. We will keep you updated on the latest news about the project’s timeline.

Other areas get developed

The Laguna Creek Project in Elk Grove, which includes a large residential area, high school, middle school and clear-water pumping station kept many of our union contractors busy. The contractors of this project are doing final grading and paving and completing their “punch” lists.

Mitchell Engineering finished the pipeline and road improvement on Bradshaw, and the company is starting a new project at South Watt and Folsom Boulevard.

RGW is starting a new overpass at Hwy. 99 and Grantline Road. This project includes demolition and construction of the overpass, a cloverleaf interchange and roadway/site improvements.

In Roseville, Balfour Beauty is working on a $33 million conversion on the water-treatment plant.

In West Sacramento, members are driving piles for stationary equipment. Various crane rentals, concrete pumps, forklifts and inspectors keep our members busy.

Our members are also working hard on the Sutter General Hospital parking structure and utilities office building.

District 80 salutes longtime members

The Sacramento District congratulates Mark Perry on receiving his 25-year pin. We also send our congratulations to new Retiree Paul Pfannenstiel and 40-year pin recipient Manuel Lopez, who received his pin at a surprise luncheon organized by Syar Superintendent Teddy Pearson and Job Steward Robbie Pearson. Manuel has worked for Syar for more than 53 years.