Transportation and the road ahead

If you think traffic is bad now …

Be prepared for worse in years ahead as highway improvements keep getting postponed.

This powerful statement from the California Letter, a cutting-edge publication specializing in business, government and real estate, recently crossed my desk and caught my attention. The article continued by detailing the status of transportation funding in California and the implications of postponed transportation projects:

Cars will be stuck in traffic longer as roads and rails fail to keep up with population growth and lengthier commutes. Deliveries are sure to be slower. And the economy will suffer from delays in shipments to and from California ports.

California’s budget crisis is to blame for severe funding cutbacks. Since June 2003, Caltrans has been unable to start new projects, and hundreds of repairs have been postponed.

The state has raided highway funds to balance the budget, circumventing three-year-old Proposition 42, which requires gasoline sales tax revenue to be spent on transportation. Such a waiver must be OK’d by the governor and two-thirds of each house. Gov. Schwarzenegger, who wants to use this loophole in his 2006 budget, will probably seek more private toll roads as a long-term solution.

Bond money backed by revenue from Indian casinos is questionable. This source of funds, replacing Prop. 42 revenue, is tied up in lawsuits. Federal money is lagging as well. Congress and President Bush, deadlocked over new spending, will extend old funding as a stopgap. Volatile revenue makes long-term construction planning difficult.

The state is way behind on seismic retrofits of major bridges. The design of the new S.F.-Oakland Bay Bridge span had to be changed when the cost turned out to be $3.2 billion more than was expected. It’s still not clear whether funds will come from tolls or tax revenue.

No new projects will be added in 2006, and many will be delayed. Among rail projects on hold are BART to San Jose, light rail in Sacramento, a Caltrain extension to Salinas, Capitol Corridor upgrades from Sacramento to San Jose and Pacific Surfliner work in San Diego.

Major road improvements are stalled, including the widening of Hwy. 91 in Riverside, I-205 near Tracy, I-10 through the Redlands, as well as carpool lanes on I-10 near Pomona and Hwy. 22 in Orange County. Alameda Corridor upgrades are delayed, worsening freight logjams.

Meanwhile, vehicle travel is growing 5 percent faster than population.

Only local bond and tax issues are providing new money for roads. Some projects get funds from bonds issued against future grants from the federal government. Among them: widening Hwy. 99 from Selma to Kingsbury, an I-5 interchange in L.A. and widening I-80 near Crockett.

Get involved: From this report, you can see for yourself what we’re up against now and in coming months with transportation as it stands at the state and national levels. Local-level funding will be a key focus for us as we move forward, as it is currently the only revenue source for new transportation projects. You can learn more about bond and tax issues in your community at your next district meeting or by contacting your district office. I urge you to get involved today.

Remember: Membership involvement is a vital asset to Local 3. It is your commitment and dedication that makes a difference.

Federal transportation dollars: On the legislative front, recent news from Washington, D.C. looks promising, as legislators are discussing a $284 billion, six-year transportation bill that includes funding for federal highway and transit system projects.

The Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU), H.R. 3, is similar to the bill the House passed last year but provides an additional $4.5 billion for authorizations covering 2004 to 2009. Overall, the bill authorizes $225.5 billion for federal highway programs, $52.3 billion for federal transit programs and $6.1 billion for safety programs. Total funding includes $86 billion already committed for 2004 and 2005.

The bill is scheduled to go to the Senate after the House finishes its discussions and votes it through. We’ll continue to monitor this bill, as well as other transportation measures and keep you posted on any progress.

Thanks for your support: It was great to see all of you at the March 20 Semi-Annual meeting at the Solano County Fairgrounds. The officers and I were pleased to see so many dedicated members in attendance, and I’m confident when I say that our guest speaker, IUOE General President Vincent Giblin, was also impressed with the turnout. I give you my heartfelt thanks for your participation and look forward to seeing you again at the Sept. 25 Semi-Annual.

In solidarity,

John A. Bonilla
Business Manager and
IUOE General Vice President

For The Good & Welfare

By John Bonilla, Business Manager
In the News

Operators to the rescue

On Tuesday, Feb. 8, Hawaii Asst. District Rep. Patrick Santos was contacted by signatory contractor, Healy Tibbits, regarding a crucial dilemma on the coral reef 400 yards off the entrance of the Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbor in Honolulu. The harbor was the location of the grounded ship, Cape Flattery. This 555-foot bulk carrier had been stranded since Feb. 2 while attempting to enter the Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbor. The Cape Flattery was carrying 27,100 metric tons of cement and 128,000 gallons of fuel when it ran aground. Authorities are investigating whether the ship had a pilot aboard when the accident occurred. What is known is that the incident affected the reef from 20 feet to 60 feet in depth and that the area needed outside aid.

Which is why Santos and Hawaii District Rep. Allan Parker made arrangements to send more than six Local 3 loader operators to unload and off-load the cement. Observers on shore noted the dedication of Local 3 loader operators in helping out with this serious matter. With help from the incoming tide and other organizations, Local 3 members helped get the ship out. Biologists hope the damage to the marine communities is not too extensive, but Local 3’s efforts clearly helped the cause.

Cape Flattery Pacific Basin Shipping’s Business Rep. Jim Lawrence said of their efforts, “We’re really grateful for all the members that kicked in. It was really sort of an exemplary partnership.”

For many decades the naval shipyard in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, has employed generations of Local 3 members. Working on teams repairing, servicing and supplying naval vessels, Local 3 members work tirelessly to ensure our nation’s security. However, efforts are now underway to undermine their basic worker rights. The misguided effort is part of the Bush Administration’s implementation of the National Security Personnel System (NSPS) authorized by Congress as part of the 2004 Department of Defense Budget. The new system will federalize all civilian Department of Defense (DOD) workers.

At a recent meeting with Hawaii Federal Metal Trades Council President Matt Hamilton, Hawaii District Rep. Allan Parker and Asst. District Rep. Patrick Santos, I learned the DOD is proposing to implement a system that is in direct contradiction to the authority granted to them by Congress. Among other things, the proposed system would:

- Consolidate or merge job classifications to expand duties and responsibilities.
- Set salaries according to an undisclosed pay-for-performance system linked to the “market value” of the work.
- Make collective bargaining agreements null and void and effectively eliminate the legal role of elected worker representatives.
- Relax legal standards for discipline and discharge.
- Allow pay rates for new hires to be greater than for existing workers.

As you can see, the proposed system doesn’t look like anything we could support. We don’t. But we never had a chance for any input on the proposed changes even though Congress directed DOD to engage in meaningful collaboration with the elected representatives of DOD’s workers over the planning, development and implementation of labor relations’ changes. In fact, the DOD shut out labor leaders when it drafted labor relations’ sections of the proposed regulations.

In response to DOD’s heavy-handed approach, the IUOE as part of the AFL-CIO’s United DOD Workers Coalition, recently filed suit in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., to stop the implementation of the NSPS. The lawsuit states that the DOD ignored the law and intent of Congress, and it asks the court to enjoin the DOD from implementing labor relations’ sections of the proposed regulations.

It is ironic that as Local 3 members work hard in support of the expansion of freedom abroad, their basic worker rights are being stolen at home. I’ll keep you posted on our fight to stop DOD’s end-run attempt to deny worker rights to our Hawaiian brothers and sisters employed at Pearl Harbor.
OE3 freestyling on the Norwegian Star

By Mandy Gourley, associate editor

Cruise vacations are not new concepts for Local 3 members, since many recall the success of the first OE3-sponsored Alaskan cruise in 2003. The most recent cruise, however, had an entirely different destination. Sailors on the Norwegian Star in January experienced a warmer climate and a different culture, since their voyage included eight days along the Mexican Riviera, making ports of call in the exotic harbors of Acapulco, Zihuatanejo, Puerto Vallarta and Cabo San Lucas.

On Jan. 24, 323 cruisers, including 70 Local 3 retirees and active members and several members from other Operating Engineers locals – their families and friends, spent their days traveling south along the Mexican coast. Along the way, they enjoyed the ship experience and such interesting sights as the famous reef divers in Acapulco, the long stretches of white sand beaches, sleepy towns and colorful markets, as well as the charm of Puerto Vallarta.

It’s not hard to understand why such a vacation is appealing. But those who went will tell you it wasn’t just for the sightseeing or the pools, spa, casino, restaurants and entertainment. Members signed up for the camaraderie – the chance for OE3 members and their friends and family to renew old friendships and make new ones, as well as for the cause – a tax-deductible contribution included in the discounted group cruise fare that benefits the OE3 Scholarship Fund.

Thom Yorke, a devoted salmon fisherman and owner of his own 22-foot cabin cruiser, so it doesn’t bother him to be at sea, but his wife appreciated having a view.

Fourty-nine-year Local 3 member Bob Bacon also went on the first OE3 cruise to Alaska. He and his wife thought the food on this cruise was spectacular, especially at one of the specialty restaurants that featured seafood. They went back to it several times. He also had another pleasant surprise in that he spent a lot of his time with a group of new friends during the cruise and discovered on the last day that they were also Local 3 members. He plans to keep in touch with them, as do many of the group with the people they met.

Buddy Morris claims he now has an understanding of “how the rich live,” because of the lavish diners, jazzy entertainment and scenic views of sandy beaches and beautiful sunsets. The “rich may live” as members did on the Norwegian Star, but no amount of four-star dining or poolside relaxing can compare with the richness of the experience and the memories of friends gathering together.

When asked if cruising OE3-style was something he’d do for a third time, Morris said, “I’d recommend it. My wife and I are both planning to go on another one. We just have to agree on the destination.”

Everyone who went appears to share the opinion that this vacation was a great way to relax, have a lot of fun and enjoy a wonderful time together while contributing to something worthwhile.

Forty-nine-year Local 3 member and cruise emcee Jack Short (far right) poses with fellow Local 3 retirees honored for their service.

Members gather together during cocktail hour. Two private cocktail parties were held for Local 3 members and their guests.

OE3 cruising the Caribbean in 2006

If you wish you could have gone to Mexico, or you’d like to try an OE3 cruise, you have the chance to do so. Local 3 invites you, your family and friends on an exciting group cruise experience in support of the OE3 Scholarship Fund in January 2006.

What: OE3 group cruise to the Western Caribbean on the Grand Princess

When: Jan. 21 to Jan. 28, 2006

Where: Sailing from Galveston, Texas to Belize (home of the “other” Great Barrier Reef), Negril (gateway to the Caribbean coastlines and ancient ruins of the Costa Maya), Cozumel and Grand Cayman (both famous for crystal clear waters).

What: You can dress casually every day if you wish and you can enjoy any of the six restaurants, 24-hour room service, the Atlantis Casino, Lotus spa and gym, nine-hole putting course, “Movies Under the Stars” outdoor theater, three show lounges, special interest classes and much more—all are included.

Why: To have a wonderful vacation with your friends and family as well as with Local 3 members and to contribute to the OE3 Scholarship Fund.

Rates: $749 per person for inside cabins, $849 per person for outside cabins, and $1,049 or $1,099 per person for balcony cabins (includes port charges but not air or tax). The cruise rates include a tax deductible $50 contribution to the OE3 Scholarship Fund. A refundable $250 per person deposit is required to hold your reservation.

Note: There will be an air/hotel/transfer package from Oakland and Sacramento airports made available later in the summer.

Make reservations early – space is limited. Call (888) 713-0441 for more information.
Leave it to the experts to negotiate your next car deal

Are you having your pharmacist do your taxes this year? What about having your doctor rewrite your house? Why not? Simple. When you want a job done right you go to the expert who has the required training and experience.

Tackling a big job without the right expertise can easily turn into a misadventure designed to part you from your hard-earned money. So why do so many people tackle the difficult task of negotiating a car deal without adequate knowledge and training? You can bet car dealers know their stuff. Let’s face it, negotiating a good car deal really does take a lot of expertise, and most of us don’t have the time to get beyond the basics.

You’ll be interested to know one member’s great truck-buying experience – without stepping foot in a dealership.

“I bought and financed a car without even having to say a word to a salesperson,” said Local 3 Federal Credit Union member Casey Nice from Pleasanton, Calif. Nice found the credit union’s free Auto Buying Consultant* service a convenient way to purchase his truck. She was very well-informed about what various options cost, and I knew how much I was qualified for.

“After hearing Nice’s story, are you wondering what kind of deal you can get? How does not having to haggle over price, no questionable insurance or security products and definitely no fictitious add-ons like “undercoating” sound? Plus, you can save hours of aggravation by leaving this job to the professionals.

If you want to purchase a new or used vehicle, I encourage you to call our Auto Buying Consultant, and let them do the research. Sit back while they locate and negotiate a price on the vehicle. There is no obligation when they call you back with the price and details. If a vehicle is in hot demand, the Auto Buying Consultant may have a problem locating and negotiating a good deal on that particular vehicle, but they will be upfront and tell you so if that is the case.

Try our Auto Buying Consultant. You will find it’s a relief not to hassle with the haggling and research. You can be sure your union-member-owned credit union will always be on your side. After all, the credit union offers this service for free. You can call the Auto Buying Consultant directly at (800) 326-9552.

*Note: The free OEFCU Auto Buying Consultant is only available for California residents at this time.

Retiree Picnic

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for the upcoming Retiree Picnic Saturday, June 4 at the Rancho Murietta Training Center.

Come up Friday afternoon and stay until Sunday afternoon, if you wish. There’s plenty of parking for your self-contained motor homes and trailers. Once again, Local 3 will pick up the tab for this event. Unless it’s necessary for you to be driven, please bring only one other person to this event. We’ll see you there.

Vacation Pay Semi-Annual Payout

For those members not enrolled in monthly vacation pay transfers to the credit union, April is the deadline to receive a check for the May Semi-Annual payout. Complete a Semi-Annual Payout Card and return it to the Trust Fund office before April 29 to have a check mailed May 15. If no card is received and you have more than $60 in your account, your money will transfer May 31 to the Operating Engineers Local 3 Federal Credit Union.

How to read your pension statement

For all pension plan participants: Your pension statement provides important retirement information. Here’s a guide to reading your statement.

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

**Item 2** shows the credit earned during the plan year and the dollars added to your pension for the year.

**Item 3** indicates your total future credits and the monthly benefit through the plan year and payable at full retirement age for a normal, regular or service pension.

**Item 4** contains important messages regarding your pension benefits.

For help with your pension statement, please call the Trust Fund office at (800) 251-5014 or the Fringe Benefits Service Center at (800) 532-2105.
Shear walls and floor systems

Many public agencies require special inspection during construction of plywood shear walls and floor systems used as shear diaphragms. These are critically important elements to the structural integrity of the building and are therefore considered appropriate for special inspection. Qualified special inspectors performing the following duties under the direct supervision of the materials engineering laboratory can best achieve this objective.

Observational duties

A. Documents
1. Review the approved plans, specifications and other appropriate project documents.
2. Review applicable sections of referenced codes and standards, particularly the Timber Construction Manual by the American Institute of Timber Construction (AITC) and the Uniform Building Code by the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO).

B. Materials
1. Verify material grades.
2. Verify nail type and size.
3. Verify connector, including tie downs, framing clips, bolts and straps.

C. Sampling of materials
1. Sample and deliver to the laboratory for testing the following materials when required by project specifications:
   a) Structural panel sheathing (i.e. plywood, gypsum, fiberboard or particle board)
   b) Framing lumber
   c) Fasteners, including nails, screws and bolts

D. Observational procedures
1. Check nail spacing, penetration, edge distance and verify nail size.
2. Check for proper plywood thickness and grade.
3. Check for installation of blocking when blocked edges are required.
4. Check the receiving members for spacing, size and resistance to splitting.
5. Check for proper plywood layout per project requirements.
6. Check for “shiners” (nails penetrating structural panel sheathing only).
7. Verify that critical members received the nail specified.

E. Reports
1. Submit written progress reports describing the tests and observations made and showing the action taken to correct nonconforming work. Itemize any changes authorized by the architect or the engineer. Report all uncorrected deviations from plans or specifications.

Hold your wallet

In case you haven’t heard, Gov. Schwarzenegger wants to reach into your wallet to help balance the state budget. I know many of you might be thinking we’ve been through this before – no raises. What the governor’s proposing this time goes way beyond any raises. We’ve started negotiations with the state, and the Department of Personnel Administration (DPA) representative at the bargaining table informed us that the governor directed them to demand the following changes in your contract:

• Eliminate the counting of paid-leave time as time worked for computation of overtime.
• Eliminate two paid holidays.
• Cap the maximum accumulation of vacation hours to 640 hours.
• Cap the maximum accumulation of annual leave hours to 640 hours.
• Give the governor an unlimited right to furlough workers.
• Eliminate language that protects your job so that it can be performed by anyone.
• Increase the employee contribution rate for 1959 Survivor Benefits.
• Allow workers to opt out of PERS, thus threatening the financial security and benefit levels traditionally provided by PERS.

These changes are only what we heard at our first bargaining session. We’ve got another session scheduled in a few weeks and DPA’s representative informed us that we should expect them to add to this list! In addition, we were told several departments would also be presenting demands. We’ve been told that the elimination of post and bid requirements, among other things, will be on their list. So much for the governor’s “lip service” as to how much he values the important work performed by state employees.

You also need to know that the governor realizes it’s not likely that we will agree to his proposed “take-aways,” especially his proposal on pensions. So, he’s supporting an initiative effort that is intended to take away your pension at the ballot box next fall. Supporters of this misguided effort have begun collecting signatures to get it qualified for the fall election. Make sure you don’t mistakenly sign this petition. The same goes for your family members, friends and neighbors. Let them know what a bad deal it is for all Californians. Make no mistake about it – the governor’s supporters are going to spend millions of dollars this fall attempting to steal your pension!

As you can see, to have any chance of success in stopping the governor’s attempts to steal roll state workers, your negotiating team is going to need your full support. We also need to be politically active. We’ll be letting you know in coming weeks about the important role you can play in helping to stop the governor’s unprecedented attacks.

Organizing

You make it happen

I’d like to thank Operating Engineers Local 3 members for their ongoing support of the Organizing Department. With your continued strong support, we can succeed in our organizing efforts. Local 3 continues to grow because of your skill, productivity and dedication to the principles of unionism. Yes, you really do make it happen!

Winter rains have slowed snow work for many signatory employers. Because of this, many of you have contacted district offices and volunteered to work for targeted employers as “salts.” Those of you put on jobs as salts have done a great job. I congratulate you for your commitment to organizing. Members also continue to supply us with important organizing leads. I can’t stress enough the importance of your involvement in helping us reacquire our industry.

As an indication of their commitment to turning our industry around, Business Manager John Bonilla and his team of officers gave me 10 organizers to use throughout our jurisdiction. I couldn’t ask for more support for organizing than what I’m getting from them. What I could ask for is more support from governmental agencies that should be protecting and promoting the interests of American workers. At present, it’s really an uphill battle in getting them to do their job.

If you’ve been following the news, you can see how important it is to have the right people in the offices of president, governor, congress, city councils, etc. It looks like workers are experiencing a full-frontal assault at the national and state levels. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) now defends employers more than workers, Social Security is under attack, national right-to-work legislation was reintroduced, and lunch breaks and public employee pensions are under siege in California. It makes you wonder when it will stop. It will only stop if members remember to vote their pocketbooks. Try not to be a “one issue” voter, especially when it comes to protecting your interests as a worker. Having labor-friendly officials means that we don’t have to spend time fighting to keep what we already have. It also gives us greater ability to improve what we have.

I’m looking forward to spring, and I know that you are, too. I wish each of you a safe and prosperous work season. In closing, I want to thank you again for your help and support. Every time we’re successful in organizing a company, it means more work for our members. And every new signatory employer represents one more important step in taking back our industry.
Downtime ideal for training time

Many of our employers are faced with winter slowdown. This provides an excellent opportunity to address issues that have as much impact on the bottom line as anything that occurs on the jobsite.

I’m speaking of personal conduct statements and decisions by those who are chosen by the company, and in many cases, our members, to supervise and run jobs. While everyone is aware of the changing demographics of the workforce, I’m not sure the demographics are aware of the changes.

Somewhere during the course of my career, I was told you could never be or have any more than you think you are worth. This raises an interesting point that some have risen to the position of authority and see themselves as better than perpetuating the problem that existed in the first place. Knowledge, education, training and commitment are all valued attributes as long as the person who possesses them believes that s/he has earned the right to lead.

When work is slow during the winter, take advantage of the time to hone your professional skills to raise the standards of the craft. Those of you who know you’re returning to the same employer or position of authority should reach for the training you can’t always get from the seat. Operators who are supervising operators must be the total package, not just a hand in one area. Prepare yourself. See you on the next job.

University of Operating Engineers, Rancho Murieta

A few months ago I presented you with a definition of diversity and explained how it is not only a good thing but also a necessary thing. Simply stated, diversity refers to not only a good thing but also a necessary thing. Simply stated, diversity refers to diversity and commitment are all valued attributes as long as the person who possesses them believes that s/he has earned the right to lead.

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University of Operating Engineers, Rancho Murieta

A few months ago I presented you with a definition of diversity and explained how it is not only a good thing but also a necessary thing. Simply stated, diversity refers to diversity and commitment are all valued attributes as long as the person who possesses them believes that s/he has earned the right to lead.

When work is slow during the winter, take advantage of the time to hone your professional skills to raise the standards of the craft. Those of you who know you’re returning to the same employer or position of authority should reach for the training you can’t always get from the seat. Operators who are supervising operators must be the total package, not just a hand in one area. Prepare yourself. See you on the next job.
Straight talk

I'm not one to sugar-coat issues, which is why I think it necessary to display this unsettling figure – the percentage of union-represented workers has dropped to a low 12.5 percent in 2004 from a high in the 1950s of more than 30 percent. You may ask why. The same was asked during the national meeting of top labor leaders in Las Vegas at the Feb. 28 AFL-CIO Executive Council winter meeting. Ways of combating this percentage decline were discussed.

Again, let me give it to you straight when I say that Bush's current and steady seat in office is yet another setback that may spurn labor's struggle; since most of the country's new jobs are in the non-union sector, and this was also discussed in Vegas.

Suggestions to reverse labor union decline included a possible merging among industry lines to create sector-specific unions to battle corporate power, campaigns to reach out to Republicans and reformatting public relations approaches. The controversial stance of the 1.8-million-member Service Employees International Union as to whether it will quit the AFL-CIO remains to be determined. The major consensus, however, was positive and proactive: The question is not about changing the fundamental aim of labor but how to proactively reverse the decline, including bringing all elements of the movement together.

One such method imparted by your own Local 3 is the successful creation of the Basic Crafts/Heavy Highway Alliance – the coalition that takes jurisdiction out of the employers' hands and gives it back to unions, creating a uniform sense of agreement rather than aiding the long-standing conflict between operators, laborers and carpenters. This uniformity is part of Business Manager John Bonilla's overall vision, which is not one of separateness but cohesion, not one about individual aims but overall membership service. But beyond jurisdiction, this alliance gives us incredible strength on a membership level. For example, the alliance's workers’ compensation Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program has proven successful in cost savings to employers and fast service for members. With the agreement between crafts, we can also carry more force in negotiations, more purchasing power when dealing with providers and more influence in elections.

It is the political aspect of Local 3 and unions across the board that needs your special attention. Issues at the national level and here close to home all point to the need for more active roles in federal, state and local politics. And again, here is where I want to give it to you straight – that active political role begins with you and your vote. Local 3 has a rich labor history of organizing and political efforts and a current legacy of quality health care, quality jobs and top-notch training. To maintain these trends and to combat the decline, we need to increase political awareness on the voting lines. Politics is overwhelming but nothing is more overwhelming than loss of power. Therefore, the straight facts are hard but they provide a call to action, a call to your action to get out there on the voting lines and in your communities to get your voice heard. Call your district office and get involved because what you do affects you, Local 3 and the current power of unions everywhere.

Political victories for Local 3

- Election results for the March 8 Special Election went well for Local 3:
  - Two for two in El Dorado – The passing of Measure B includes approval for a general plan for reasonable growth in the county, and the related Measure O, which sought to eliminate growth until Hwy. 50 is widened, did not pass.
  - Matsui wins by landslide – Doris Matsui was elected to Congress by a staggering margin of 71 percent. Doris Matsui and her late husband, Robert Matsui, acted as a team for labor issues. Matsui vows to continue this path with her support of a House Transportation Bill.
  - City of Arcata elects Wheelley – Local 3-endorsed Mark Wheelley won 49.9 percent of the vote for a city council seat.

In the field and at the table

The work picture throughout our jurisdiction is plentiful with many members working seven-10s and in some cases, seven-12s. Work is so good it’s reached the point where there is a shortage of skilled workers. Training is therefore all the more crucial to our survival in the industry.

The private market is keeping members’ hours up while public work has slowed to a crawl. Because transportation money is tight at the state and national levels, few new public works projects are being let. As for the booming private market, it looks as if there’s no end in sight. However, the private market will go flat if interest rates rise. That’s why we all need to save our pennies for a rainy day.

I encourage members to pay attention to what’s happening in the political arena – nationwide and in your local communities. Member involvement is key to maintaining the state of our union and is critical because of the transportation funding crisis. Remember: The more of us who join together, the louder our voices are heard and the greater impact we have.

Negotiations for several first-time contracts and a handful of contract renewals are going strong. I’m pleased to report we recently finished negotiating the surveyors’ master agreement and Peterson Power Systems in the Oakland District. Now we’re working on contract renewals with Waste Management Disposal in El Dorado County, Teichert Construction’s rock, sand and gravel plants in Marysville and Hallwood, as well as Kino Aggregates’ rock, sand and gravel plant in Marysville.

Other ongoing negotiations include a new agreement with Papé Machinery of Eugene, Ore., a large company that recently bought out the John Deere Construction Equipment shop, Empire Nortrax West. Papé owns numerous facilities in our jurisdiction. So far, negotiations for this first-time contract look promising.

Negotiations with Empire Waste Management of Rohnert Park remain an uphill battle. We’re going on two years now for this contract covering more than 150 employees. The company is set on union-busting and has continued to commit unfair labor practices, such as threatening termination for participation in union activities, telling employees they would not receive their scheduled cost-of-living adjustments because of their union affiliation and promising employees benefits if they abandoned their support for the union.

In response, we’ve filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) only to find the board more concerned with the employer’s interests than with workers’ rights, which is supposed to be the reason for its existence. While the NLRB has made it time consuming and difficult for us to negotiate a fair and equitable first-time agreement with Empire Waste Management, the fight will continue as it always does. We are committed to the members and have vowed to battle it out for them to the end.

In solidarity.

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.

Vision Statement

Proud, skilled, productive, committed...always the best.
An energetic crowd of nearly 2,500 union members and their guests packed the Solano County Fairgrounds Exposition Hall at the March 20 Semi-Annual meeting in Vallejo, Calif., to welcome newly elected IUOE General President Vincent Giblin and celebrate Local 3's continued success in training, organizing, politics and service. The meeting attracted more attendees than any other in recent history.

Before the official call to order, attendees enjoyed visiting numerous Local 3 departmental booths, as well as a wide array of free health consultations and screenings, including a new, full-body blood circulation test. The outdoor equipment display with equipment donated from union employers also was a popular attraction for members and their families.

President Bob Miller began the meeting promptly at 1 p.m., welcoming the Vandon High School Junior ROTC Color Guard for the presentation of the colors. He then introduced Local 3 member Marla Cox to sing the national anthem.

Rec. Corres. Secretary Rob Wise and Conductor Allan Parker conducted the roll call, which was followed by Miller reading the amount of per capita tax paid to the IUOE in 2004.


Wise read the minutes from the previous Semi-Annual meeting and the general report of the Executive Board. With no unfinished or new business, the meeting proceeded with Business Manager John Bonilla introducing honored guest speaker, IUOE General President Vincent Giblin.

**Protection and financial security**

“This is what I call a union meeting!” Giblin said upon taking the podium. “The rest of these local unions of this international ought to take a page out of your book: A Sunday afternoon, rain last night, to turn out this crowd is a tribute to you, to the officers of this union, and most especially to John Bonilla: Congratulations.”

Giblin continued, identifying his goals for the international as no different from the goals of the current Local 3 administration.

“We have an obligation to you as the rank and file to produce the best livelihoods and ensure that your lives are protected with financial security,” he said. “If it’s good for you, we have an obligation to fight to ensure that you get it. And I’m committed to do those things from Washington D.C. all the way back here to California.”

Giblin commented this was his 18th day on the job as the new international general president and explained he has already begun assessing the organization’s programs and operations to redirect its resources to better serve Local 3 members and the members of other local unions within the international.

“We have an obligation to build; we have an obligation to expand; we have an obligation to improve,” Giblin said. “It will be the hallmark of my career to ensure that this organization is better off from the day I was gifted it to the day I ultimately leave it.”

By Heidi Mills, managing editor

**Getting better all the time**

Semi-Annual celebrates Local 3’s continued success

continued on page 10
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Our issues in Congress

Giblin reported that the $284 billion federal highway and transit bill before the U.S. House so far looks promising. He said it will put Operating Engineers back to work and give us financial security for the next six years to get through some of the toughest times we’ve ever faced.

While Congress has decided to pick on other unions, Giblin said they’ve decided not to attempt a fight with the nation’s building and construction unions. And as of Friday, Congress has agreed to leave Davis Bacon alone, he said.

Turning his attention to health care, Giblin called it the No. 1 issue in the country. While Congress has decided to pick on other unions, Giblin said they’ve decided not to attempt a fight with the nation’s building and construction unions. And as of Friday, Congress has agreed to leave Davis Bacon alone, he said.

Our issues in Congress

Continued from page 9

A tribute to Local 3

“Stats don’t lie,” Giblin said. “While other unions across this country are declining in membership, we have seen growth in this organization of 30,000 members. Let me show you who’s really working it, and who knows how to do it better than anyone: Of those 30,000 people, 5,000 carry brand new Local 3 union books.”

Cheers went up from the audience as Giblin continued on the topic of the Basic Craft/Heavy Highway Alliance.

“All of us know what that [the alliance] has done for us across this country: We’re no longer bogged down day in, day out with grievances and jurisdictional disputes – we’re down to next to nothing – they’re all resolved within the first 48 hours.”

The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) speaks volumes of “putting your money where your mouth is,” Giblin said. “We’ve given back to the contractors in California 5 percent to 21 percent. That’s the competitive edge that we need – that’s the business case model that has to be carried across this country.”

A straight shooter

Giblin concluded on a personal note, thanking the Local 3 leadership for their cooperation and progressive ideas. “I want you to know from the bottom of my heart, if there was ever the right person at the right time in this organization it’s John Bonilla.”

The audience cheered in agreement.

“I like his style,” Giblin said. “He’s the greatest straight shooter I’ve met in a long time in the labor movement, and he’s a breath of fresh air to this international union. I plan on making a long-term partnership with him, because with his type of leadership, we have expectations that none of us can measure. Thanks for the kind opportunity to come here to Local 3.”

The crowd gave Giblin a standing ovation. When they had settled, Miller thanked Giblin and introduced Bonilla for the state-of-the-union address. Again, the hall erupted in cheers as the crowd rose to its feet.

Tried, tested and true

Bonilla began with a word of thanks to the members, their guests and to Vincent Giblin for attending Local 3’s first Semi-Annual of 2005. He said he received changes in leadership at the international and within the local have been good for Local 3 membership.

Together, he said, the current Local 3 administration has more than 175 years of experience as Operating Engineers and more than 100 years of experience on the payroll.

“They are tried, tested and true to the members of Local 3,” Bonilla said proudly. “We’ve faced tough decisions in the past year, and the actions we’ve taken together have paid off and moved us forward.”

On the topic of Local 3 trust funds, Bonilla said the administration is working hard to ensure the union’s affiliated entities are doing their job for the membership. He said that from one of the many audits conducted in recent months, Local 3 found and will recover $1.3 million. Now the union is close to a new deal with the vendor that will provide $3 million to $5 million in annual savings, he said. In addition, Bonilla announced the establishment of an investment committee of union and employer trustees that has helped the trust fund diversify its investment assets to provide better returns.

“The easy way out would’ve been to go ahead and do nothing and bankrupt the health and welfare fund, but that’s not what you elected us to do,” Bonilla said. “You elected us to make the hard decisions and keep the political stuff out of it, and that’s what we did.”

The health and welfare fund went from being in the red during the first six months of last year to black in August, Bonilla said, adding that success wouldn’t have been possible without help from the membership.

“I take my hat off to you guys for making the hard decisions and going to generic
It's all about service

“Service to the members remains our top priority as officers of this local union,” Bonilla said. The improvements he noted included:

The Basic Craft/Heavy Highway Alliance. The first of its kind in North America, the alliance is benefiting members in many ways, particularly with jurisdictional disputes being handled at the local level.

Workers’ compensation. The union has improved access to its medical care and is providing faster claims services for members hurt on the job through the multi-craft Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program – another first in North America.

OEFCU. Local 3 recently opened new credit unions in the Salt Lake City and Morgan Hill District offices.

Web site. This month the union launched a completely redesigned Web site to provide the membership with up-to-date news and information.

Improved finances. The union has increased its reserves to protect itself during down times.

Headed in the right direction

In closing, Bonilla returned to the topic of politics. He reported there are still tough decisions ahead, as public works projects are down. “But I’ll tell you what,” he said. “This team of officers up here and myself will make the tough decisions. No one is putting a political gun to our heads. I don’t care how early they start, when they want to start; we’re here for the members of Local 3. Together, we will effect change, together we’re getting better all the time and together we will face the challenges ahead.”

Bonilla concluded by thanking the members for their attention and wishing them a productive, safe work season. With the crowd on its feet, the president thanked Bonilla for his words of wisdom and his leadership. With no other business under the good of the order, Miller accepted a unanimous vote of adjournment from the crowd.
George “Hap” Severe lives and breathes union values. His past work history with Local 3 is marked with vast construction experience matched only by his current position as the special project manager for DeSilva Gates and his role as subcommittee member for the Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC).

Severe began work as an oiler on a rock crusher in the Bay Area in 1965. Six months later he became an operator, then a field mechanic. In 1972 he became an equipment manager and now juggles special project manager duties with DeSilva Gates and subcommittee responsibilities for the JAC. His years as an Operating Engineer total 44, 39 of them with DeSilva and 25 of them on the JAC subcommittee.

What is most admirable about Severe, however, is not his lengthy and diverse resume as much as his philosophies. During an interview with apprenticeship coordinators Randal Miller and Forrest Hendricks, Severe admitted to missing being around the equipment but felt his true work was with the JAC. His duties on the subcommittee entail meeting and working with troubled apprentices whose performance or attitude on the job is less than perfect. While such a task may seem difficult to some, Severe believes his work with the JAC is necessary. He cares about the apprentices and keeps coming back because “it’s the right thing to do.”

Severe’s advice to current apprentices in the trade is “if they don’t feel they can commit 100 percent, don’t come into this program. The ones that are in there now need to reevaluate themselves. Without a commitment, they aren’t going to succeed. They may complete the program, but they won’t succeed in the craft. Apprentices are not building just their craft but the reputation of the industry.”

It is the respect Severe gives to not only the work but the values of the worker that make him an exemplary member and contributor to Local 3. Severe goes on to stress the importance of apprenticeship awareness regarding the seasonal aspects of the trade.

“You can’t spend money as fast as it comes in. You need to project your money over a 12-month period,” said Severe, adding that commitment is inherent in the work.

“The work needs to be a commitment and a lifestyle. You live your job and plan accordingly.”

Severe has seen many apprentices come through his program, and they are the ones he worries about.

“The ones I don’t see are doing fine,” he explained. “But I’ve also seen a wide range of attitudes come in here, and I’ve seen them change their attitudes. I’ve been blessed with this job for 39 years.”

It is ironic that George “Hap” Severe finds himself blessed with his work, and yet perhaps that is why the work he does is so exemplary. Local 3 is truly “blessed” to have members like Hap Severe who not only verbalize their philosophies but live them.
**FROM NEVADA**

**Reciprocity is also a form**

With the beginning of the new year, contractors are starting new projects all across the state. We are experiencing a boom in Nevada unlike any seen before.

We want to remind all Local 3 members who come to Nevada to work to remember the reciprocity process for their insurance. You may wonder what this process is. Reciprocity is a form you fill out when you begin working in Nevada. This form will allow a trust fund within Local 3's jurisdiction to transfer your benefits to another trust fund within Local 3's jurisdiction. After you complete the form, we send it to the trust fund in California. This trust fund forwards the form to the appropriate trust fund for you, and the following month your hours are processed with the request's effective date. From the effective date forward, your hours are transferred to the trust fund you requested until you change the form. All other benefits, including pension and vacation pay, are always processed by the trust fund in California regardless of the state in which you work. If you have any questions regarding the reciprocity process, please call the Reno District office at (775) 857-4440.

Upcoming April events include the Reno District meeting Tuesday, April 19. Mark your calendars. We also have a pre-retirement meeting in Elko April 12 at 6 p.m. in the Elko District office. And last but not least, we have our first Reno golf tournament April 30. For more information regarding these events, don't hesitate to call the Reno District office at (775) 857-4440.

**FROM MORGAN HILL**

**Out and about in District 90**

State Assemblymember Rebecca Cohn stands between District Rep. Fred Herschbach (left) and Asst. District Rep. DJ Robertson (right) in her new San Jose office. Cohn plans to do what's right for labor in her district and throughout the state.

San Jose Councilmember Cindy Chavez and District Rep. Fred Herschbach met in January to discuss Local 3 members' concerns. Chavez continues to work for labor issues and has a strong relationship with Local 3.

Journey-level Operator David Baeta works for Graniterock at the A.R. Wilson Quarry.

District 12 welcomes Kris Morgan as the new apprenticeship coordinator. Kris has been a business representative for Local 3 in Utah and in the Sacramento District 80 office. He was also the most recent district representative in Wyoming while it was still under Local 3's jurisdiction. District 12 is pleased to have Kris joining us again, and we know his enthusiasm and skills will be beneficial to our Utah apprenticeship program.

On that note, CCO training is June 4 and June 11. The CCO test will be June 12. If you are interested in becoming certified, please contact the JAC office at (801) 596-7785. Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) training is Saturday, April 23. Apprentices who are not working should plan to attend this training class. Please call the JAC office or the union hall at (801) 596-2677 for further information.
**CATs: Thanks for your support**

On Presidents Day, many residents went to the Ridge Golf Course in Auburn to express concerns regarding the I-80 overlay project and the Chevreaux Quarry portable hot plant. While at the golf course, Teichert and Chevreaux explained to residents the companies' efforts were in accordance with state and federal laws. They are still waiting on the reports.

Teichert is installing a state-of-the-art portable hot plant at Chevreaux; the project is scheduled for completion in 2006. We want to thank the members and Operating Engineers Community Action Team (OE CAT) members who attended the meeting.

Local 3 members: Remember to renew your registration on the out-of-work-list; you’re only on the list for 54 days unless you renew the registration.

Business Rep. Kris Morgan transferred to our Utah office, and we want to thank him for the dedication and hard work he brought to this district. We also want to welcome aboard new Business Rep. Rob Carrion.

Just a reminder that our district picnic is May 14 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Elk Grove Regional Park. Tickets are $10 each. Children under 12 and retirees are FREE! Retirees can pick up tickets at the hall.

**FROM SACRAMENTO**

**Boom pumps and terraces abound**

Work in District 10 is still slow because of the wet weather, but we are anticipating a busy spring season.

District 10 is pleased to announce the newest concrete-pumper, Pump-It, Inc. Richard “Rick” Corbett is the company president.

Corbett is the proud owner of a Putzmeister concrete boom pump, a 43-meter rig. Corbett is not a stranger to Operating Engineers Local 3. He joined Local 3 in 1981 through the apprenticeship program. He went to the Rancho Murieta Training Center and trained on all types of dirt-moving equipment. Corbett graduated with 8,000 hours of on-the-job training with the apprenticeship program. He spent half of his 8,000 hours as a heavy equipment repairer and the other half as a construction equipment operator. While he was an active apprentice, he worked for Ghiolotti Brothers and for Magiorra-Ghiolotti in San Rafael.

Corbett graduated from the apprenticeship program in the summer of 1986. After various jobs with Atkinson/Ostrander and W.R. Forde, he went into the concrete pumping business for Berkeley Concrete Pumping and has been the company's main mechanic/pump operator for 13 years. He trains new operators on Schwing and Putzmeister pumps with 23-meter to 58-meter booms.

Corbett said he is happy with the signing of his new agreement with Local 3 and with the contacts he has made with other union contractors.

If you come across Corbett out there, please extend your congratulations to him and welcome him as District 10's newest signatory contractor.

On Feb. 8, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors approved what may be the last pit terrace mine on the Russian River. Despite objections from the Westside Association to Save Agriculture, the Sonoma County supervisors approved phase six of Syar Industries' 26.6-acre terrace mining project. The plan allows Syar to dig 1.65 million tons of saleable material annually until April 2006.

The plan is covered by the ARM Aggregate Resources Management (ARM) environmental studies, and the gravel is necessary for the construction industry.

The board of supervisors approved the plan on two conditions. First, that operating hours must be reduced. Syar's operating hours are from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., but will be reduced to Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Second, no sewage can be discharged into the new pond.

Sonoma County Fifth District Supervisor Mike Reilly, who voted against the plan, said “this is it as far as Terrace Mining in the river.” Other supervisors agreed with construction's interests, namely that the county needs river gravel.

The ARM plan has scheduled to end terrace mining in Sonoma County by April 2006. According to Syar Industries Manager Dick Love, “93 percent of all rock mined in Sonoma County stays in Sonoma County.”

The loss of this resource will have a tremendous affect on Operating Engineers and the construction industry in Sonoma County.

Currently, work is lukewarm with the private sector leading the way. The governor still has a stranglehold on state transportation money. Thank God for the passage of Measure M. We should expect to see some work let this year because of the money generated through this important measure. If the interest rates go up, the private work sector may suffer.

Remember to mark your calendars for Sunday, June 26. We are hosting District 10's annual barbecue picnic at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds in the Founders Grove Area. Great food. Great fun!

The District 10 office staff wishes to congratulate and express good wishes to Randall and Michelle Straub on the Nov. 15 birth of their son, Trenton Mitchell Straub. His big brother, Casen, welcomed him home.

Also, congratulations to Local 3 member Anthony Moorman and his fiancée, Liana Young, on the Jan. 25 birth of their son, Parker Moorman.

Charles Long works for Ghiolotti Construction at Mare Island in Vallejo. He is a first-period apprentice and son of Jimmy Long, a recently retired Operating Engineer.

Tim Noble, son of Operating Engineer John Noble, is a first-period apprentice working for Granite Construction in Ukiah.

CAT Captain Matt Matej is a third-period apprentice working for Ghiolotti Construction in Santa Rosa.
**District 04 apprentice spotlight**

Ernie Miller started the apprenticeship program May 19, 2003, and has been trained under DeSilva Gates since then. He is a second-period apprentice who is learning to run scrapers, dozers, blades, and his favorite, gradesetting with GPS.

Miller’s glad to be an apprentice, because he said, there are many phases of construction to learn, and his authorities are patient when minimal mistakes are made.

In his words, “I like everything about being an Operating Engineer, including the Community Action Team (CAT) phone banking.”

He is working toward becoming a journey-level operator, then foreman. He also hopes to train other apprentices.

Daniel Zaboy is a third-period apprentice who has been trained by R.M. Harris since the beginning of his apprenticeship.

“The best thing is all the experience I’ve gained, plus the training center is assuring that I’m advancing in my skills,” he said.

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**Hwy. 149 improvements still on hold**

Undivided two-lane rural Hwy. 149 in Butte County is a dangerous five-mile stretch of road as evidenced by the many serious and fatal accidents there over the past 40 years. Accident rates far exceed the state average for this type of roadway. Construction, including roadway widening from two lanes to four lanes, was slated to begin this year, along with a few other high-priority state highway projects, but the funding is not yet available. Now there’s a surprise!

Several years ago, an initiative that dedicated gasoline sales tax money to road and mass transit projects was supposed to provide a consistent source of funding for transportation, but transportation has never seen Proposition 42, because lawmakers suspended it the last three years and used the money to balance the budget. As part of the agreements made between the governor and five Indian gaming tribes, the tribes will finance a $1 billion bond to accelerate repayment of Prop. 42 revenues with $857 million allocated to the state highway account. However, the sale of bonds is being postponed pending the result of legal challenges filed by Props. 68 and 70 proponents. The propositions were defeated in the last election, but had they passed, they would have voided the agreements between the governor and the tribes.

The bottom line is that it’s unlikely any construction will begin on Hwy. 149 this year. However, on a brighter note, there will be some preparation when the project gets underway. A marsh and vernal pool, which is a temporary pool of water that fills up in the spring, virtually disappears in the summer, often refills in the fall and is a breeding ground for species such as salamanders and frogs, may be created in the highway expansion area to relieve the environmental impact expected to affect existing bodies of water.

This is good news – proving that it is possible for the construction industry to proceed in a manner harmonious with the surrounding environment.

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**County thanks OE3 for opening Yuba Goldfields**

After more than 10 years of often contrary and volatile relations, the Yuba County Board of Supervisors thanked Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 for its efforts in opening the historic Yuba Goldfields to the public.

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**FROM FAIRFIELD**

Ernie Miller poses on a hot day. He has been in the apprenticeship training program with DeSilva Gates since May 2003.

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**FROM YUBA CITY**

In a proclamation given to the union Feb. 15, the county thanked Local 3 for its leadership in the community fight spearheaded by the Yuba Goldfields Access Coalition of which the union is an important member.

Yuba County Board of Supervisors Chair Mary Jane Griego presented the proclamation, which was accepted on behalf of Business Manager John Bonilla by District 60 District Rep. Dan Mostats. Mostats acknowledged the work of union Vice President Frank Herrera when Herrera was district representative in the late 1990s.

The Yuba Goldfields, located along the Yuba River east of Marysville, are comprised of about 10,000 acres of construction-grade sand and gravel, as well as about 200 fishing ponds. Much of the land is public, although for more than a decade a mining company and a private hunting and fishing club claimed to own the only road through the goldfields. Following a protracted public relations and legal battle, the California Supreme Court upheld a state court ruling that the road belonged to Yuba County, and the public has a right to use it.

Mostats thanked the county on behalf of the union and said renewed access to the Yuba Goldfields would not only provide recreational opportunities but also competitive bidding for aggregate on public lands.

Community activist and Yuba Goldfields Access Coalition member Lee Bright presented the union a unique sculpture made from wood found in the goldfields along the Yuba River.

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Yuba County Board of Supervisors Chair Mary Jane Griego presents the union with a proclamation of thanks for its efforts in the Yuba Goldfields. District Rep. Dan Mostats accepted the proclamation on behalf of Business Manager John Bonilla.

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*Image credits:* Ernie Miller poses on a hot day. He has been in the apprenticeship training program with DeSilva Gates since May 2003.
DISTRICT MEETINGS
All meetings convene at 7 p.m.

APRIL 2005
7th District 04: Fairfield, CA
2540 N. Watney Way

13th District 60: Yuba City
468 Century Park Drive

18th District 90: Morgan Hill
325 Digital Drive

19th District 20: Oakland
1620 S. Loop Road

20th District 10: Rohnert Park
6225 State Farm Drive, Ste. 100

21st District 80: Sacramento
4044 N. Freeway Blvd.

26th District 40: Eureka, CA
Best Western Bayshore Inn
3500 Broadway

27th District 70: Redding, CA
4856 N. Cedar

28th District 60: Yuba City, CA
Sutter-Yuba Board of Realtors
1558 Starr Drive

MAY 2005
5th District 50: Fresno, CA
Cedar Lanes
3131 N. Cedar

12th District 12: Salt Lake City, UT
IBEW Local 354
3400 W. 2100 S.

19th District 30: Stockton, CA
Italian Athletic Club
3541 Cherryland Drive

JUNE 2005
2nd District 01: Burlingame, CA
Machinists Hall
1511 Rollins Road

10th District 10: Ukiah, CA
Hampton Inn
1160 Airport Blvd.

13th District 17: Kauai, HI
Kauai High School Cafeteria
Lihue

14th District 17: Honolulu, CA
Washington Intermediate School Cafeteria
1633 So. King Street

15th District 17: Hilo, HI
Hilo ILWU Hall
100 W. Laniakula St.

16th District 17: Kona, HI
King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel
75-5660 Palani Road

17th District 17: Maui, HI
Maui Beach Hotel
170 Kauhmanu Avenue

23rd District 20: Martinez, CA
Plumbers 159
1304 Roman Way

30th District 90: Freedom, CA
Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall
1960 Freedom Blvd.

OE CAT MEETINGS
All meetings convene at 6 p.m.

APRIL 2005
5th District 50: Fairfield
2540 N. Watney Way

18th District 90: Morgan Hill
325 Digital Drive

19th District 20: Oakland
1620 S. Loop Road

May 2005
4th District 01: San Francisco
829 Mahler Road, Ste. B

11th District 30: Stockton
1916 North Broadway

12th District 12: Salt Lake City
1958 W.N. Temple

18th District 11: Reno
1290 Corporate Blvd.

25th District 50: Fresno
4856 N. Cedar

2005 Retiree Association meetings

AUBURN
April 7 10 a.m.
Auburn Recreation Center Lakeside Room
3770 Richardson Drive
Auburn, CA

SACRAMENTO
April 7 2 p.m.
ILWU Local 17 Hall
600 4th St.
West Sacramento, CA

FAIRFIELD
April 14 2 p.m.
Operating Engineers Building
2540 N Watney Way
Fairfield, CA

RENO
April 19 2 p.m.
Operating Engineers Building
1290 Corporate Blvd.
Reno, NV

EUREKA
April 26 2 p.m.
Best Western Bayshore Inn
3500 Broadway
Eureka, CA

REDING
Meeting & Potluck
April 27 1:30 p.m.
Frontier Senior Center
2011 Frontier Trail
Anderson, CA

YUBA CITY
April 28 2 p.m.
Sutter-Yuba Board of Realtors Building
1558 Starr Drive
Yuba City, CA

HONORARY MEMBERS

The following retirees have 35 or more years of membership in Local 3 as of February 2005 and are eligible for Honorary Membership effective April 1, 2005.

Ronald Bergsen .................................................. 1335473
Fred Callejo ..................................................... 1332540
Doyle Cole ...................................................... 1148530
David Harmeson ............................................... 1351443
Theodore Johnson ............................................. 1137645
Thane Keith ................................................... 1339584
Louis Race ..................................................... 1424915
Harold Stevenson ............................................. 0892733
James Takos ................................................... 1326206

2005 District Picnics

District 30 - Stockton Sunday, May 1
District 12 - Utah Saturday, May 14
District 50 - Sacramento Saturday, May 14
District 10 - Rohnert Park Saturday, May 21
District 60 - Yuba City Sunday, June 19
District 11 - Reno Saturday, June 25
District 12 - Utah Sunday, July 31
District 01 - Burlingame Sunday, Aug. 21
District 90 - Morgan Hill Sunday, Aug. 28
District 04 - Fairfield Monday, Sept. 5
District 17 - Big Island Sunday, Sept. 11
District 17 - Maui Saturday, Sept. 17

District 30 - Stockton
Date: Sunday, May 1
Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: Micke Grove Park off Eight Mile Road and Hwy. 99
Cost: Adults – $10, or $2 at the door;
Retirees – $5, children under 12 – free
Menu: Steak barbecue, asparagus, hot dogs, beans, salad, French bread, ice cream, and free soda and beer
We will have raffle prizes, a 50/50 drawing and fun activities for the kids!

District 80 – Sacramento
Date: Saturday, May 14
Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Location: Elk Grove Park
Cost: Adults – $10; Retirees and children under 12 years – free
Menu: Tri-tip, chicken, hot dogs, salad, beans and ice cream

District 12 – Utah
Date: Saturday, May 14
Time: 10 a.m.
Location: Draper City Park, 12450 S. 1300 East
Cost: Family – $10; Single – $5; Retirees – free
Menu: Breakfast – eggs, bacon, ham, hash browns, pancakes, rolls, donuts, fruit, juice and coffee
Cost includes raffle tickets for door prizes (6-single, 12-family). Additional raffle tickets for sale at the event.

District 50 – Fresno
Date: Saturday, May 21
Time: Noon to dusk (barbecue served 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.)
Location: Kearney Park at Oak Knoll A in Fresno
Cost: Adult – $10; Children 10 and under – free; $4 entrance fee per vehicle
Menu: Tri-tip barbecue
Around Aloha, Mr. Lewis

Harold Kanohooli Lewis, a longtime presence and recognized leader in Hawaii's organized labor community, celebrated his retirement from Local 3 with 450 admiring guests at a Feb. 20 dinner and celebration at the Renaissance Ilikai Waikiki Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii.

From left: Honolulu Police Chief Boisse Correa, Honolulu City Council Chairman Donovan DelaCruz, former Financial Secretary Harold K. Lewis and Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann.

Bad check policy

At the Feb. 19 Executive Board Meeting, it was moved, seconded and carried to approve the following bad check policy effective May 1, 2005:

Within a 12-month period, if a person submits two personal checks (excluding check-off), which are returned for either “non-sufficient funds” or “account closed,” all future financial transactions with Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 will be on a cash-only basis (money orders, cashier’s check or cash accepted) for a period of 12 months. At the end of the 12-month period, Local 3 will allow financial transactions to include personal checks.

Departed Members

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

Bauer, Carl  
Fremont, CA  
12-20-04

Brophy, Clarence  
Brentwood, CA  
01-20-05

Cambra, Alden  
Waianae, HI  
01-08-05

Cobbley, Glen  
Springville, UT  
12-29-04

Failing, Gene  
San Andreas, CA  
12-28-04

Gentry, Arnold  
Wasco, CA  
12-31-04

Hamlett, Ronald  
Carson City, NV  
01-15-05

Haynes, Lee  
San Leandro, CA  
12-21-04

Moss, Raymond  
San Leandro, CA  
01-23-05

Pack, Jude  
Paso Robles, CA  
01-02-05

Pew, William  
Thompson Flats, MT  
12-17-04

Reed, James  
Nephi, UT  
01-06-05

Deceased Dependents

Pinell, Colleen. Wife of Pinell, Michael  
01-05-05

Bailey, Edna. Wife of Bailey, John (dec)  
01-31-05

Beebe, Phyllis. Wife of Beebe, Hal (dec)  
12-23-04

Blake, Phyllis. Wife of Blake, Roy  
01-12-05

Burbine, Ruth. Wife of Burbine, Warren  
01-21-05

Christianon, Shirley. Wife of Christianon, Ernest  
02-13-05

Cimondi, Patricia. Wife of Cimondi, (dec)  
12-24-04

Collier, Virginia. Wife of Collier, Fred (dec)  
11-18-04

Davis, Betty. Wife of Davis, Robert (dec)  
01-29-05

Fassino, Virginia. Wife of Fassino, Mike  
01-03-05

Ford, Lucy. Wife of Ford, Henry (dec)  
01-28-05

McCullough, Elizabeth. Wife of McCullough, Kenneth (dec)  
02-09-05

Leon, Eileen. Wife of Leon, Ralph  
02-01-05

Miller, O’Rene. Wife of Miller, McMenen (dec)  
01-08-05

Mitchell, Norma. Wife of Mitchell, William (dec)  
01-21-05

Portlock, Marvene. Wife of Portlock, Lloyd (dec)  
11-22-04

Ramos, Josephone. Wife of Ramos, Lawrence (dec)  
12-25-04

Rays, Rita. Wife of Rays, Donald (dec)  
02-07-05

Roberts, Vida. Wife of Roberts, Lee (dec)  
01-17-05

Stauffer, Phyllis. Wife of Stauffer, Paul (dec)  
01-14-05

Thomas, Heather. Wife of Thomas, Donald (dec)  
12-25-04

Wilson, Timothy. Son of Brinkley, Rhonda  
01-15-05

Wing, Florence. Wife of Wing, Richard  
01-26-05

Wright, Mabel. Wife of Wright, James (dec)  
01-02-05

Wright, Donna. Wife of Wright, Vincent  
03-19-04

OE3 welcomes new members

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

DISTRICT 1 – SAN FRANCISCO
Paul Larson

DISTRICT 30 – STOCKTON
Andres Bucio  
Sergio Fonce

DISTRICT 11 – RENO
Dale Braaten  
Warren Brewer  
Joe Martinez  
Tony Martinez

Operating Engineers Local 3 welcomes the following new contractors

District 1 – San Francisco
Spice Ranch

District 4 – Fairfield
R Dawson Construction

District 10 – Rohnert Park
Pumppit

District 20 – Oakland
JS Concrete Construction  
Riley’s Striping  
Continental Golf

District 40 – Eureka
Hufford Construction  
Advanced American Diving

District 50 – Fresno
Oral E Michm  
Shananan in Fresno

District 70 – Redding
JTR Paving & Backhoe Services  
M&C Excavating

District 90 – San Jose
AIS Construction Company

Help reduce identity theft

You have the right to stop the use of any communication or material being mailed to you containing your fully displayed Social Security Number. Printing your individual Social Security Number on any cards to access products or services, or publicly posting or displaying it in any manner is also infringing on your rights.

You can request in writing that any entity you correspond with no longer uses your Social Security Number as an identifier in their mailings to your address. Once these business entities receive your written request to stop using your Social Security Number, they must comply within 30 days. An entity may not deny any services to you should you assert this right. These efforts and knowing your rights should help reduce your risk of identity theft.
FOR SALE: 2001 Toyota Celica GT. 108 miles. Black, AC, AM/FM cassette, power windows, mirror and antenna. Brand new tires. For prices shown, or all items for $2,875. 

FOR SALE: 1994 Ford Taurus. 168K miles, CD player, power windows and locks. Every check engine light is on. $1,000. (530) 758-1064.

FOR SALE: 1997 Winnebago Brave, 26 ft, in good condition. Roof air, grill, fridge, freezer. $8,000. (916) 991-1530.

FOR SALE: 2001 Toyota Celica GT. 108 miles. Black, AC, AM/FM cassette, power windows, mirror and antenna. Brand new tires. For prices shown, or all items for $2,875. 

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Sunshine gears up members for a good season

This is the time of year when the “honey-do” list is getting shorter and shorter, and operators are ready to play in the dirt again. With fewer rainy days and the sun shining on us, the Fresno District is gearing up for another prosperous work season. We continue to have a lot of private work in the area and the need for good operators. Newly trained grade checkers also will get a chance to sharpen their skills.

Some of the projects in our area include paving on Marks Avenue in Fresno by Agee Construction, FCI Constructors’ rehabilitation and bridge widening on Hwy. 99 near Fowler, Calif., and flood control canal work in Fresno County by W.M. Lyles.

In the northern part of our district, there is no let-up in the subdivision market. Teichert Construction and Granite Construction continue to have the majority of work. Floyd Johnston is continuing on its underground project south of Merced near Hwy. 99. It was also the low bidder on a $2.5 million project in the Madera Airport Industrial Park. Granite Construction can still be found at the U.C. Merced project along with Sheedy Crane, which is performing the onsite crane hoisting.

One member looking forward to returning to work is Apprentice Roy Parker. We want to welcome him back from medical leave after being bit on the arm by a brown recluse spider in October. He spent several weeks in the hospital and almost lost his arm, since the poison had spread throughout his entire body.

We also want to welcome our newest members initiated at the March 1 district meeting: Marvin Ward, William White, Keith Francis and Jeffrey H. Morales. We wish you all a rewarding career as Operating Engineers and look forward to your continued involvement with Local 3.

Waterfront work proves good

Winter rain continues to halt any dirt work, leaving our members anxious for dry weather. Just when we think the rain will let up, it returns, frustrating everyone involved. Enjoy the time off while you can; all indicators point to a busy year.

DeSilva Gates was awarded Stockton’s $53 million Hwy. 99 improvement job. Heavy traffic will make the work area tight, but members should get good hours.

Work continues near the waterfront with the $116 million Stockton Events Center. Evans Brothers from Livermore began demolition work on the project in April 2004. Swinerton Builders is the construction management company with Tom Rasica as project superintendent. Although Swinerton is not signed to a collective bargaining agreement, the company only uses union labor crafts, because it knows the value and importance of quality work. Local 3 has enjoyed an excellent working relationship with the company.

D.S.S. Construction and Maxim Crane are working on the site and plan to complete the project in October 2005.

The Stockton District is full of construction projects in all phases. Employers project busy work schedules for spring. Gravel plants prepare for high volume sales, since all the material they can make is already sold. Members not working should check their out-of-work registration. When you register on the out-of-work list, your registration expires after 84 days. Keep in touch with the dispatcher and renew your registration before it expires. When the rain stops, so will the lapse of work.

The Feb. 10 Stockton District meeting was well attended with 135 members. Thanks to all who attended. Grievance Committee members Roy Luallin, Mike Halloran and Brad Brixey were reelected. Market Geographical Area Committee member Lonnie Otey was reelected, along with new members Roger Stirling and Richard Valentine. Outgoing committee members Dave Clark and Bart Marquez will be missed. Term limits don’t allow their reelection. Thanks to Dave and Bart for their willingness to serve our union.

In closing, the Stockton District wishes everyone a safe and prosperous year. Mark your calendar for the May 1 district picnic at Mickle Grove Park. We look forward to seeing you.
**FROM EUREKA**

**> Water projects underway in District 40**

Work is shaping up in Eureka for the new year with Contri Construction’s Boating Center and the Fisherman’s Terminal job getting underway. We are waiting for bid results on the $10 million city of Fortuna Waste Water Expansion Project. The water intake project, the water storage project, and the treatment and infrastructure projects in the city of Rio Dell are also highly anticipated with expected funding of $8 million. Bidding will take place in March with contract awards due in April. As weather improves, the $26 million Behavioral Sciences Building at Humboldt State University should get back on track soon.

Building at Humboldt State University should improve, the $26 million Behavioral Sciences contract awards due in April. As weather improves, the $26 million Behavioral Sciences Building at Humboldt State University should get back on track soon.

This just in: The city of Arcata elected Mark Wheetley to fill a vacant city council seat in a March 8 special election. In a field of six candidates, Wheetley won 49.9 percent of the vote. Local 3 endorsed and worked hard for Wheetley dates, Wheetley won 49.9 percent of the vote. Mark Wheetley to fill a vacant city council seat in a March 8 special election. In a field of six candidates, Wheetley won 49.9 percent of the vote. Local 3 endorsed and worked hard for Wheetley to fill this seat. Thanks to our Operating Engineers Community Action Team volunteers for their hard work on this campaign.

I would like to take this time to thank some of our public employees for their participation in Local 3 activities. Bob Martinez and the members of the Eureka Police Officers’ Association have been active in Local 3 and in the community. Many members in Arcata have also taken an active political role in Humboldt County. Thank you for the hard work.

Active organizing campaigns are going strong, and we encourage members to call and find out what can be done to take back our market share.

We look forward to a safe and productive season. Don’t forget to join the Operating Engineers Local 3 Federal Credit Union located right here at the hall.

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**FROM SAN FRANCISCO**

**> Three generations of engineers in Half Moon Bay**

Fifty-year member George Giovannoni joined Operating Engineers Local 3 in 1954. After working for non-union companies for more than 20 years, he was tired and wanted to “make some money for himself and his family,” so he decided to start his own company. In 1976, Giovannoni and his wife, Audrey, opened Half Moon Bay Grading and Paving in the place he was born and raised.

Since Giovannoni was a Local 3 member, he knew that if he wanted to “get more work and better jobs,” he needed to stay union, so he signed his first contract with Local 3.

“When a guy starts a company, he should join a union,” Giovannoni said. “Who wants to be 50 years old, working with no health insurance and no pension?”

Giovannoni also found that being union meant he could get more work and larger jobs.

“Things have changed a lot over the years,” Giovannoni said. “When we started, there were only three of us and one Operating Engineer. Today, Half Moon Bay Grading and Paving has more than 17 employees, nine of whom are Operating Engineers.”

There have also been changes in the front office. Cindy Giovannoni’s daughter-in-law, took over for Audrey and now does the bookkeeping.

Giovannoni retired in 1987 and handed the company over to his two sons, Gary Sr., who joined Operating Engineers Local 3 in 1977, and Ken, who has been a member since 1970. Gary Sr. also understands the importance of being union, so when his two sons, Gary Jr. and John, were ready to join the family business, he signed them up as apprentices and both are now second-period construction equipment operator apprentices.

If you happen to be on the coast and see Half Moon Bay Grading and Paving doing a job, you may see three generations of Operating Engineers, Gary Jr., Gary Sr., George, Ken and John Giovannoni.

Work in the San Francisco area this year is promising with several demolition companies looking at a busy spring. Because any new construction requires removal of older structure, work should be up this season. Laguna Honda Hospital will be demolished and rebuilt for more than $200 million.

Two 60-story skyscrapers will go up this year, and the San Francisco skyline is littered with cranes of all shapes and sizes. In addition, a number of Hetch Hetchy projects are either underway or slated to break ground this year.

Work in Marin County and Southern Sonoma County is going well for the start of the season. North Bay Construction remains busy with many smaller jobs nearing $30 million in the Petaluma area. Diablo Contractors began a $10 million job in Petaluma, tearing down the two southbound lanes of U.S.101 over Lakeville Highway and replacing them with a new overpass. Also in the Petaluma area, bids are being accepted on a new $130 million waste water treatment plant.

Maggio & Ghioliti recently started a $4.3 million sewer pump station in Corte Madera. WR Forde has several water projects starting this spring throughout Marin.

In San Mateo County there are several projects slated for the San Mateo, Skyline and Cañada community colleges. Major improvements to the athletic field took place last year, and this year all three colleges will add classrooms and remodel older buildings.

Devil’s Slide along Hwy. 1 north of Half Moon Bay in San Mateo County will go to bid soon, and work will begin on a new tunnel bypassing the slide area later this year. We will keep you posted.

One of the biggest projects in the county is in south San Francisco at Genetech. Builders are erecting eight new buildings and a parking garage. Top Grade is doing the dirt work and American Pile Driving is driving pile for the first couple of buildings.

Private work is strong with many smaller jobs starting when the weather clears.

Congratulations to the following 50-year members in District 1: