ELECTION COMMITTEE NOTICE
See page 17 for important information regarding the election of the Election Committee members, who will conduct the August 2006 election of Officers and Executive Board members.
For The Good & Welfare
By John Bonilla, Business Manager

Hours build power

I have a summary of 2005 year-end hours to review with you this month, as well as a few comments regarding our recent Semi-Annual Meeting.

First, to everyone who attended the Semi-Annual, I want to thank you for spending your Sunday with Local 3. The fairgrounds’ hall was packed almost to full capacity – an incredible turnout for a weekend union meeting. It was good to see all of you there.

To those who spoke during the Good of the Order, I want you to know your voices were heard. I appreciate your participation, and I thank you for coming up and speaking your mind. My door is always open if you have more to say.

Moving on to the year-end hour report, I should tell you my intention in sharing this information is not to make your head spin with numbers but to give you a clear understanding of the work picture in 2005.

From the percentages listed below, you’ll see it was a strong year overall for our membership. Local 3’s 2005 construction hours in all four states were above 2004. Our surveyors also finished the year strong, with hours up 15 percent over 2004. The five- and ten-year comparisons show us the bigger picture in which you’ll see most hours have improved.

2005 year-end hours

California construction: California finished the year 2 percent above 2004, 10 percent above 2000 and 56 percent above 1995.

Nevada construction: Nevada finished 8 percent above 2004, which was a huge improvement over earlier years, 75 percent above 2000 and 73 percent above 1995.

Utah construction: Utah had a strong year, with hours up 22 percent over 2004. Hours were 10 percent below 2000 and 38 percent above 1995.


Rock, sand and gravel: This industry’s hours ended the year 3 percent below 2004.

Hours were 43 percent below 2000 and 23 percent below 1995.

Surveyors: Our surveyors finished the year strong, with hours up 15 percent over 2004, 12 percent above 2000 and almost double (96 percent) 1995.

Employer associations

AGC: Year-end hours for AGC were slightly below (1 percent) 2004, 5 percent above 2000 and 67 percent above 1996.

EUCA: 2005 hours improved for this employer association, up 15 percent over 2004, 39 percent over 2000 and a whopping 145 percent over 1996.

Independents: Independent hours were slightly above (1 percent) 2004, 11 percent over 2000 and 26 percent above 1996.

AECE: Hours for AECE were 7 percent above 2004, 12 percent above 2000 and 64 percent above 1996.

Cranes: Crane hours were up 9 percent over 2004, down 1 percent from 2000 and 61 percent above 1996.

As I’ve said, it was a strong year overall for Local 3, and the numbers prove it. More hours for our membership is a good thing – obviously, it means more money in our members’ pockets, though it extends far beyond that.

Hours build power for Local 3 at the bargaining table, out in the field in our organizing campaigns and in the political arena. If you stop and think about it, it makes perfect sense: Our union is only as strong as our members. Let’s remember this as we move forward in 2006 with momentum from 2005.

Work safe, keep yourself trained up, and stay informed and involved in your union.

In solidarity,

John A. Bonilla
Business Manager
IUOE General Vice President
**In the News**

Bonilla, elected officials kick off Prop. 42 campaign

Business Manager John Bonilla, local elected officials and business and transportation leaders held a news conference Feb. 16 in downtown Sacramento to kick off their Prop. 42 campaign and launch statewide signature-gathering efforts. Speakers included Sacramento Mayor Heather Fargo, Executive Director of the California Alliance for Jobs Jim Earp and Business Manager John Bonilla. Supporters hope to gather as many as a million signatures statewide to close the Prop. 42 loophole.

If enough signatures are gathered, this amendment will land on the November 2006 ballot, giving voters what they originally wanted – the Prop. 42 sales tax on gasoline to be directed solely to transportation funds. Prop. 42 currently contains a loophole that has allowed transportation dollars to be diverted from this fund for non-transportation uses. This initiative will close the loophole for good and keep transportation funds secure.

As Bonilla explained at the conference: “This initiative makes good sense for California’s working families. The projects funded by these revenues will help jump-start local economies and help with the ongoing creation of good, highly skilled jobs.”

**Member Sergeant Moore returns home from Iraq**

Oakland District 20 welcomes home Fourth-step Apprentice Sergeant Shaun Moore, who works for Performance Excavating and lives in Livermore, Calif. Moore recently returned home after serving 13 months with the 467th Combat Engineers in Balad, Iraq, about 30 minutes north of Baghdad. His duty was to search and destroy Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

“The IEDs were usually pretty easy to spot,” Moore said. “You just looked for different colored soil or a portion of concrete that appeared to be lifted up or out of place. The insurgents would plant the IEDs and then detonate them using a small, two-way radio or cell phone.”

The Combat Engineers used specialized equipment and robots to make their job easier.

Moore recalls the day the 467th Combat Engineers had to patrol farther than usual. On their way driving back to base, they encountered an IED that was to search and destroy Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). “The IEDs were usually pretty easy to spot,” Moore said. “You just looked for different colored soil or a portion of concrete that appeared to be lifted up or out of place. The insurgents would plant the IEDs and then detonate them using a small, two-way radio or cell phone.”

The Combat Engineers used specialized equipment and robots to make their job easier.

Moore recalls the day the 467th Combat Engineers had to patrol farther than usual. On their way driving back to base, they encountered an IED that destroyed their Humvee. Moore was riding in the gun turret on top of the Humvee. All five soldiers in the Humvee survived, although the soldier in the passenger seat suffered shrapnel wounds.

Welcome home, Sergeant Moore! District 20 is proud of you.

**Talking Points**

By Bob Miller, President

Utah win

As I’ve reported in the past, Utah is a tough state for bringing democracy into the workplace. Employers are aggressive in resisting their workers’ efforts to join a union. Our organizers have seen them use every trick in the book, both legal and illegal, to stymie our organizing campaigns. Even when we are successful, we still have to contend with Utah being a right-to-work state. Workers can choose not to join our union, and we can’t require them to pay for the services we are required by law to provide them.

Some of the best Local 3 members are in Utah, because they don’t have to be members – they want to be. Utah members know all about the benefits of union membership. They also know that because of the right-to-work law, there will always be some freeloaders who pay nothing and still get union-scale wages, benefits and job protections.

In late January, a bill was introduced in the Utah Legislature (HB 177, Cark) that would have made Utah’s right-to-work law even worse. HB 177 would have allowed freeloaders to opt out of the benefit plans contained in our contracts. The net impact of this: a smaller pool of insured workers, resulting in higher premiums. We have a tough time negotiating employer-paid fringe benefits now. Imagine how tough it would be if this measure became law.

Fortunately, this ill-advised legislation has been stopped for now. Utah legislators understand how important it is for workers to have fringe benefits. They also know the state often ends up paying for the health care of workers who don’t have insurance. In the end, I think they saw this measure for what it really was – a thinly disguised attempt to attack the financial footing of union-sponsored fringe benefit programs.

Local 3’s Utah staff did a great job stopping the bill in committee. My hat goes off to District Rep. Jim Sullivan, Asst. District Rep. Dale Cox and lobbyists Denny Wright and Kay Leishman. Their hard work paid off. They worked both sides of the political aisle to help legislators understand what the bill was really all about and the adverse impact it would have had on both the state budget and union benefit plans.

The legislative battle over this bad bill has given Local 3 a stronger, more bi-partisan base of support in the Utah Legislature. That’s important for us because of the legislature’s current political makeup. We need the support of members from both parties to get good bills passed and bad bills stopped. I’m confident Local 3’s growing bi-partisan support will pay future dividends for Utah members and their families. Thanks again to our Utah staff and members for their hard work and commitment to Local 3.

If Uncle Sam calls you … call us

Ask about Military Service Withdrawals

Members assigned to military duty and those who have returned from military duty should contact their district office to learn more about the union’s service withdrawal policies and procedures.
INSIDE NEGOTIATIONS
By Frank Herrera, Vice President

Fighting the governor on workers’ comp

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s 2004 workers’ compensation reforms have turned out to be a disaster for working families in California. Since the reforms went into effect, the governor has slashed benefits for workers with serious injuries that cause permanent disability, reduced their medical treatment and vocational rehabilitation and eliminated job retraining benefits all together.

His reforms impact thousands of Californians injured at work, including some of our own Local 3 members. I know a member who sustained a serious knee injury on the job in the summer of 2004; he had to endure the reforms. This member did not receive satisfactory results from surgery and is permanently prohibited from performing his normal job duties. He is in his twenties and will suffer severe future wage losses as a result of this significant injury.

Under the old system, our member would have been entitled to permanent disability payments of $200 per week for about four years – a total benefit of $40,000. He would have also been entitled to vocational rehabilitation to train for a new occupation. However, under Schwarzenegger’s reforms, he is not entitled to permanent disability benefits or vocational retraining, and his medical care will be significantly limited.

While all results are not as harsh as this member’s, the average reduction in permanent disability for workers with serious injuries in California is about 70 percent. Some have experienced cuts from 90 to 100 percent. I know of one woman who lost her entire workers’ compensation benefit of $20,000 after the reforms went into effect – a 100 percent cut.

To build the necessary momentum for repairing the great damage these reforms have forced on injured workers, we must work together with our allies and independently as member activists to formulate solutions.

One solution already in the works – thanks to Local 3 and the Basic Crafts Alliance – is the Workers’ Compensation Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program. This program has been extremely beneficial to injured Local 3 members by helping them understand their rights and obligations in the complex world of workers’ compensation. Workers traditionally navigate through the process alone, unless they hire an attorney, and attorneys generally do not take a case without compensation. Fortunately, the ADR Program is offered at no out-of-pocket cost to injured workers who are in the program.

Beyond the ADR Program, Local 3’s Operating Engineers Community Action Team (OE CAT) has stepped up to the plate and is doing what it does best: working at the grassroots level, sending out letters to the editors of their community newspapers and communicating their concerns to the governor and elected representatives.

Member activists like Bruce Lockwood are doing an excellent job getting the word out about the governor’s reforms. Bruce was injured in an accident on the job in 2001. Though he lost his left leg just below the knee, a prosthetic leg allows him to work today. Bruce was not directly affected by the 2004 reforms, since the reforms went into effect in 2005 and after. However, nothing about the ordeal he’s been through has been quick or easy.

Bruce is an activist in the truest sense of the word. He spoke last month at a workers’ compensation seminar at the Dante Club in Sacramento, and I understand he did a fine job sharing his thoughts with the crowd. My hat is off to Bruce and to his wife, Sharron, for their strength and involvement.

I urge you to join them and your union to help fight the governor on workers’ compensation. Contact your district hall to see what you can do today. In solidarity.

ADR assists OE3 members injured at work

The Basic Crafts Alliance Workers’ Compensation Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program counsels injured workers through the confusing workers’ compensation process at no out-of-pocket costs to those in the program. If your employer is signatory to the ADR Program, then you have signed or will be signing an acknowledgement form and will receive a package of information; however, even if you are not injured and simply have questions about the program, please call (800) 526-0888 or visit www.basiccrafts.org.
Pension payment options

Thanks to everyone who attended the recent pre-retirement meetings.

One question that came up at every meeting was whether a spouse is entitled to pension benefits after the member passes away. Last month, we covered the main form of payment – the Husband and Wife 50 percent, 75 percent and 100 percent. This month, we will discuss other available payment options: 60-month Guarantee, 120-month Guarantee and Level Income.

With the 60-month Guarantee, if you are single when you retire or married and your spouse consents in writing to your rejection of the Husband and Wife Pension, you will receive monthly pension payments guaranteed for a minimum of 60 months after your retirement date. Of course, benefits are paid for your lifetime, but if you live less than 60 months after retirement, monthly payments will continue to your beneficiary for the remainder of the 60-month period.

For example: If a participant’s pension begins May 1, 2006, and he dies in April 2007 (12 months later), his beneficiary receives payments under this method through April 2011 (48 months).

The 120-month Guarantee is similar to the 60-month Guarantee, except a lower amount is payable to you in exchange for the guarantee that if you die before 120 monthly payments have been made, the balance of the 120 payments will be made to your beneficiary.

Election of this option must be made before your pension begins and will not take effect until 24 months after you make the election. Until the option takes effect, your pension will be payable in the normal form (Pensioner’s 60-month Guarantee), as if the 120-month Guarantee option had not been elected.

If you retire before age 62, you can receive your Early Retirement or Service Pension in the form of a Level Income Option. This option is also available if you are receiving a Pro-Rata Early Retirement Pension and have at least 10 years of credit service under this plan.

Under the Level Income Option, the amount you receive from the plan is adjusted to take into account the money you will receive from Social Security. When you first retire, you will receive a higher monthly pension amount from the plan, which will continue until you reach age 62, when Social Security benefits start. At that point, your payments from the plan are reduced by $100. This way, the benefits you receive from Social Security, combined with the reduced monthly pension from the plan, will provide you with a more level and predictable monthly income from the date you retire.

If you have any questions regarding your pension, please contact the Trust Fund office at (800) 251-5014 or the Fringe Benefits Service Center at (800) 532-2105.

How to read your pension statement

If you are a pension plan participant, your pension statement provides important retirement information. Here’s a guide to reading your statement:

Item 1 shows the number of hours reported for the plan year. 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 payable at full retirement age for a normal, regular or service pension.

Item 4 contains important messages regarding your pension benefits.
How to build a great credit score

High credit scores are important to your financial blueprint. Past-payment history, amount of current debt, length of time credit has been established and recent credit-application requests all affect your credit score. These financial details are contained in your personal credit file. When applying for a car loan, mortgage or personal credit card, lenders review your personal credit file through one of three credit-reporting agencies – Equifax, Experian or TransUnion. These credit bureaus track your spending, but more importantly, they monitor your paying habits and assign a three-digit FICO score to evaluate your creditworthiness. FICO scores rank consumers from low to high, ranging from 300 to 850. A high score to financial institutions means you’re most likely to repay your debts, while a low score suggests potential trouble.

Only 1 percent to 2 percent of the population has a credit score of 800 or above. Those with high scores obtain credit easily and benefit with favorable interest rates. Most consumers average 720 and can obtain credit easily but are assessed slightly higher rates. Consumers with scores lower than 620 may find it difficult to borrow money and will most definitely be charged higher rates when they are approved. Therefore, in order to potentially save thousands on interest payments, keep your credit clean and your credit scores high by always paying bills on time and keeping credit-card debt low. The first step to improving your score is to find out what it is.

What’s your credit score?

Get an accurate picture of your personal credit profile by obtaining your free FACT ACT consumer disclosure, which contains the information credit-reporting agencies collect on your personal financial habits. Credit bureaus offer this service for a fee, but you can obtain a free report every year from Equifax, Experian and TransUnion by going online to www.annualcreditreport.com or calling (877) 322-8228.

Correct inaccuracies

Look closely and compare the data from all three agencies. Each collects information differently, so your credit scores may vary based on the data in your credit records. When applying for an auto or home loan, a spread of 40 points can make a difference in the amount of interest you’ll pay. Compare each report and make sure your name, mailing address and Social Security number are accurate. Mislabeled identity is widespread, especially if you have a common name like John Smith. Check for incorrect balances and unauthorized transactions that could also indicate identity theft. If you’ve identified any problems, contact the credit bureau. They have 30 days to investigate your claim and make corrections.

Improve your financial habits

There are several steps you can take to improve your score. If one or more late payments show up on your report, figure out why. Sometimes payment due dates do not match the time of month you normally pay your bills. Call your lenders; they may change the due date to accommodate your bookkeeping schedule. If you’re late because you’re unorganized, sign up for an automatic payment plan or set up online bill pay. With bill pay and a couple of clicks of your mouse, you can pay your doctor, mortgage or credit-card accounts in a matter of minutes. Bill pay helps you get organized, because there are no papers to shuffle, no checks to write and no misplaced bills leading to missed or late payments.

If money is tight and you’re struggling to meet your minimum payments, ask your lenders if they will lower your interest rate or reduce your monthly payment. Consider moving your high balances to other existing accounts that offer lower interest rates, no annual fees and longer grace periods. If financial hardship strikes, contact your union-member-owned credit union before your credit score suffers. The Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union (OEFCU) offers several programs that can improve your financial picture.

Repairing bad credit

To repair your credit score, you must pay your bills on time every month. You also need to manage your debt by keeping your credit card balances below 35 percent of your available credit limit. For example, if you have a credit card with a $1,000 limit, keep your balance below $350. High balances on credit cards significantly lower your score. It is better to have three to five cards with low balances than one card that is maxed out. If you’re thinking of consolidating your debt, keep the oldest credit accounts active – the longer your credit history, the better. Avoid applying for a large number of new credit cards within a short period of time. This is an indication to lenders that you are overextending yourself by taking on too much debt. If you are buying a home or car and shopping for the best financing/purchase possible, applying with different lenders within a few weeks will not negatively impact your credit profile.

What to do if you have trouble getting credit

If you’re having trouble opening a new credit card account or being accepted for a loan, your credit union offers a Share Secured loan. Using your savings account as collateral, you can borrow a minimum loan amount of $500 with a maximum amount of $850. This type of loan is a means of borrowing money at a lower rate while keeping your savings account intact. After a few months of responsible use with secured credit, your score should improve. This is also an excellent way to establish new credit for young adults who are bound for college or going off on their own.

With a little discipline, anyone can have a high credit score. Remember: A high credit score can save you thousands a year on excessive interest payments. To start saving, review your credit report today and make improvements where needed. For more information on FICO scores and credit bureaus, visit the Consumer Center on OEFCU’s website at www.oefcu.org.
Spring and summer safety classes

**OSHA 10-HOUR CONSTRUCTION SAFETY**
- April 24-25: RMTC 7:30 a.m.
- June 19-20: RMTC 7:30 a.m.
- Aug. 28-29: RMTC 7:30 a.m.

**OSHA DISASTER SITE WORKER**
(Note: The OSHA 10-Hour Construction class is a prerequisite for this class.)
- April 26-27: RMTC 7:30 a.m.
- June 21-22: RMTC 7:30 a.m.
- Aug. 30-31: RMTC 7:30 a.m.

**40-HOUR HAZWOPER**
- April 24-28: RMTC 7:30 a.m.
- June 19-23: RMTC 7:30 a.m.
- Aug. 28-Sept. 1: RMTC 7:30 a.m.

**EIGHT-HOUR HAZWOPER REFRESHER**
- April 25: RMTC 7:30 a.m.
- April 28: RMTC 7:30 a.m.
- June 20: RMTC 7:30 a.m.
- June 23: RMTC 7:30 a.m.
- Aug. 29: RMTC 7:30 a.m.
- Sept. 1: RMTC 7:30 a.m.

**FIRST AID**
- March 29: Fresno District 7 a.m.
- May 24: Sacramento District 8 a.m.
- July 19: Alameda Headquarters 8 a.m.

**COMPETENT PERSON TRENCHING & EXCAVATION**
- June 7: Sacramento District 8 a.m.
- Aug. 10: Alameda Headquarters 8 a.m.

**MSHA NEW MINER TRAINING**
- March 29-31: Fresno District 7 a.m.

Call Asst. Safety Director Marshall Massie at (916) 354-2029, ext. 244, to sign up for classes. Class sizes are limited and available on a first-come basis. All classes are subject to cancellation if minimum enrollment requirements are not reached.

**SAFETY**
By Guy Prescott, Director

**TEACHING TECHS**
By Paul Schissler, Administrator

**FAQs answered**
The Northern California Surveyors’ Joint Apprenticeship Committee (NCSJAC) office receives numerous calls about the program regarding the length of apprenticeship, the required education level and physical requirements. This month’s column is intended to answer some of these frequently asked questions.

Like a college education, the successful completion of an apprenticeship program does not come easily but is the result of hard work. In practically every skilled occupation, more than fundamental knowledge of arithmetic is essential, as is the ability to read, write and speak well. A high-school diploma or its equivalency is preferred.

Individuals seeking apprenticeship in some occupations are at an advantage if they have taken courses and are knowledgeable in mechanical drawing, physics, blueprint reading, drafting, higher mathematics, chemistry and electrical welding. Physical fitness, a good sense of balance, hand-eye coordination, color sense, agility, strength, ability to work at heights and mechanical aptitude are desirable qualifications, along with the ability to work with others, a good personality and neat appearance.

Prospective skilled workers usually like to work with their hands, using various tools to build and repair things. They like to finish projects once they’ve started and don’t care how dirty or greasy the job is, as long as they get it done. They also enjoy talking about the jobs they are involved with and the problems they meet in their work.

In school, they do well in shop, science, mathematics and mechanical drawing classes and enjoy working on practical problems in the classroom and at home.

These are only some of the factors that may indicate an aptitude for a skilled worker.

(P.S. Share this with your party chief.)

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**Five field mistakes that can be prevented**
1. Failing to check tribracs for proper adjustment.
2. Failing to peg test your level at least every two weeks.
4. Using instruments that are out of adjustment.
5. Noticing that the optical plummet drifts off the point as you rotate the instrument and not correcting it.

These are a few of the mistakes that occur every day in the field. Perhaps seeing them written out will help you remember to analyze the methods you use in the field, so you can make changes to prevent mistakes in the future.

**Organizing**
By Bruce Noel, Director

**Showing our value**
From Hawaii to Utah, all indications point toward a banner work year for Operating Engineers. With the gas tax money and other public money heading toward transportation and infrastructure improvements and with interest rates remaining relatively low, we have the best of both worlds for public and private work opportunities. This should be a busy and prosperous year for Local 3.

From an organizing standpoint, years like 2006 give us our best opportunities for signing new contractors. A busy work picture tends to create a shortage of skilled operators and tradespeople. Contractors who have not given us an opportunity to show our value before may now find it difficult to complete certain projects without us. Because they have trouble finding qualified operators, they seem more open-minded about the union. Now that Local 3 organizers are assigned to specific districts, we are able to meet more consistently with non-union contractors. This allows us a better opportunity to educate them about the many benefits of being signatory.

We have also been out telling non-union workers that even if the contractor they currently work for wishes to continue working on projects, opportunities will be available later in the year for those with adequate skills. If you have any friends, family members or even neighbors working non-union who would make good Operating Engineers, please let your organizer or business agent know, so we can contact them and bring them into our family.

An additional reminder: It is important that journey-level operators continue sharpening their skills and mentoring the apprentices and less-experienced operators. Having the best operators in the business creates many organizing opportunities. It is also helpful when existing signatory contractors achieve success, because then non-union contractors realize that signing with Local 3 is a good business decision.
Making a difference

All of my life, I have been told what I can’t do. I was made to believe that some people were entitled to a better life – that because of their title, race, position or color of skin, they were afforded more success.

Today, we all know that should not be true. Some call it LUCK, but we know it is Labor Under Correct Knowledge.

Success isn’t measured by the position you reach in life; it is measured by the obstacles you overcome, for we all know it takes 20 years to make an overnight success. Being poor is just a frame of mind, whether it’s being mentally poor or financially poor.

Sometimes we face troubling but necessary challenges. What’s required is courage from operators like you and me who know both sides. We know that fear corrupts and destroys.

I say: Pray not for safety from danger but deliverance from fear. We gain strength, courage and confidence every time we look fear in the face. One person with courage makes a majority.

I once asked my dad about prejudice and ignorance. His reply was: “As long as you try to apply logic to prejudice and ignorance, you will never know it, for it is simply False Evidence Appearing Real (FEAR).”

The Declaration of Independence states that mankind is “endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”

The search begins within our own minds. See you on the next one.

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**Tech News**

By Testing, Inspection and Surveying Director Dean Dye and Business Representatives Ed Wodzienski and Rob Jones

**BRAIN TEASER**

Problem 109: In your dream, you win $10 million and find a bank that will pay you 100 percent interest for a year, compounded any way you like. How much money will you have in the bank after one year if you compound it monthly? Weekly? Daily? Hourly? By the minute? By the second? 100 million times?

To solve the problem, we start with the formula for compound interest:

\[ A = P \left(1 + \frac{r}{n}\right)^{nt} \]

Where:
- \(A\) is the amount of money accumulated after n years, including interest.
- \(P\) is the principal amount (the initial amount of money).
- \(r\) is the annual interest rate (decimal).
- \(n\) is the number of times that interest is compounded per year.
- \(t\) is the time the money is invested for in years.

Let’s use the formula with different values of \(n\) for monthly, weekly, daily, and hourly compounding. We can also calculate the result for 100 million times.

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**Shedding light on circuit breakers**

Let’s discuss a simple electrical circuit for a light bulb. Figure A is a basic light circuit. With most automotive electrical systems, this is a 12-volt battery. (24 volts are used for most large earth-moving equipment). The (+) symbol indicates positive (red), and the (-) symbol indicates negative (black).

[Diagram of a simple light circuit]

If we leave the battery in a clockwise direction, the first component we encounter is the fuse, or circuit breaker. The job of the fuse is to protect the circuit. Continuing clockwise, the next component we encounter is the switch. The switch controls the circuit. Closing the switch allows electricity to flow through the light – which is the next component – causing it to turn on as in Figure B.

[Diagram of a closed switch]

Notice that when the switch is closed, it allows the positive to move to the light, completing the loop to the battery. For all electrical circuits to work, you must have positive (+) on one side of the load (the load is the component that does the work, such as a light bulb, horn or motor) and negative (-) on the other side.

In Figure C, the blown fuse causes the positive to stop, and the other side becomes negative. Electricity cannot flow. Now that there’s negative on both sides of the light, the bulb does not light.

[Diagram of a blown fuse]

In Figure D, the negative (ground wire) is broken. This causes the electricity to stop flowing so that both sides of the light are positive – with the switch closed – so the light is out. Remember: You need positive and negative to illuminate the light.

Most positive wires are red or some color other than black, while negative wires are almost always black; however, don’t be surprised if you find a colored wire that tests negative or a black wire that tests positive. This is just an indicator of where your problem lies. Remember to test your system with the switch on.

On complex systems, I like to note my findings on the schematic with a (+) or (-). To get the machine up and running soon, it’s a good way to troubleshoot.
OE CAT
By Cindy Tuttle, Political Director

Utah wins again

It’s safe to say that it’s been all about political victory in Utah these past few months. The first big win involved the halting of HB 177, the amendment that would have made Utah’s right-to-work laws even less favorable than they already are for our members. But Utah District 12, labor lobbyists and Operating Engineers Community Action Team (OE CAT) members rounded up power and resources and took care of business.

No different or less important than that victory was the passing of Senate Bill 92, the crane certification bill, which has a three-year history of opposition but was recently passed with an overwhelming 61-4 majority in the House (seven voters were absent).

The bill requires the certification of all crane operators in the state of Utah and maintains the charge of a Class A Misdemeanor if operators do not comply with or pass the crane certification process.

We all know Utah has long struggled with its inhibiting right-to-work laws and that much of the anti-union political players in the state are forever trying to cinch the throat of labor’s neck. SB 92 was largely deemed a “union” bill and was not met with great popularity because of this label. The bill also met opposition from the homebuilders associations. But OE3 did not back down, and the bill was passed last year in the Senate but killed on the House floor by a close 36-34 vote.

With this close margin in memory, Republican James Dunnigan sponsored the bill for us in the House, Republican David Ure carried the bill on the floor and Sen. Gene Davis sponsored the bill in the Senate. The Steel Erectors Association also sponsored the bill to separate the union stigma from it.

These tactics proved successful, since Utah now joins 17 other states with crane certification laws and joins the three other OE3 crane-certified states, California, Nevada and Hawaii. This win is a big victory for Local 3, since now the workplace is safer for everyone, because – by law – all operators must be certified. Local 3 holds the highest levels of safety and craftsmanship among its operators, and now this bill ensures those standards.

Credit for this victory sits with our dedicated labor lobbyists Dennis Wright and Kay Leishman along with the entire Utah District staff, Sen. Gene Davis, Rep. James Dunnigan, Rep. David Ure, the Steel Erectors Association and the mobilized efforts of the OE CAT members who e-mailed their representatives in support of the bill. Utah is gaining its fair chunk of political power, and it’s because of you!

From catwalks to condominiums, OE3 does it all

Eureka District Retiree Harold Early poses for a picture with his son, Michael, and his daughter, Pat.


Eight-year member Joe Campbell takes a strength test, one of the Semi’s new health exams.

Twenty-eight year member Bill Gibson views his benefit information online using Trust Benefits Online (TBOL).

From left: Rec. Corres. Secretary Rob Wise, Retiree Dave Spain, President Bob Miller and Kathy Spain.

Operating Engineers Local 3: A tradition of service

Union succeeds through solidarity and strength

By Mandy Jessup, associate editor
Photos by Heidi Mills, managing editor and Dominique Beilke, art director

Even though weather was less than desirable during March, the skies were clear in Vallejo, Calif., March 19 for the Local 3 Semi-Annual Meeting at the Solano County Fairgrounds Exposition Hall. Because of the nice weather, members were able to see the equipment display outside on the fairgrounds. Later, members and their families — some pushing strollers, some pulling dogs — gathered inside the exposition hall for free health screenings, including the new chiropractic exam and strength test. They also enjoyed a large sack lunch and lots of catching up with OE3 friends.

As the 1 p.m. meeting time neared, members filled the seats; many stood in back. President Bob Miller called the meeting to order and asked the members to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance and then the national anthem slide-show presentation. He then explained the meeting will air in its entirety via videotape to the Hawaii, Nevada and Utah districts at a later time.

Roll call was taken, audit reports were read, and Rec. Corres. Secretary Rob Wise read the minutes from the previous Semi-Annual Meeting Sept. 25 at the Sacramento Convention Center.

With no unfinished or new business, Miller introduced Business Manager and International Vice President John Bonilla for the Good of the Order.

Prop. 42 fix initiative

Bonilla began the meeting discussing California’s $50 billion mega-bond package that includes the Prop. 42 fix initiative for state transportation funding. Even though elected officials haven’t yet agreed on the measure, Local 3 and other labor groups will continue with the Prop. 42 fix initiative campaign, Bonilla said. He urged members to sign the petitions, so the initiative will be on the November 2006 ballot.

Utah gets it done

Bonilla then commended Utah for passing the crane certification bill and stated the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) is working on a nationwide crane certification bill.

“Certifications demonstrate Local 3 members’ high skills; high skills translate into safer worksites; safer worksites equal lower costs to our employers, which means we can negotiate more for our pocketbooks,” Bonilla said.

He emphasized that Local 3 has the best operators in the industry and explained that “being the best is hard work.”

Bonilla also applauded Utah’s ability to work both sides of the political aisle to successfully kill the right-to-work legislation that would have devastated our union position in Utah.

Bonilla went on to discuss more good OE3 political news, such as the resounding failure of Schwarzenegger’s special election propositions, especially Proposition 75. He commended the members who worked so hard to defeat this by telling Arnold “no.”

All Health and Welfare funds in the black

However, members said “yes” to fixing the OE3 Health and Welfare Plan. Bonilla talked about the challenges the plan faced two years ago and how through solutions, such as auditing service providers, Local 3 gained a one-time savings of $3.2 million and an ongoing annual savings of more than $13 million.

“I’m here to report today that all four of our Local 3 Health and Welfare plans are running in the black,” Bonilla said to cheers.

Even though the cost of those audits was expensive, Bonilla clarified that it was the right thing to do, since it saved the Health and Welfare Plan millions.

Members get a choice about their pension

Bonilla went on to discuss the pension plan, which has been met with lots of untrue rumors that the pension fund is broke.

“This is totally untrue,” Bonilla clarified.

Bonilla explained that every pension plan in the nation has been hit by low interest rates and a sluggish stock market. But as with the Health and Welfare Plan, Bonilla said he’s taking it “head-on” and will “fight to make sure that we keep our defined-benefit plan.”

He said that including the Prop. 42 fix, Local 3 has added $67 million to the OE3 Health and Welfare plan.

He also said the OE3 Health and Welfare Plan has been profitable since the company always commit ourselves and take responsibility to be the best. It’s easy to lead when times are good, but you elect leaders to make the hard decisions when times are difficult.

“We need to continue with the work we’ve started,” Bonilla said.

Organizing continues to be one of our top priorities.

Organizing: a top priority

“Organizing continues to be one of our top priorities. Truly, the Operating Engineers Local 3 has a strong tradition of service. We must pull levers, servicing jobsites, negotiating contacts or plowing snow — we must always commit ourselves and take responsibility to be the best. It’s easy to lead when times are good, but you elect leaders to make the hard decisions when times are difficult.

“Now more than ever,” Bonilla said, “we need to stay united, work together and commit ourselves to do the right thing. If we commit to public service, we can discuss the tough issues in a positive manner. But if we are fixated on what is bad and can only see the negatives, we will be up and running in early April, providing greater allocate to wages and/or fringe benefits.

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Bonilla went on to discuss more good OE3 political news, such as the resounding failure of Schwarzenegger’s special election propositions, especially Proposition 75. He commended the members who worked so hard to defeat this by telling Arnold “no.”
Ducking the problem, claimed Bonilla, is not his style, nor the style of his officers. Steps were taken, such as diversifying the pension investments and hiring new money managers, which brought an additional $57 million to the fund, but these steps were not enough, he said.

The issue was brought to the membership, and Bonilla said that “for the first time in Local 3’s history, the members are getting to choose” how they want to fix the pension. Members will or have received a booklet and informational DVD about their options and will view presentations at a series of meetings where they may bring their spouse and ask questions of the experts before voting.

Bonilla emphasized: “Retirees will continue to receive their full pension check.” He continued to say the pension “is too important to play political football with.” He urged members to get the “straight scoop” about their pension and called on everyone to work together on the issue.

Local 3 is financially sound

Turning to finances, Bonilla said: “Local 3 continues to be on sound financial footing. We’re continuing to evaluate funds and finding ways to streamline OE3 operations without sacrificing service to the members.”

With this in mind, there was a unanimous vote from the Executive Board to freeze supplemental dues for this year, the amount of which members can now allocate to wages and/or fringe benefits.

He then discussed the new dispatch system, which will be up and running in early April, providing greater and more efficient service to the membership.

Organizing: a top priority

“Organizing continues to be one of our top priorities,” Bonilla said. “Last year we signed over 180 new contracts and added several big public employee units. We are larger today than we’ve ever been.”

National Building Trades: thriving work picture

Bonilla went on to discuss the IUOE’s decision to pull out of the National Building Trades March 1 and assured members that Local 3 is still involved with the AFL-CIO. He said other crafts may form an alliance like Local 3’s Basic Crafts Alliance, with similar agendas regarding jurisdiction and other programs beneficial to the industry.

Bonilla said the work picture in the industry is thriving: California’s work picture finished 2 percent above 2004, along with Nevada at 8 percent above, Utah at 22 percent above and Hawaii at 19 percent above.

“We have good work today, but we must keep our eye on the future,” Bonilla urged. “That’s why politics, negotiations and relationship-building is so important to this organization.”

Being the best is hard

Bonilla concluded with a few notes about leadership:

“It’s easy to lead when times are good, but you elect leaders to make the tough decisions when times are tough,” Bonilla said. “This administration made the tough decision to fix our pension, our Health and Welfare plan and protect our jurisdiction.”

He explained that identifying problems is the easy part, but the current administration has concentrated on solutions. Taking the easy road is not his style.

“I’m here to stand and fight with you,” Bonilla said.

He mentioned how important it is not to “cast aside our core principles and basic beliefs,” but look to the future and be the best.

“Being the best takes hard work from all of us,” he said. “Whatever the job – pulling levers, servicing jobsites, negotiating contracts or plowing snow – we must always commit ourselves and take responsibility to be the best. It’s up to you.”

Bonilla noted how many years the union has endured and succeeded through solidarity and strength. This year is no different.

“Now more than ever,” Bonilla said, “we need to stay united, work together and move this union forward.”

Truly, the Operating Engineers Local 3 has a strong tradition of service.
Another day, another pile

Father and son operators on the job in Eureka

Story and photos by Heidi Mills, managing editor

Danen Dibble is a third-generation Operating Engineer, with a six-year-old son who dreams of one day running equipment like his dad. Danen thinks that would be great and his dad, Deren, thinks so, too.

Both Danen and Deren have a lot of field experience to share with the boy. They have a combined 70 years, to be precise, and all of it on cranes – just like the Dibble Family’s first-generation operator, Bill Dibble (Deren’s father and Danen’s grandfather), who spent his career running cranes as a Local 701 Operating Engineer out of Oregon.

Since crane operating has been a part of the Dibble Family for three generations now, it’s no wonder their up and coming fourth-generation operator has already begun his training. It’s fitting, too, that he’s a natural, as Grandpa Deren will proudly tell you: “That little guy, he knows his loaders from his cranes.”

“Being able to hand it down to the kids is a great thing,” Deren continued. “I was handed down a lot from my dad. I remember, I’d go home at night and call him up, so we could talk about the cranes. My son (Danen) does the same thing to me. It’s good to have someone you can turn to, to ask questions.”

Danen couldn’t agree more. He enjoys talking to his dad about work and says he’s learned a lot from him throughout his career, especially those 12 years they spent working together for West Coast Contractors. Danen was oiling for his dad then.

Today Danen runs his own rig, a Manitowoc 3900, for MCM Construction. He’s building a new bridge over the Van Duzan River off Hwy. 101 in Eureka.

Deren is working as a general superintendent for West Coast Contractors on a job only a few miles down the road from his son, off Broadway Street.

Both projects are pile-driving jobs, which are prevalent in the North Coast, because the ground is unstable from frequent seismic activity. The coastal and offshore areas of Humboldt and Del Norte counties are particularly active earthquake zones but also unique in another way: The earth here is full of objects left behind from long-abandoned saw mills. Hitting pieces of metal and other scrap materials from the old mills is common and creates a burdensome challenge for modern-day pile drivers.

“That’s the thing with pile driving – you never know what you’re going to hit,” Deren said. “Some of the worst I’ve seen are the concrete chunks.”

Despite the obstructions, Deren says the soil is good and solid at the bottom. It’s mostly clay 35 feet down, but there’s still some rock in the mix. While these obstructions slow down the work, they don’t stop it. The demand for pile driving remains high, as development in the area continues at an accelerated pace.

For Deren’s crew, that means 80 wood piles under the new natural foods grocery store they’re building; it’s about a weeklong job. Danen’s current project, on the other hand, involves steel pile and lots of it. The bridge is set for completion in 2007.

And so it goes for the Dibble Duo: Another day, another pile.

When another day is through, you can be sure they’ll catch up with each other to talk about the cranes – like the generation before them and maybe, just maybe like the generations of Dibbles to come.
**FROM NEVADA**

**Nevada braces for flooding**

We have a common saying in Nevada: Anyone who tries to predict the weather is either a fool or a newcomer. Knowing that, businesses, residents and the government braced for flooding the national weather service predicted would exceed the New Year’s Eve flood of 2005. As the rains started on Sunday, Feb. 26, the Truckee River rose, and local contractors were put on 24-hours-a-day alert to help with the predicted flooding.

Cruz Excavating was among those contractors and removed equipment from the river channel in anticipation of high waters. The company was already working to repair damage to Kyak Park received from last New Year’s Eve flood. Cruz initially constructed the park in 2003.

While the waters crested on Monday well below flood stage, people still couldn’t relax, as further storms were predicted. While we don’t always believe those weather forecasters, we’ve learned – at least in the Reno area – that it’s better to prepare for the worst.

While the weather slows down work in Northern Nevada, we look forward to another busy year. Nearly $700 million worth of prevailing wage work has been awarded since July 2005, and we currently have close to another $150 million worth of work posted for bid but not yet awarded. Rumor has it that the next phases of the Carson City Bypass and I-580 are going to bid this spring. Both projects have an estimated worth of $200 million between them.

As long as we don’t wash away, we should have another good year in Nevada.

• • •

District 11 regrets to share that Member Dave Coverston lost his life in an accident Feb. 10 on the I-580 jobsite. Dave was a Local 3 member for nearly 16 years and worked for Helms, Granite, Q&D and Frehner Construction. Dave was working for Ames Construction at the time of the accident. He was born and raised in Fallon, Nev., and will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

**FROM FRESNO**

**Weather and faces change in Fresno**

Not only is the weather changing in the Fresno District – so are the faces. With these changes, District 50 is off to a great start for this year’s work season.

Contractors need excavator operators at this time. Harris Plumbing and Mechanical is working along Mission Avenue in Merced and at the Palace in Lemoore, and the company is always looking for operators who have worked with concrete pipe. Orders for operators began in mid-February, and we hope the pace continues.

The Fresno District always works at a fast pace, and there is no reason this year should be any different.

In addition to the work picture, we want to keep you updated on the upcoming events for the Fresno District. Be sure to mark your calendars:

- **Wednesday, April 5, 7 p.m.**
  Fresno District meeting
  Laborers’ Hall
  5431 E. Hedges, Fresno*

- **Saturday, April 22, 8 a.m.**
  Fresno Spring Golf Tournament
  Airways Golf Course
  5440 East Shields Ave., Fresno

- **Sunday, April 23, 12 p.m.**
  Fresno District picnic
  Kearney Park (Garfield area)
  7160 W. Kearney Blvd., Fresno

*Please note location change.

We want to congratulate Robert Bradford, Jacob Jennings, Robert Mello and Dustin Smart for advancing to first-step apprentices and David Jimenez and Milko Vanderlinde for advancing to fourth-step apprentice.

Congratulations to POP Apprentice Ramon Alejo and his wife, Alieia, on the Feb. 14 birth of their son, Logan Thomas Alejo. Ramon works for Foster & Sons.

First-step Apprentice Robert Bradford works for Agee Construction in Clovis.

First-step Apprentice David Jimenez smiles for the camera while working for Floyd Johnston Construction in Fresno.

POP Apprentice Ramon Alejo stands with his family and his newborn son, Logan Thomas.
FROM EUREKA

**CAT members called to action, Taylor endorsed**

Attention all Operating Engineer Community Action Team (OE CAT) activists: Local 3 is endorsing union member and friend of labor Rod Taylor for Fortuna City Council in April’s special election. Taylor is heavily involved with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

Fortuna holds its election in April, unlike other cities in Humboldt County where elections are held in conjunction with the November general election. The election is Tuesday, April 11. Don’t forget to get out the vote for Rod Taylor.

FROM YUBA CITY

**District wins support for goldfields training center**

Working closely with local elected officials, District 60 received critical support from three jurisdictions in the OE3 effort to secure a satellite apprenticeship training center in the historic Yuba Goldfields.

In January, the Marysville City Council voted unanimously to endorse the application of the Joint Apprenticeship Program to lease 57 acres in the Yuba Goldfields east of Marysville for a year-round heavy equipment operator training center.

Marysville’s vote came after the Yuba County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously for a second time to endorse the training center.

In February, the Sutter County Board of Supervisors in nearby Yuba City voted to endorse the training center, because many Sutter County residents will have an opportunity to learn heavy equipment operating skills that will improve their earning abilities.

Yuba City District Rep. Dan Mostats is seeking the support of the city council of Yuba City, and the Joint Apprenticeship Training Program is seeking a 40-year lease from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to operate the training center. The Yuba Goldfields have the single largest deposit of easily harvestable construction grade sand and gravel in the western U.S.

Local 3 Vice President Frank Herrera, who oversees the Joint Apprenticeship Training Program and District 60, led the efforts to restore public access to the Yuba Goldfields. His 10-year community activism campaign resulted in union signatory companies now having the right to harvest construction sand and gravel in the goldfields, which breaks the monopoly once held by the Texas-based, non-union company, Western Aggregates.

Local 3 Political Director Cindy Tuttle has been working with Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer to ensure the federal government approves the lease with the training program.

The Sutter County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution in February congratulating District Rep. Dan Mostats on his 37-year career in the Local 3 construction industry, including 32 years as a staff member.

In other district news: Plans are underway for the District 60 tri-tip picnic from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 24, at the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds on Franklin Avenue in Yuba City. In addition, the Operating Engineers Community Action Team (OE CAT) continues its highway cleanup project along Hwy. 99. Volunteers may participate in the April 29 and May 20 cleanups by calling the district office at (530) 743-7321.

The May 11 Yuba City District meeting is at a new location: The Marysville Veterans’ Center, 211 17th St.

FROM SACRAMENTO

**Rain and retirements in District 80**

District 80 hopes our members and families had a great winter season. The rains continue off and on, but hopefully by the time you’re reading this, we’ll be back to work.

The rock, sand and gravel plants are busy trying to rebuild their stockpiles from the surge of business last fall. The heavy rains slowed work in most of these plants. Granite’s Bradshaw worksite shut down for more than a month because of flooding in the pit.

Still, District 80 construction is going well. Blue Iron picked up a $4 million job at Sutter Hospital, where about 150,000 yards of material will be excavated along with shotcrete and shoring. The project will go through 2010.

The Cosumnes Power Plant is online, fully operational and has been a great project for the last two years. Affholder is still busy on the Sunrise Project, tunneling for the sewer main. The project is scheduled for completion this summer.

Bay Cities has a widening project on Sheldon Road in Elk Grove that will last most of the summer.

The Bradshaw Interceptor is still under construction with Granite Construction working on the north section. Mitchell Engineering is making progress on the section from Jackson Highway South to Elk Grove, which ties into the Shimmik Construction portion of the project.

We want to thank all OE CAT (Operating Engineers Community Action Team) volunteers who helped with phone banking and precinct walking. We hope you all have a great year, and if you need anything, please don’t hesitate to call the District 80 staff: Business agents Rob Carrion, John Bonilla Jr., and Chris Macharro and apprentice coordinators Jesse Vasques and Mike Pickens. Let us not forget our brand-new District Rep. Justin Diston. Please join us in congratulating him and welcoming him to the position.

From left: Sutter County Board of Supervisors Chairman Larry Munger awards Yuba City District Rep. Dan Mostats with a framed proclamation for his contributions to the labor community at the Feb. 21 regular board meeting.

From left: Harry Green and Craig Bagwell are a couple of OE3 retirees out and about celebrating their memories. Bagwell recently received his 30-year pin.

OFFICIAL ELECTION NOTICE:
Nomination rules for the election of Officers and Executive Board members

Recording-Corresponding Secretary Robert L. Wise, in compliance with the Local Union Bylaws, Article XII, Section 2(b), publishes the following notice:

• NOTICE OF RIGHT TO NOMINATE:

Article XII, Elections, Section 2(a)
Eligibility of Members to Nominate: Every Member of the Parent Local Union and its Sub-divisions (except the Registered Apprentice Sub-Division), who is not suspended for non-payment of dues preceding the first nominating meeting shall have the right to nominate.

• NOMINATION FORMS

Article XII, Elections, Section 2(c)
Nominations shall be in writing and signed by one or more nominators giving each nominator’s Social Security Number and Register Number in the form following:

SINGLE NOMINATOR
I hereby nominate ____________________, Register No. __________.  
Social Security No. ___ - ___ - ___, for ________________________  
(Insert Office or Position)  
Signature ___________________________  
Social Security No. ___ - ___ - ___ 
Register No. _________________________  
PRINT Name _______________________

MULTIPLE NOMINATORS
We hereby nominate ____________________, Register No. __________.  
Social Security No. ___ - ___ - ___, for ________________________  
(Insert Office or Position)  
Signature ___________________________  
Social Security No. ___ - ___ - ___ 
Register No. _________________________  
PRINT Name _______________________

• NUMBER OF NOMINATORS REQUIRED

Article XII, Elections, Section 1(a)(b)
The minimum number of eligible nominators required for a candidate for Office based on the Local Union Membership (excluding Registered Apprentices) on February 28, 2006 of 39,316 members is thirty-nine (39).

Article XII, Election, Section 1(e)
The minimum number of eligible nominators required for District member of the Executive Board is one (1).

Vote right: Check your mailing label for your registration number

In 1997 the Local 3 Election Committee voted to add members’ registration numbers to the address labels for Engineers News.
Having the member registration number on the Engineers News label makes it easier for you to properly fill out and return the election ballot with the correct information.

NOMINATION MEETINGS FOR THE
2006 ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2006
District 50: West Sacramento, CA  
Special-called meeting  
ILWU Hall  
600 4th St.

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2006
District 01: Burlingame, CA  
Special-called meeting  
Machinists’ Hall  
1511 Rollins Road
District 20: Oakland, CA  
Special-called meeting  
Warehouse Union Local 6  
99 Hegenberger Road

MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2006
District 04: Suisun City, CA  
Regular district meeting  
Veterans’ Memorial Building  
427 Main St.
District 10: Rohnert Park, CA  
Special-called meeting  
Engineers’ Building  
6225 State Farm Drive

TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2006
District 12: Salt Lake City, UT  
Regular district meeting  
IBEW Local 354  
3400 W. 2100 South
District 11: Reno, NV  
Regular district meeting  
Engineers’ Building  
1290 Corporate Blvd.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2006
District 40: Eureka, CA  
Special-called meeting  
Best Western Bayshore Inn  
3500 Broadway
District 30: Stockton, CA  
Special-called meeting  
Italian Athletic Club  
3541 Cherryland Drive

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2006
District 70: Redding, CA  
Special-called meeting  
Engineers’ Building  
20308 Engineers Lane
District 50: Fresno, CA  
Special-called meeting  
Cedar Lanes  
3131 N. Cedar

FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2006
District 60: Marysville, CA  
Special-called meeting  
Veterans’ Memorial Center  
211 17th St.
District 90: Gilroy, CA  
Special-called meeting  
IFDES Lodge - Portuguese Hall  
250 Old Gilroy St.

MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2006
District 17: Kauai, HI  
Special-called meeting  
Kauai High School Cafeteria  
Lihue

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2006
District 17: Honolulu, HI  
Regular district meeting  
Washington Intermediate School Cafeteria  
1633 S. King St.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2006
District 17: Hilo, HI  
Regular district meeting  
Hilo ILWU Hall  
100 W. Lanihaua St.

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2006
District 17: Kona, HI  
Special-called meeting  
King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel  
75-5660 Palani Road

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2006
District 17: Mano, HI  
Regular district meeting  
Lihuei School  
335 S. Papa Ave.  
Kahului
OE3 welcomes new members

Local 3 is proud to welcome the following new members who were sworn in at the February 2006 district meetings:

District 10: Rohnert Park
  .Jonathan Henderson
  .Colter Hess
  .Tom Numainville

District 40: Eureka
  .Jeffrey Rohrbach
  .Allen Terry

Operating Engineers Local 3 welcomes the following new contractors:

District 11: Nevada
  Northwest Tower Crane
  Sellen Construction

District 12: Utah
  Western Steel Erectors

District 17: Hawaii
  Kamalani Trucking and Equipment
  Paradigm Construction LLC Island Demo

District 30: Stockton
  John D. Baker Construction

District 50: Fresno
  Bill Nelson General Engineering Construction

HONORARY MEMBERS

Congratulations to the following retirees, who have 35 or more years of membership in Local 3 as of February 2006 and are eligible for Honororary Membership effective April 1, 2006.

Cleo Almand
  0990971
  District 11: Nevada

Frank F. Munar
  1175323
  District 60: Yuba City

Jeffrey Solter
  1071084
  District 20: Oakland

Roger Schaufler
  1071084
  District 20: Oakland

Ken Smeltzer
  1334976
  District 99: Out of Area

James Stephens
  1456374
  District 17: Hawaii

PICNIC SCHEDULE

District 50: Fresno
  Sunday, April 23

District 60: Yuba City
  Sunday, April 23

District 30: Stockton
  Sunday, April 23

District 11: Nevada
  Sunday, April 23

District 20: Oakland
  Sunday, April 23

District 12: Utah
  Sunday, April 23

District 17: Hawaii
  Sunday, April 23

District 11: Nevada
  Sunday, April 30

District 70: Sacramento
  Sunday, April 30

District 99: Out of Area
  Sunday, April 30

District 80: Sacramento
  Sunday, April 30

District 04: Fairfield
  Sunday, April 30

District 50: Fresno
  Sunday, April 30

District 60: Yuba City
  Sunday, April 30

District 17: Kona
  Sunday, April 30

District 17: Honolulu
  Sunday, April 30

District 10: Rohnert Park
  Sunday, April 30

District 40: Eureka
  Sunday, April 30

District 17: Kahului
  Sunday, April 30

District 17: Maui
  Sunday, April 30

District 17: Honolulu
  Sunday, April 30

District 12: Utah
  Sunday, April 30

District 20: Oakland
  Sunday, April 30

District 10: Rohnert Park
  Sunday, April 30

District 17: Kahului
  Sunday, April 30

District 17: Maui
  Sunday, April 30

District 90: Morgan Hill
  Sunday, April 30

It’s Reno Run time

It’s picnic time again, and for some that means motorcycles. The Ride to Reno is an annual motorcycling event to get OE3 members together for a fun ride to the Reno District picnic. This year’s picnic is Saturday, July 8. Those interested in riding or supporting those who do should contact Operating Engineers Community Action Team (OE CAT) Coordinator Theresa Reclusado at (916) 257-6963. If 25 or more people are interested, we may order T-shirts for the event. Remember: Play hard and ride safe!

April-May district picnic information

District 50: Fresno
  Date: Sunday, April 23
  Time: noon to dusk
  Location: Garfield Area at Kearney Park in Fresno
  Cost: adults and retirees – $10; children ages 10 and under – free
  Menu: tri-tip, beans, salad, bread and fresh fruit

District 04: Fairfield
  Date: Saturday, April 29
  Time: 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
  Location: Cordelia Fire Station, 2155 Cordelia Road, Fairfield
  Cost: retirees and children under 12 – free; children and adults – $10
  Menu: pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, coffee and orange juice

We’ll also have raffle prizes and kids’ activities.

District 30: Stockton
  Date: Sunday, May 7
  Time: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
  Location: Mische Grove Park – off Eight-mile Road and Hwy. 99
  Cost: adults – $10 advance purchase and $12 day of event; retirees – $5; children under 12 – free
  Menu: New York steak, asparagus, hot dogs, beans, salad, French bread and ice cream

We’ll also have a horseshoe contest, refreshments and a jump house for the kids.

District 10: Rohnert Park
  Date: Saturday, May 13
  Time: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
  Location: Founder’s Grove, Sonoma County Fairgrounds, Santa Rosa
  Cost: retirees – $5, retirees at door – $6; adults – $10, adults at door – $12; children under 12 – free
  Menu: Barbecued steak and hot dogs

District 20: Oakland
  Date: Saturday, May 20
  Time: 11 a.m.
  Location: Waterfront Park in Martinez
  Cost: Retirees and children 10 and under – free; adults – $10
  Menu: pulled pork, chicken, hot links, hot dogs, salad, delicious desserts and refreshments

District 12: Salt Lake City
  Date: Saturday, May 20
  Time: 10 a.m.
  Location: Draper City Park (North Pavilion), 122450 S. 1300 East, Draper, UT
  Cost: family – $10; retirees – free; single – $5
  Menu: Breakfast: eggs, bacon, ham, hash browns, pancakes, rolls, donuts, fruit, juice and coffee
  Cost includes raffle tickets (six – single and 12 – family) for door prize and other prizes. Additional raffle tickets for sale at the district office.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Allen Terry
  1373022
  District 40: Eureka

Colter Hess
  1373022
  District 40: Eureka

Jonathan Henderson
  1373022
  District 40: Eureka

Tom Numainville
  1373022
  District 40: Eureka

April 2006
Cruising the Caribbean, OE3 style

In support of the OE3 Scholarship Fund and vacation memories, 65 members and families set sail in January on a weeklong trip to the Western Caribbean. From Galveston, Texas, they traveled to the exotic destinations of Belize, Costa Maya, Cozumel and Grand Cayman. Everyone had a great time basking in the sun, cooling off in the ocean breeze and supporting their union, since nearly $6,000 was raised for the OE3 Scholarship Fund.

The next opportunity to sail with OE3 is just around the corner, on a seven-night cruise to sunny Mexico from Los Angeles, departing Jan. 20, 2007. See page 6 for more information.

From left: Local 3’s 40-year member Larry Gapa, Stockton District Rep, Tom Aja, 31-year member Ken Tall, 13-year member Joe Munoz, 32-year member Ray Petreni and Rancho Murieta Training Center Director Curtis Brooks.

**Departed Members**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>01-31-06</td>
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<td>Western, Louise, Wife of Western, James W. (dec)</td>
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FOR SALE: 2 bd, 2 ba, vacation rental on water at Clearlake Oaks, CA. $452,900. (530) 432-0667 or (530) 902-2307. Reg# 0892694.


FOR SALE: Country property. Kent, WA. 3+ bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, on 1.42 acres down country lane, walk to creek spring water, 1000 gal. septic, $55,000. Call for pictures: (253) 638-0458 Reg# 1142679.


FOR SALE: 2004 Prowler Regal with 5th Wheel Trailer. Great condition, lived in full time. Less than 2000 miles. Asking $35500. OBO Contact David at (510) 755-3545 or by email: davidlillie@comcast.net. Willing to e-mail pictures. Reg# 2470874.

FOR SALE: Pick-up truck crane base, swivels 360 degrees, boom extension four positions, hydraulic jack, three tons. This unit has never been mounted on a truck. $125 OBO. AND: Heavy duty tow bar. $50. Call: (707) 836-0504 Reg# 1615544.

FOR SALE: '02 Chevy Silverado 1500 x 4 x 4, 5.3 engine truck with shift linkage for transfer case, auto trans., PS, PB, PW seat, fully loaded, tow package 108K, $16,000. Ex cond. (Military). Reg# 876-3285 Reg# 2494611.

FOR SALE: Shopsmith with many extras: router attachment, jointer, band saw, drum sanding, extra saw blades, and molding cutters, $750. Call: (916) 300-4273. Reg# 1205854.

FOR SALE: Wane Stump Cutter, 20” TOWABLE, with Wisconsin Robbin V4-65 Runs Good. Needs Clutch. $3000 OBO. Motor would be a great power source on a plant stand, or belt tanker. AND: Double Star MFG. Antique Free Standing Parlor Stove. Needs To Be Refinished. $1800 OBO. AND: 1999 Ford F250 4x4 8’ flat bed. Reg# 351 hypatruck a stand $3200.00 invested in engine. Needs paint upholstery and tires. E-mail: connors_pa@yahoo.com or call Patrick @ 707-544-6761 Reg# 2404458.


FOR SALE: by owner, fully furnished top floor one bedroom, one bath condo with ocean view at the KONA REEF RESORT, on the Kona Coast of Hawaii is priced for immediate sale at $359,000. Great water-front island get-away or rental property. This is a trust property that must be liquidated. For more information call: Jacqueline or Bill at (310) 476-1232 Reg# 0867016.


FOR SALE: 26 foot Wilderness travel trailer with lot, in Calaveras Timber Trails. Sleeps 6. Generator included. Thirty minutes from Bear Valley. Great family atmosphere, new tires Call: (530) 275-2954 or (530) 953-5890 Reg# 2512123.

AUBURN DAM REUNION: Local 3 employees of Auburn Dam, if you want your name on the invite list, call Bill Waltz at (530) 272-4497 Reg# 1054933.


FOR SALE: 2004 FORD LN 700, 8.2 Detroit diesel w/10 speed transmission, 6,000 HP2/360, auto, 4.10 gears, lots of extras: router attachment, jointer, table saw blades and molding cutters. $9,000. OBO. 30K miles, silver trimmed, tow package 108K. Loaded, 4X4, PS, PB, PW, P/Seat, fully loaded, tow package 108K, $16,000. Ex cond. (Military). Reg# 876-3285 Reg# 2494611.

FOR SALE: 2003 Ford Ranger pickup with 73,437 miles. Good condition, 2 door w/ extended cab & sliding rear window, power door locks, steering wheels, and windows. $11,000. Contact: (916) 825-5849. Reg# 2441206.

FOR SALE: 2000 Hyundai Elantra, $9,000. OBO. 30K miles, silver gray 4-door automatic, like new. 30 miles to the gallon. ALSO: tilt steering column, steering wheel, AM-FM cass. 80K miles, new tires. $1500. AND: a 90-year Winchester rifles, hand guns. Call (559) 351-8470. Reg# 1740973.

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FOR SALE: 2002 Harley Davidson Fatboy. Only 5K miles! Thunder Header Exhaust, Scheming Eagle air filter, chrome forks, lowered, custom seat, also includes 7 year oil change warranty. Asking $18,000 OBO. (916) 733-1007 or (707) 644-4853: ask for Lee. Reg# 2320406.

FOR SALE: 5,000lb. Venturo truck crane. All electric. Hydraulic boom lift. $7,800. OBO. Please call b/w 6-9. (530) 357-4208 Reg# 2290066.
**FROM UTAH**

**District 12 holds completion ceremony**

The hard work and perseverance of eight apprentices who graduated to journey-level operators was celebrated in a completion ceremony Feb. 24 at the Little America Hotel.

We welcome Victoria Atwood, Jared Baxter, Alan Cox, Jared Evans, Brian Kallas, Jose Soria, Trux Thurston and Lorraine Yazzie among the ranks of Operating Engineers Local 3.

Encouragement, advice and praise were generously offered to the graduates by President Bob Miller, Joint Apprentice Committee (JAC) Chairman Dave Hales and District Rep. Jim Sullivan.

Apprenticeship Coordinator Kris Morgan presented Employee of the Year to W.W. Clyde for having more apprentice hours than any other employer in Utah. Business Rep. Jeff Anderson presented Supervisor of the Year to Kevin Everett of Freshner for his dedication in training apprentices on different pieces of equipment. Apprentice of the Year was presented by former Apprentice of the Year Teresa Sinner to Jared Evans.

Congratulations to them all!

**FROM ROHNERT PARK**

**High “steaks” for picnics and organizers**

Storms in Rohnert Park District 10 are causing an enormous backlog of work. Upon publication of this report, we hope work is back in full swing.

In Healdsburg, Granite Construction was awarded the $2 million retaining-wall job on Hwy. 116 near Monte Rio. Granite also has storm-damage work for Caltrans.

Ghilotti Construction has a big backlog for the spring and is doing some emergency work, including the Hwy. 101 slide-repair work north of Petaluma. Cooper Crane is onsite as well.

North Bay Construction had a busy winter, with more than 200 field employees working. The company broke all previous records – an amazing feat considering the winter season. North Bay’s estimating staff is busy bidding work and getting excited about this season. The company is in the middle of a major office and shop expansion. North Bay’s dispatchers Bill, Linda and Mike work overtime keeping crews and equipment moving by calling the hall for good hands.

W.K. McLellan is the low bidder on some Petaluma pavement-maintenance work. Also in Petaluma: Valentine has started the floodwall.

Argonaut remains busy on Mendocino Avenue and on Fulton Road in Santa Rosa. The company is also busy in other districts around our jurisdiction.

Kiewit Pacific will open ground soon on the $86 million sewer treatment plant for Ukiah.

John N. Peterson is working around the clock in the northern end of District 10 at Confusion Hill. This job may be Peterson’s last, since John is closing the doors after many years in business.

Due to continual sliding in the District 10 area, Caltrans pushed up the $65 million bypass. The three-year project should start this spring and consists of the building of two bridges and 300,000 yards of dirt moved offsite, which makes this a premier job for our northern brothers and sisters.

The $250 million Willits Bypass is scheduled to go to bid late 2007 for a spring 2008 start and should bring four years of steady work to the Willits area.

A word on organizing: It’s everyone’s job to be a good organizer, which means talking to all non-union contractors and employees, regardless of how small they are. You never know where the next Ghilotti Construction or North Bay Construction will come from. Any contacts and referrals with the non-union side are helpful in building relationships that may some day lead to a signed contract, a new union employer, more union jobs and future growth in union membership. All information is appreciated. Call District 10 Organizer Mike Hughes at (707) 585-2487.

District 10 is sad to report the passing of former Santa Rosa District Rep. Bob Wagnon. He was 87 years old. He will be missed by all. Our condolences to his family and friends.

Mark your calendar and get your tickets for the annual Rohnert Park District picnic Saturday, May 13 at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds (Founder’s Grove). We will be serving New York steaks with all the trimmings and free hot dogs for kids under 12 years old. Our raffle is shaping up as one of the best ever, with donations from local merchants pouring into the office. Contact Dispatcher Gordon Lunde or Secretary Teresa Spain at (707) 585-2487 to purchase your tickets before they sell out.

As always, be safe out there.

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Argonaut remains busy on Mendocino Avenue and on Fulton Road in Santa Rosa. The company is also busy in other districts around our jurisdiction.

Kiewit Pacific will open ground soon on the $86 million sewer treatment plant for Ukiah.

John N. Peterson is working around the clock in the northern end of District 10 at Confusion Hill. This job may be Peterson’s last, since John is closing the doors after many years in business.

Due to continual sliding in the District 10 area, Caltrans pushed up the $65 million bypass. The three-year project should start this spring and consists of the building of two bridges and 300,000 yards of dirt moved offsite, which makes this a premier job for our northern brothers and sisters.

The $250 million Willits Bypass is scheduled to go to bid late 2007 for a spring 2008 start and should bring four years of steady work to the Willits area.

A word on organizing: It’s everyone’s job to be a good organizer, which means talking to all non-union contractors and employees, regardless of how small they are. You never know where the next Ghilotti Construction or North Bay Construction will come from. Any contacts and referrals with the non-union side are helpful in building relationships that may some day lead to a signed contract, a new union employer, more union jobs and future growth in union membership. All information is appreciated. Call District 10 Organizer Mike Hughes at (707) 585-2487.

District 10 is sad to report the passing of former Santa Rosa District Rep. Bob Wagnon. He was 87 years old. He will be missed by all. Our condolences to his family and friends.

Mark your calendar and get your tickets for the annual Rohnert Park District picnic Saturday, May 13 at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds (Founder’s Grove). We will be serving New York steaks with all the trimmings and free hot dogs for kids under 12 years old. Our raffle is shaping up as one of the best ever, with donations from local merchants pouring into the office. Contact Dispatcher Gordon Lunde or Secretary Teresa Spain at (707) 585-2487 to purchase your tickets before they sell out.

As always, be safe out there.
Parker elected BCTC president

District Rep. Allan Parker was elected Jan. 31 to serve as president of the Hawaii Building and Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO for the 2006-2008 term. Established in 1966, the council consists of 17 construction unions and 26,000 members throughout Hawaii.

The council assists and supports legislation that affects working families and works to secure improved wages, hours and working conditions through collective bargaining. The council also strives to resolve jurisdictional disputes within the construction trades and supports union solidarity. Each union within the council has a unique identity and brings a specific craft, but together these unions build the infrastructure of Hawaii — the places we live, work and gather together as a community.

Eight-hour Refresher Hazwoper Class

Seventy-three members attended Hawaii District’s Eight-Hour Hazwoper Refresher Class Feb. 18 at the training facility in Kahuku. District Rep. Allan Parker greeted the students onsite.

Ron’s Construction Company thrives

Ron’s Construction Company may be smaller than other signatories in District 17, but it is just as productive. Founded in 1976 by owner Ronald Oshiro, Ron’s Construction Company has been a Local 3 signatory contractor since its inception. Ron’s Construction currently employs about 11 Local 3 members and is based on the island of Oahu. The firm specializes in building excavation, street and road paving, sewer and waterline projects, school athletic fields and site work for many general contractors.

Ron’s Construction prides itself on the completion of projects on time, within budget and done with quality craftsmanship. These traits are the company’s trademark.

Ronald Oshiro is also active in the community. In 1988, Ron’s Construction was awarded the Small Business Administration (SBA) National Award. He served as the 2000 past president of the General Contractors’ Association and currently serves on the association’s board of directors. He is also the Building Industry Association’s representative on the State of Hawaii Contractors’ Licensing Board. District 17 is happy to work with such a great founder and company.

FROM FAIRFIELD

District 04 commends Cooper Crane and Rigging

Local 3 is proud to work with Cooper Crane and Rigging. The company specializes in marine and wetlands restoration, dock and marina construction and dredging and levee construction.

Cooper is proud of what many consider its greatest accomplishment: having the rigging specialists for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at Ground Zero in New York City Sept. 11. Cooper gives instructional classes across the U.S. on the emergency use of cranes for search and rescue efforts. The company provided search and rescue aid in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina swept through the area.

Some of Cooper’s work includes construction of a trestle and dry docks and some pile-driving work at a Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) plant in Ensenada, Mexico.

Also underway for Cooper is the restoration of hundreds of acres of salt ponds on land currently owned by Cargill Salt, located west of American Canyon. Once the work is complete, ownership will rest with the state. Occasionally, Cooper teams up with other contractors in the Bay Area, such as Dutra Construction.

Cooper recently acquired two non-union companies: Western Dock and Associated Dock, as well as its employees, all Local 3 members.

Owner B.K. Cooper has been a Local 3 member since 1976. He has created a family atmosphere for his employees. Ask anyone who’s ever worked for him, and they’ll tell you: He’s one of the best guys to work for in the Bay Area.

Northern Solano County is more like a theme park this year. For the most part, everyone is happy and making good money, as if last season never ended. Although we’ve had some serious weather, it doesn’t last long enough to hurt the work picture. Most members will have their credit by July, compared to last year, when many didn’t get credit until November or December, if at all.

With interest rates climbing, the private work has taken on an accelerated schedule. A few privately funded projects in Northern Solano County include:

In Vacaville: DeSilva Gates’ Mountain Cascade’s North Village with 327 acres and 2,900 homes; Gilhotti Construction’s Nut Tree with 79 acres and 200 apartments; DeSilva Gates’ Reynolds Ranch with 152 acres and 219 homes; and Teichert’s Southtown and Southtown Commons with 282 acres and 1,600 homes.

In Fairfield: Teichert’s Peterson Ranch with 150 acres and 560 homes and Gilhotti Brothers’ Centennial Walk with three acres and 21 homes.

In Rio Vista: Teichert’s Trilogy with about 300 acres and 2,800 homes.

Make plans to attend the Fairfield District picnic Saturday, April 29, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The menu includes an all-you-can-eat brunch at the Cordelia Fire Station (2155 Cordelia Road, Fairfield). This menu is a little different, and it should be a lot of fun. Don’t forget; see you there!

FROM HAWAII

Parker elected BCTC president


With eight Local 3 members in District 17, the council also strives to resolve jurisdictional disputes through collective bargaining. The council also works to secure improved wages, hours and working conditions for the members.

Ron’s Construction Company

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