Maxim, Sheedy team up for capitol upgrades
Politics and your pension

It was great to see so many Local 3 brothers and sisters aboard the Hornet last month for the Semi-Annual Meeting. I think that our membership attending the event would agree this new venue made for an impressive turnout and a truly successful event. Thanks to everyone for taking the time to come out and participate in your union.

It makes me proud to see the membership so involved in what’s going on at Local 3 – not just at the Semi-Annual, but also with our attendance at recent district meetings and events. We’ve also had tremendous feedback about the retirees’ 13th check proposal, and of course, our ongoing political activism throughout the jurisdiction remains a constant. I am proud to say Local 3 members have a long history of participating in the political process, and this year more than ever, it will be critical for us to get involved in the upcoming 2008 General Election.

With that said, it does not surprise me that so many of our members have asked why Local 3 did not endorse a presidential candidate for the Primary Election in February. Local 3 and the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) made this decision together knowing that our country needs a leader who will address the issues and concerns most critical to working families. We understand this election is vital and that gaining the presidency will directly affect the livelihood of our membership. It is for these reasons Local 3 and every other Operating Engineers local in the nation agreed to hold off our endorsement in the Primary so the members of the International Union of Operating Engineers could collectively send a powerful and consistent message when we endorse a candidate for president.

As we move forward in this election year, Local 3 and the International will continue working together in this campaign for president. We will also be working on a national voter registration and absentee voter campaign to ensure the voices of Operating Engineers across the country are heard. Stay tuned for the announcement of our endorsed candidate and for ways to get involved as we approach the General Election in November.

OE3 Pension Plan: By now, all of you should have received the letter informing you of the upcoming pension presentation that will take place during our second-quarter round of district meetings. We invite and encourage all members and retirees to attend this important presentation regarding our pension plan. Please see pages 12 and 13 for more pension information and the district meeting schedule on page 20 to find the meeting in your area.

13th check feedback: I would like to take this opportunity to thank all active and retired members who provided feedback on the letter regarding the idea of a 13th check for our retirees. The importance of this issue is demonstrated by one of the largest responses we have ever received from our membership on any union issue. The 13th check proposal and several members’ response letters are included in this edition of Engineers News on page 4.

Work picture: Work across the jurisdiction is picking up in several districts and maintaining a slower pace in other districts. As I reported last month, we have a lot of refinery work in the Bay Area and several major projects continuing, such as Devil’s Slide, the Confusion Hill Project, the Oakland-San Francisco Bay Bridge Project, as well as dredging work in the Fairfield District, school construction in Stockton, levee work in Yuba City, hotel resorts in Hawaii and several highway projects in Fresno, Sacramento, Redding, Nevada and Utah. As these projects continue, Local 3 will make every effort to secure more work for the future through political activism and correspondence with the Legislature, such as the following:

Dear California State Legislator:

As you know, the state currently has $29 billion in unallocated funds from the 2006 infrastructure bonds. Currently, regulatory and statutory hurdles are preventing California from moving forward with existing projects and fully accelerating infrastructure funding and project authorization. Governor Schwarzenegger has directed the state’s agencies and departments to find solutions to expedite this process and has called for the release of $300 million in funding for roads, highways and corridor mobility improvements for the entire state of California.

While this money is un-utilized, the state’s economy declines with the collapsing housing market. In turn, the unemployment rate rises. There is no better time than now to utilize those bonds for what they were intended – infrastructure. The sooner California allocates the remaining infrastructure funding throughout northern and southern California, the sooner the state can create jobs, boost incomes, protect our homes from floods and ease traffic.

These jobs are essential to the livelihood of the state’s working men and women and the status of the economy. For every active construction job, there are seven directly related jobs. For every billion dollars spent on construction, more than 42,000 jobs are created – jobs that stimulate the economy and provide security for the working class at a time when mortgage payments are at their highest.

If these funds are allocated in the infrastructure purposes they were intended, a purpose California voters repeatedly demanded in several election cycles, hard-working Californians can maintain their health-care coverage and retirements, fuel the economy and provide much-needed infrastructure improvements, including flood control, which is imperative, since Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency in February 2006 for California’s levee system. With labor and management working together, history proves we can expedite major projects safely and efficiently.

For every day those bonds sit in waiting, another million in unallocated funds for infrastructure. The time is now.

In solidarity,
Russ Burns
Business Manager
International Vice President

In closing, I want to thank the membership for continuing to be involved in your union.
Filing for unemployment?

Members applying for unemployment, please note: The unemployment application asks for your hourly wage rate, which is the combined total of your wage rate and your vacation pay rate. Please report both numbers. The only exception is for members working in a bargaining unit who receive paid vacation time off – you do not need to report your vacation pay rate. Please call your business agent or visit the Employment Development Department online at www.EDD.ca.gov for more.

Utah JAC hosts 30th Annual Apprenticeship Graduation

The Utah Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) honored the 2008 graduating class of apprentices at a dinner awards ceremony Feb. 8 in Salt Lake City. JAC Administrator Jeff Anderson awarded 14 apprentices with completion certificates and also presented awards for Employer of the Year: Ames Construction, Supervisor of the Year: Justin Pentz, Mentor of the Year: Jon Bambrough and apprentices of the year: Casey Weber and Ryan MacFarlane. Local 3 officers, staff and their families, along with Utah District employers and the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), attended the ceremony with the graduates and their families. This was the Utah District's 30th Annual Apprenticeship Graduation.

EDD application process explained

During this last round of district meetings, it was brought to my attention in Fresno from member Daniel Butterfield that several members are having problems with the Employment Development Department (EDD), and more specifically, the amount of information the department needs for identity verification. The time it takes to process this information causes a delay in the member receiving benefits.

Because I take these issues seriously, I decided to follow up. After a lot of research and phone calls, I finally reached EDD Director Mark Dougherty and explained to him our members' concerns. According to him, the reason EDD is requiring so much identity information from applicants is because of the increasing amount of identity-theft cases occurring within the department. People are selling others' Social Security numbers for profit. He mentioned that some people have 30 to 40 different names attached to them, and each one of those names receiving a benefit starts to ruin the fund. In order for the state to get its arms around the issue and stop the bleeding, EDD needs applicants to provide three to four different forms of identification. He stated it is important that members fill out their applications properly. For instance, if a digit is left out of an address, or a T is not crossed, the computer will kick you out of the system causing greater delays. His other advice is to make several copies of your driver's license, your Social Security card, a utility bill, a W-2 and if possible, a passport. Every time you sign up with the EDD regarding unemployment, send copies of each one. This should stop any delays. Until the state is able to remedy the amount of identity theft and prove who you are, this is the policy. I hope this helps with some of your concerns. For more information on the EDD program, see “Filing for unemployment” at left.

I want to thank you all for your attendance at the March 30 Semi Annual held on the USS Hornet. I spoke with a lot of folks who expressed their enthusiasm for the change in venue. We appreciate your attendance at these events, as they are an essential means of communication for our great union, and they are also a nice way to meet and catch up with friends all across our jurisdiction.

Regarding union involvement, I cannot stress enough the importance of your participation in the Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program, especially as the General Election heats up. Contact your local district office for more information on the VOTE activities going on in your area, and see the VOTE article in this month's edition on page 14.

In closing, I'd like to end on a note of congratulations. I had the privilege of attending apprenticeship graduations in all four states of our jurisdiction, and I can honestly say we have some talented apprentices who put in their time, did the hard work and are a tribute to our organization. Directors, instructors and most importantly – journey-level operators – are essential in their influence and ability to tutor these apprentices, and get them headed in the right direction, so they deserve our thanks. The families of these new journey-level operators – husbands, wives and children – also deserve recognition, for it is their support through the process that keeps these members going and influences their success. Congratulations to all graduated apprentices. Never stop learning your craft, and you will be provided with a great living and will in turn provide your family and your union with prosperity.

Keep up the good work.

Talking Points

By Fred Herschbach, president
Dear Members,

This is the first in a series of communications regarding an important issue facing the retirees of our union. As you may be aware from past Semi-Annuals and recent district meetings, the retirees are asking the union for a raise in their monthly pension check. This is a fair and pressing question that deserves our membership’s full attention, as our retirees have not received an increase since 2000.

To begin, Local 3 and the Trust Funds are concerned with federal laws outlined under the Pension Protection Act, signed Aug. 17, 2006 and enacted Jan. 1, 2008, that currently impact the approval of a raise through the pension fund. Therefore, we must take an alternative approach if we are to move forward with the idea of providing a raise.

Our proposal is to start a separate fund allocation using a portion of future negotiated wage increases (for example, proposal and the amount would be minimal at first, but if the active membership could commit to a few pennies or a nickel allocation, each of our 9,000-plus retirees might see an initial increase in the form of an additional check.

With continuing contributions, the allocation benefit could be extended to the active membership upon their retirement. In other words, all active members would be contributing to a future benefit for themselves.

The following responses were received regarding the letter at right:

Not 100 percent sure I support the idea of more money coming out of our checks. However, I hope to retire within the next 5-7 years and realize how hard it is to make ends meet now. It is very scary to think about living on a fixed income. I think I support the 13\textsuperscript{th} check, because I know how hard it is for older people to survive. So although I have some reservations, I am in support of it for the most part. Thanks for asking.

– Active Local 3 member

Yes, an increase in our retirement pension would be greatly appreciated. Being a 48-year member and 88 years of age, my pension and Social Security amounts just barely pay for my room rent. I’m in a home with 90 residents paying $1,901 monthly, which leaves me with $57 for my personal needs and will decrease in time. When I retired, all pension credits could not be used, so some went for the good of Local 3 we were told, and today all credits are used for pension payment. Thus, much more money for retirement. Anything that can be done to help us 9,000 retirees will be greatly accepted.

– Local 3 Retiree

In reading your letter dated Jan. 28, 2008, I believe this proposal to provide a raise for our retirees is an important and beneficial move to help our retirees maintain a lifestyle that they have worked so hard to attain. I would also hope that the current membership would raise your proposal of 8.05 to at least 8.10 to start off with. It is time to pay back the people who got us here. Thank you for addressing such an important issue.

– Active Local 3 member

I would like to commend you on any initiative to implement some form of addition to the retirement checks for us “old timers.” I would only want to hope that if it is approved that it would not harm the income of the working men in any way. I know that we all want everything we can get, but we need fairness and equality in any program that we put in place for the brotherhood. Keep up the good work, and please maintain good monitoring of our invested retirement funds.

– Local 3 Retiree

I’m writing in response to your letter about raises for our retirees. I want to let you know that I am very against this right now. Our country is headed for a recession and the current work picture looks very bleak. I feel the current working members are going to need every penny they can get for the next couple years until this country can turn things around.

I’m not against the retirees ever getting a raise, just not right now. Maybe when work picks up and there are less members on the out-of-work list, we can discuss this issue. Times are going to be tough for working members in the next couple years. The retirees are just going to have to make due. At least they still receive checks every month.

– Active Local 3 member

Thank you for your nice letter about our pension plan and the possibility of a raise. That would be nice, but we aren’t unhappy about the pension coming now. In fact, we are down-right grateful for it. So we just want you to know, it isn’t imperative. We are happy in our retirement.

– Local 3 Retiree

I think your proposal has merit and I would approve it in its entirety. We have one of the finest retirement programs in the nation and this change would make it even better. However it’s the younger members that will have to be convinced when your 30-something you don’t think much about being 60-something and pensions. As a supervisor in the industry, it was amazing to see the reaction of younger generations of operators when I explained just how the retirement program worked and what a single hour meant to their pension amount at retirement age. What it means is a little now and a Big chunk at the end. Thank you.

– Local 3 Retiree

Tonight while listening to the news, I find I am $10,000 above the poverty line, yet you would like to take more from me. I made $51,000 this year. My gas to get to work is up, food is going up, my taxes are going up. I am just making ends meet, yet you need more? Or our brothers do. Please tell me when will my wages go up? I can’t afford to not get a raise, then to give more from my check.

– Active Local 3 member

I am a second generation, almost third-step apprentice, union kid who voted no on lowering my dues. Now the dues are cheap and retirees in California are struggling due to inflation. My Dad is going to retire soon and has friends who retired. He put in his 30. The retired Local 3 members deserve more than they get. They built this union. I wish you reversed the lowering of dues so I pay what I did a year ago and give all the extra money to retirees, because I would hope the next generation would do the same for me in 27 and-a-half years. In conclusion, don’t ask if I want to raise the retirees’ benefits and money. Just do it.

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– Active Local 3 member
Dear Editor:

Regarding the ongoing Valley Power strike: I was delighted to hear Chris Snyder on David Bacon’s Labor Report on K.P.F.A the week before last (Feb. 9). He did a fine job of explaining what was going on with the Valley Power strike. David Bacon’s Labor Report airs every Wednesday morning at 7:30, during the Morning Show on K.P.F.A 94.1 FM. I’ve listened to it for years and find it to be an excellent resource for the labor movement in general, and think it would be of interest to the rank and file of our local. It can be heard on air, or listened to on-line, and all the shows are archived on K.P.F.A’s website.

Stephen Breacain
Reg# 1963480

Industry News
By Jim Sullivan, financial secretary

Local 3 hosts pipeline training with IUOE

On account of the new year and beginning spring, I will be writing an occasional column in Engineers News, Industry News, but let me first introduce myself: I am the current Local 3 financial secretary and am also a second-generation Operating Engineer. In the field, I was a Heavy Duty Repairman (HDR) and joined the Local 3 staff in 1999 where I have worked in many capacities, such as business agent, district rep, special rep and auditor. Currently, I am the officer in charge of Organizing and Research, Technical Engineers and Districts 11, 12 and 40.

There is no better time to start a new column than to discuss a new beginning or first. Therefore, I am pleased to announce: District 11 held the first ever Local 3-hosted pipeline training in mid-January with the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE). Pipeline work has a great forecast in this country, so the training could come at no better time.

The supplemental training was open to members in our jurisdiction and surrounding jurisdictions and was divided into three sections for pipeline work, including angle dozer, excavator and side-boom. Students were placed in one of these three sections based on knowledge of the equipment. During the three weeks of training, students were in the classroom two hours and in the field eight hours each day. They were taught terminology and techniques unique to pipeline work from the beginning – the clearing crew duties – to the end – final restoration.

Pipeline work can be visualized as a moving assembly line. According to the instructors, it is best to know how each piece of equipment works and what its job entails.

At the end of the three-week training, each student had an evaluation with their instructor, and the final grade of this evaluation determined if the student was ready to go out on the job. According to Local 66 Instructor Bob Wilds, it is impossible to teach students everything in that short period of time.

“I can’t stuff into three weeks what I learned in 22 years,” Wilds stated. Instead, he hopes to give students enough knowledge to get started. Students who do not pass the evaluation may repeat the training.

Local 3 instructors at the training included Jerry Worley and Lee Middleton. The Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTCT) donated equipment for the event, along with four side booms from ARB. Locals attending the event besides Local 3 included Local 9, Local 12, Local 49, Local 370, Local 400, Local 571, Local 612 and Local 800.

It is with great pride that I discuss this training with you, as the high number of attendants and diverse number of locals only proves our union’s strong emphasis on quality training and mastery of skill. Depending on member feedback, we hope to continue supporting this type of training on an annual basis. Please contact your local JAC office with any comments, suggestions and feedback.

I commend the instructors for a successful event and look forward to reporting on more training events and other items of interest in this column.

From left: Local 3’s Mike Kirkendall and Local 400’s Everett Smeltzer.

The first row from left: Chip Burk – Local 370, Ronald Junior – Local 3, Mike McTimmonds – Local 370, Carl Tracy and Matt Niemi – Local 800, Darryl Crum and Gaye Allison – Local 3, Jose Martin – Local 370, Mike Wakeling Sr. – Local 3 and Local 3 District Rep. Steve Ingersoll. The second row, from left: Local 66 Instructor Bob Wilds, Local 3 Administrator Greg Smith, Everett Smeltzer – Local 400, Mike Kirkendall – Local 3, Cory Burk – Local 370, Jim Breazeale – Local 9, Mike Connors – Local 3, Tina Tolocco and Kelly Franck – Local 12, Local 351 Instructor Bob Tuckness and Local 3 Vice President Carl Gof. Third row, from left: Stephen Byrd – Local 571, Van Johnson – Local 49, Tony Ortiz – Local 3, David Koch – Local 370, Bob Meek – Local 3, Local 3 instructors Jerry Worley and Lee Middleton and Pipeline Director Mack Bennett. Fourth row, from left: Dan Rule – Local 3, Gary Wasserburger – Local 800, Ron Armstrong – Local 370, Patrick Park – Local 571 and David Fletcher – Local 612.

Students attending the Nevada Pipeline Training Event Jan. 16 receive training on the excavator.

Please note: Letters to the Editor is a section for your comments and questions about information featured in Engineers News. Any concerns regarding issues not related to Engineers News should be addressed at your local district meetings.

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

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

By fax: (916) 419-3487
By e-mail: newsletters@oe3.org

April 2008  5
Maxim, Sheedy team up for capitol upgrades

Saturday, March 8, 2008: Maxim moved material for a catwalk up to the rotunda of the capitol. The permanent catwalk will be built inside the rotunda and used for window washing.

Maxim Crane attracts attention as operators hoist material up to the rotunda.

Superintendent Les Stripe signals for Crane Operator Ron Shoffit, who is set up in a tight spot in front of the capitol.

Tuesday, March 12, 2008: Engineers News caught up with Sheedy on the backside of the capitol building as part of the re-roofing project.

Crane Operator Dennis Goodrich.
AIM FOR ACTION

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

Exercise your heart.

ACTION: Take a walk around the block after work with a friend or relative.

Inside TrueNorth Health

For more than 25 years, the doctors of TrueNorth Health have supervised the health care of thousands of participants in its residential health-education program specializing in diet and lifestyle modifications. The center recently moved into a completely new, renovated facility in Santa Rosa, Calif., that offers three-week programs year-round. Coverage of the TrueNorth program is provided to members and spouses enrolled in the Operating Engineers Health & Welfare Plan and the Pensioned Operating Engineers Health & Welfare Plan. To find out more about TrueNorth Health, visit www.healthpromoting.com.

Healthy habits to live by

A recent scientific study that calculated the combined effect of exercising, drinking in moderation, eating lots of fruits and vegetables and not smoking found that a person who practices all of these healthy habits lives, on average, about 14 years longer than someone who doesn’t.

The “Seven Healthy Habits” for a longer, healthier life: Don’t smoke, drink moderately, exercise regularly, get a good night’s sleep, watch your weight and – as your mom always said – eat a good breakfast and don’t snack between meals.

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

OE3 HEALTH HOTLINES

Fringe Benefits Service Center (800) 532-2105

Assistance and Recovery Program (ARP)
(800) 562-3277

24/7 Nurse Advice Line

Matria Health (866) 676-0740

Kaiser California
(800) 464-4000 (normal business hours)
(888) 576-6225 (after hours)

Kaiser Hawaii (800) 966-5955

HealthNet (800) 893-5597

Tobacco Cessation
California (800) NO BUTTS and (800) 844-CHEW
Hawaii (800) QUIT NOW
Nevada (800) QUIT NOW
Utah (888) 567-TRUTH
Seeking resolutions in District 60’s Clearlake, Lake County

By Mike Minton, business representative

On Thursday, Nov. 15, 2007, Local 3 Attorney Jolsna M. John filed a Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) complaint against the city of Clearlake for bad-faith bargaining. She also informed me she may have found a law firm that would handle a class-action-type lawsuit against the Lake County Animal Control Department and in particular, its department head.

The city of Clearlake’s Miscellaneous Employees’ contract expired July 1, 2007. At the time of this writing, Clearlake’s city administrator refuses to respond to my requests to meet and bargain in good faith for a successor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). In June 2007, I requested to schedule dates to negotiate a new contract with the city administrator, but he told me he wasn’t ready to open negotiations, as he was new and not yet prepared. I told him to take some time to familiarize himself with the city’s budget, and we could get together in the coming weeks to begin negotiations. I never heard back from him, and he would not respond to my letters or phone calls. I drove to Clearlake in an attempt to personally contact him, and on the first two or three occasions, he was unavailable.

He finally contacted me, only to put me on notice that he was not ready to open negotiations, but he wanted to talk about three other issues involving this bargaining unit. He wanted to change the hours for employees working in City Hall, change the wintertime hours for Public Works employees and change the calculation method for employees’ holiday time. I advised him the proper time to discuss these matters was at the bargaining table for a successor MOU. He refused and told me these issues had to be resolved before opening negotiations. To make a long story short, he pressured the employees to eventually sign off on his demands against my advice in order to move into negotiations.

After all this, the city administrator still refused to meet with us, and when he did, he refused to comply with my requests for certain documents the union needed for negotiations. He refused to discuss our proposal, and he never responded to our original proposal. We kept demanding the necessary documents, and he finally gave me a copy of his budget proposal to the city and told a member of our negotiating team to “see if you can find Mike a copy of last year’s budget.” He never gave me the side-letter agreements or the state reports I requested for several months. On the third scheduled negotiation meeting, City Administrator Dale Neiman told us: “We have no money. There’s no use meeting anymore; come back in January, and I’ll see if I can do a mid-budget survey to see if we can do anything.” With that, negotiations with the city of Clearlake were officially over.

Adding insult to injury, Neiman told me he wanted to talk about demoting a senior code-enforcement officer for no other reason than to save money, as Neiman didn’t think they needed a senior code-enforcement officer. When I asked questions about other budget cuts, I learned not one of the department heads, including Neiman, were losing a nickel out of their own pockets. The only cut was to this one employee, which would save the city about $3,000 over the course of a year. Neiman was told in no uncertain terms this was not going to happen. If he wanted to discuss the demotion, he needed to re-open negotiations and make it part of the city’s proposal. As of this writing, I have not heard a word from the city of Clearlake.

The other major issue I have going is a rash of terminations in the Lake County Animal Control Department. It appears the department head decided to clean house within the Animal Control Department, and I’m not talking about the animals in the cages. The department head believes many of the current employees need to be replaced. Several measures of discipline have come down from this department head – all but one being terminations. Several employees have filed sexual-discrimination complaints with the county, the state and the federal government. The county’s investigation agreed in at least one of these complaints that the employee was sexually harassed, but the county would uphold the termination anyway. The other investigations are still ongoing.
New challenges in the year ahead

By Alan Elnick, business representative

The public sector is a good place to work, as it provides reasonable job security, health-insurance plans and pensions. This compares to a private sector with growing at-will employment, less employer involvement for health insurance and nearly extinct pensions. Opportunistic politicians continue to exploit the envy many people hold toward their public servants and pursue their campaigns to diminish the benefits that so many have struggled for to make the public sector work. As an example, Assemblyman Keith Richman of the 38th District again has begun to dismember California public-employee pensions.

The agenda of people like Richman is to force government to fail in its ability to regulate the questionable activities of their corporate sponsors. We need not look too far to find an example. Local, state and federal governments are currently absorbing the effects of the sub-prime mortgage debacle. Ordinary people holding mortgage loans with unrealistically low interest rates for principle amounts exceeding the true-market value of their homes are facing foreclosure and becoming part of a growing class of citizens likely to seek social services from the government. Lenders no longer want to lend, and the bailouts being proposed do not help the borrowers, just the lenders.

Unfortunately, the mortgage crisis may benefit the Richman agenda. Growing inventories of un-owned homes drag home prices down, force reassessment and reduce property-tax revenues. Additionally, people who cannot pay their mortgages often cannot or do not pay their property taxes. With no way to tap home equity, worried homeowners postpone large purchases, and predictably, automobile sales are flat. Automobile sales significantly contribute to sales-tax revenues. Similarly, home improvement and appliance purchases decline, along with revenues to state and local governments. An electorate in financial distress will seek company for their misery and draw focus to public employees. Even as I write this, the headlines abound with information about growing state deficits and the purported cause: growing government expenditure, consequently the labor side of the ledger.

Indeed, those who believe as Richman believes have placed America on a precipice it has not teetered upon since its founding. For the country has become a debtor nation reliant on the kindness of strangers to preserve the national standard. The changes enacted in the federal bankruptcy laws will provide no fresh starts for those aspiring to the middle class who are overwhelmed by debt. The democratic fabric upon which our republic is founded frays rapidly, as those corporations who sponsor politicians like Richman remove themselves from our shores and any enforceable oversight. The assets of America will be sold off to those who hold our debts.

As public servants, we stand as the last line of defense in preservation of the democratic republic, since the unfolding financial crisis endangers not only our middle class but also our institutions and our constitution. We must assure the sanctity of the election mechanism whose credibility was severely challenged in the last two general elections. As union members, it is necessary for us to volunteer our time to staff the polls for the General Election in November. Doing so helps defend our interests as those who look to defeat them are sure to provide their own slew of volunteers.
BALANCE: A Financial Fitness Program

The local and national newspapers and business magazine headlines say it all:
“Foreclosures Continue to Rise”
“Allstate Profits Decline”
“U.S. Steel Profits Decline”

The state of the nation’s economy looks grim these days, and here in the West, we’re getting hit harder than most. California led the nation in total foreclosure filings and in the number of homes in some stage of foreclosure in 2007. In addition, western financial institutions are forecasting the pace of foreclosure filings to remain steady well into 2008. The default of many sub-prime loans last year triggered a credit crisis that has had a ripple effect, impacting industries worldwide.

The downturn in the housing market has affected the construction industry, which in turn has affected Local 3 members. Along with other financial institutions in the nation, the Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union (OEFCU) is feeling the effects of the credit crisis and dealing with its share of delinquent loans, foreclosures and bankruptcy filings. In an effort to help our brothers and sisters requiring assistance during these difficult times, the Credit Union has partnered with a company called Balance, a financial-fitness program offering a variety of services to assist our members experiencing financial difficulties. The Balance Program will help our membership in several ways:

Toll-free information line

Members will have immediate telephone access to counselors who can answer questions regarding money management, personal finance and credit-related questions at (800) 808-4327. For members more comfortable communicating via e-mail, a link to the Balance Program is available on the Credit Union’s website: www.oefcu.org. This service is offered at no out-of-pocket cost. In addition, your financial information is strictly confidential and will not be shared with the Credit Union or any other financial institution.

Direct counseling

Counseling appointments will be available throughout the day and evening, weekdays and weekends. Members will have an opportunity to discuss credit issues, such as goal setting, budgeting, savings plans, credit reports, debt repayment and bankruptcy prevention, as well as housing issues, such as buying a first home or avoiding foreclosure. Members with needs beyond the scope of the services offered by this program will be provided with social-service referrals.

“How to” debt management assistance

If members are having trouble making ends meet and repaying debt, or they are receiving collection calls and letters, the Debt Management Plan will assist in the process of consolidating bill payments and negotiating with creditors for lower payments. In some cases, interest and fees can be reduced or eliminated.

Bankruptcy Prevention Unit

If a member is in short-term financial distress, creditors will be contacted to set up a temporarily reduced-payment plan. The Bankruptcy Prevention Unit will also counsel members considering bankruptcy, help them understand the consequences of filing bankruptcy and assist in the search for possible alternatives.

Credit report review and analysis

Members will be provided with a low-cost copy of their credit report along with supplementary educational materials and instructions on how to obtain a personal analysis. Counselors will review the contents of the credit report and answer questions about credit scoring, maintaining or improving the report, correcting inaccuracies and identity theft.

Housing Education Program

The Balance Program offers comprehensive education for members determined to buy their first home. For those struggling with mortgage payments, Balance provides early delinquency intervention counseling to help avoid foreclosure.

Regardless of your current financial condition, your Credit Union will work with Balance to do everything possible to support your financial goals. Your Local 3 officers and Executive Board realize how difficult these times are for some of our membership, and we are confident this service will provide the assistance you need. As a Credit Union member, you will receive this service at no out-of-pocket cost, and your information will be treated with confidentiality. We encourage you to use the Balance Program to help you achieve financial success.
How to read your pension statement

The annual pension statements are being mailed this month. Your annual pension statement provides you with important retirement information. The following chart is a guide to help you read your statement: Please refer to the applicable columns and sections on your statement and the detailed explanation as referenced below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Employer:</td>
<td>Shows the name of the employer who reported hours on your behalf during the month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Date Worked:</td>
<td>Shows the month and year the hours were worked.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Hours Reported:</td>
<td>Shows the hours reported on your behalf during the month and plan year indicated. Compare these hours with your records, as they are an important factor in determining your pension benefit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Hourly Contribution Rate:</td>
<td>Shows the pension hourly contribution rate, which does not reflect amounts remitted to the pension restoration plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Benefit Factor:</td>
<td>Shows the percentage factor used in determining your benefit amount.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Benefit:</td>
<td>Shows the benefit you accumulated by month provided you worked at least 350 hours in the plan year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Credits and Benefits:</td>
<td>To the left of this section is your credit earned during 2007 and the benefit added to your pension for 2007. To the right of this section is your accumulated Future Service credits and the monthly benefit through 2007 and payable at full retirement age for a Normal, Regular or Service Pension.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. For Your Information:</td>
<td>Contains important information regarding your pension benefits.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Be sure to carefully review your pension statement. If you note any discrepancies in hours, Social Security number or birth date between the Trust Fund records and your personal records, please notify the Trust Fund at (800) 251-2104 or the Fringe Benefits Service Center at (800) 532-2105. Follow the written instructions on the back of the statement for corrections. If the discrepancy is in hours reported, please mail the Trust Fund office the top portion of your statement and copies of your check stubs for the month or months in question.

Retiree Association Meetings

The Retiree Association Meetings continue this month. The Local 3 officers look forward to joining our retirees and their spouses for concise reports, good refreshments and plenty of fellowship. Keep an eye out for the postcard inviting you to the meeting in your area.

CONCORD
Wednesday, April 9 10 a.m.
Centre Concord
5298 Clayton Road

FAIRFIELD
Monday, April 14 2 p.m.
Cordelia Fire District
2155 Cordelia Road

EUREKA
Tuesday, April 15 2 p.m.
Wharfinger Building
1 Marina Way

REDDEING Meeting & Potluck
Wednesday, April 16 1:30 p.m.
Frontier Senior Center
2081 Frontier Trail
Anderson

FRESNO
Wednesday, April 16 2 p.m.
Cedar Lanes
3131 N. Cedar

MODESTO
Thursday, April 17 10 a.m.
Tuolumne River Lodge
2429 River Road

STOCKTON
Thursday, April 17 2 p.m.
Italian Athletic Club
3541 Cherryland Drive

YUBA CITY
Thursday, April 17 2 p.m.
Veterans’ Memorial Center
211 17th St.
Marysville

OAKLAND
Monday, April 21 10 a.m.
Oakland Zoo – Zimmer Auditorium
9777 Golf Links Road

Retiree Picnic

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for the upcoming Retiree Picnic held at the Rancho Murieta Training Center on Saturday, June 7.
Come up Friday at noon, and stay until noon on Sunday, if you wish. There is plenty of parking for your self-contained motor homes and trailers. Once again, Local 3 will pick up the tab for this event. We’ll see you there.
Pension update

Members have received and will continue to receive letters in the mail and information at district meetings regarding the Pension Fund. In maintaining transparency, we have continued to publish updated financial reports in the Engineers News on a quarterly basis (see left). The following information, charts and definitions may be used to supplement these other forms of communication.

As mentioned, with the recent volatility and sharp decline in the stock market, the Pension Fund has not reached its target-investment return of 7.5 percent. To help illustrate the pension, its restoration and what this target-investment return means, please review the following “quick” facts and definitions:

How our pension plan works
• As you work, you earn benefits which will be paid to you upon retirement. The total value of your benefits and those of other members’ benefits make up the Pension Plan’s benefit obligations.
• To fund the benefit obligations, employers make monthly contributions to the plan.
• Investment managers invest the contributions in stocks, bonds and mutual funds and real estate. The earnings on these investments make up most of the money used to pay retirement benefits.
• The Trustees must make sure there is enough money to pay benefit obligations to our retirees today and for active/future retirees for their lifetime.
• The plan’s current benefit obligations assume its investments will earn an average return of 7.5 percent annually. This means we expect to earn $7.50 for every $100 invested.

To sum it up: Over the life of the plan, contributions + investment income = benefits + expenses

The plan’s total assets include:
- Employer contributions
- Investment earnings
The plan’s total benefit obligation includes:
- Benefits earned by active participants for future payment
- Benefits paid to current retirees and beneficiaries

By analyzing contributions and earnings, our investment consultants and actuaries – with the Trustees’ approval – determine whether our contributions are enough to deliver benefits. Chart A shows the plan’s actual investment returns (listed under Market Value Rate of Return) for the last 17 years. We are awaiting the audited results from 2007.

Based on economic conditions, it is obvious the market has hit a downturn, but this is not a new problem, as the market spiral started brewing in 2001. This is also evidenced by Chart A, which shows historical market data in relation to our pension.

Chart B and Chart D show our monthly pension returns during the year 2007, and as you can see, the fund improved drastically in October at 7.71 percent but dropped significantly in November, proving the volatility of the market.

Pension update

Monthly pension payments to all retirees will not be reduced. The payments being made to retirees and beneficiaries will not be affected in any way. Any benefits earned to date by active and retirees, including service pensions, will not be affected.
The state of the market has a direct correlation to the performance of the fund, and as you can see in Chart C, we are short.

Our fund performs similarly to the stock market; see Chart D.

Other factors that have created this deficit include a recent decline in work hours and benefit enhancements we made (and had to by law) in the 1990s when our investment performance was doing well.

**Understanding the Pension Protection Act**

In August 2006, George Bush signed the Pension Protection Act into law, mandating strict funding requirements for pension plans such as ours. The funding provisions of this act took effect in January 2008.

Funding zones are defined based in part on funding status:

Local 3 will certify in the Yellow Zone, meaning we are either less than 80 percent funded or as provided in the PPA, we reach a minimum funding deficiency within seven years.

**Where we are today**

Changes to the Pension must be made, because we cannot continue promising and paying out more to retirees and actives than what we are bringing in. It is the same issue in the housing market today, where people's houses are worth less than what they owe. They cannot continue to pay a mortgage out of a growing debt.

In adhering to the requirements of the PPA, the Trustees are developing a Funding Improvement Plan (FIP) to meet specified benchmarks for correcting the deficiency.

The Trustees are developing this FIP with the help of a skilled team of consultants and actuaries: Investment Performance Services (IPS), LLC, an investment consulting firm servicing jointly trusted benefit plans like our own and Horizon Actuarial Services, LLC, a company focused on multi-employer retirement plans.

This team is performing asset allocation changes and moving money from firms that aren't getting the job done, because you know our slogan remains: If you can't get the job done, then leave.

We advise you to read your mail, read the *Engineers News* and attend your district meetings, as more information is forthcoming on the progress of this improvement plan, and the steps we're taking to ensure the longevity and stability of our Pension.

The vast majority of people wish they had a Pension like ours, even with the downturn in the market. Please keep in mind that the stock market experiences times of downturn as well as recovery. The Board of Trustees and your leadership are making decisions to ensure the continued strength and stability of our Pension Fund.

Stay tuned for more information.

For definitions, charts and helpful hints, visit www.oec3.org.
Burns launches Retiree VOTE award

Retirees to be honored as Volunteers of the Year

As the political season heats up and primary election votes are tallied across the country, there is no better time to “ramp up” the Local 3 Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program, which is why Business Manager Russ Burns is making a call to all politically active retirees along with actives, to get on the VOTE bandwagon and make your voices heard. This year, along with regular VOTE Volunteers of the Year, Retiree VOTE Volunteers of the Year will also be honored. It seems only appropriate since current retirees, such as John Hinote, Ken Green and William Houghtby are given a lot of credit for the original fire underneath the program.

This “fire” stemmed from the famous barbecue grill this trio would cart around starting in 1972 throughout Local 3’s jurisdiction for picnics, meetings and political activism. According to John Hinote, retired since 1996, he has never missed a VOTE meeting or function in his home district – District 70 – for 37 years. And according to many who know him, he and his crew are responsible for much of the clout the current VOTE program offers, as it is their efforts of bringing members, their families, labor leaders and friends together through food and fellowship.

Hinote strongly values the VOTE program, because “it brings people together for the betterment of Local 3, and it is gratifying to get people involved.”

Hinote stresses that the VOTE program is similar to other union events in that “you get out of it what you put in.”

And because of the years and joy retirees have given (and received) to the VOTE program, we are now honoring them in their own Volunteer of the Year category. For more information on this award and VOTE functions in your district, contact VOTE coordinators Theresa Reclusado at (916) 349-2839 or Jane Lea at (916) 261-1339.
**ROHNERT PARK**  Bridgework considered lifeline for area

Work continues on schedule in District 10 with bridge projects at Ten Mile River and is interrupted for only short periods by high winds.

**Wahlund Construction** has several operators busy placing rip-rap on the Navarro River bank for an emergency project on Hwy. 128 for Caltrans.

**Hwy. 101 bridges bypass slide area**

MCM continues work on the construction of two bridge spans that will enable Hwy. 101 to bypass the Confusion Hill slide area. According to California Transportation Engineer Sebastian Coen, this $65 million project is on time and on budget. The project spans the south fork of the Ell River at two locations using two different technologies to effectively bypass the slide area, while causing minimal impact on the river. The project is about 40 percent complete with the north span nearing 95 percent completion.

The Hwy. 101 bridge project is considered a lifeline for the north coast. For many years, the hillside along the current path of Hwy. 101 has been slipping into the Ell River. Three slip planes are causing the hillside to decay and collapse into the river. Relocating the highway away from the slide-prone area of Confusion Hill became a priority when slides seriously threatened Caltrans’ ability to keep this major roadway open. Randomly occurring slides during the winter wet season closed the highway numerous times during the past several years, further strangling an economy already suffering from poor transportation infrastructure. Despite mammoth costs of building the two structures, the California Department of Transportation estimated the project will pay for itself in 10 years by eliminating the maintenance bill for keeping the hillside from sliding away.

The south bridge is cast-in-place segmental construction. After the two massive T-shaped supports are completed, the bridge will develop into the river. Relocating the highway away from the slide-prone area of Confusion Hill became a priority when slides seriously threatened Caltrans’ ability to keep this major roadway open. Randomly occurring slides during the winter wet season closed the highway numerous times during the past several years, further strangling an economy already suffering from poor transportation infrastructure. Despite mammoth costs of building the two structures, the California Department of Transportation estimated the project will pay for itself in 10 years by eliminating the maintenance bill for keeping the hillside from sliding away.

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BURLINGAME I Year-round work in Bay keeps jobs going

Not only does San Francisco have its own micro-climate – it has its own micro-economy. Work in the city continues year-round, as the sandy soils mean water drains fast with minimal drying-out time on dirtwork. The shortage of buildable space in the city means a constant demolition and re-build cycle to replace older buildings with taller ones. The city’s aging water and wastewater systems are systematically replaced keeping underground contractors busy. Major projects in and around the city include the new Bay Bridge, the Devil’s Slide tunnel and the Hetch Hetchy Water System.

In Marin County, the Project Stabilization Agreement between the Community College District and contractors was reached. Both campuses of College of Marin are ready to move forward on projects this spring. The first project will start at the C.O.M. Campus in Kentfield with a new athletic department facility at a cost of $835 million. The second and third substantial projects will start in the fall at the Indian Valley Campus in West Novato. The first project is a shop complex valued at $55 million followed by a science building projected at $80 million. These projects will all use Local 3 operators.

Dispatcher Craig Thompson reminds members: Registration on the out-of-work list expires after 12 weeks unless renewed by the member. Members should feel free to call the Burlingame District office at (650) 652-7969 and check their status on the out-of-work list.

Congratulations to Apprentice Zachary Fosco and his wife, Angela, on the Jan. 23 birth of their son, Charles A’nunzio Johnny Fosco.

STOCKTON I Teichert tops workload in district

Some projects currently underway in District 30 include California State University – Turlock’s new athletic field and bookstore and DSS’s Airport Way and Charter Way beautification project. RGW is building a new wastewater treatment plant in Tracy for the Duel Vocational Institute. The new Salida High School project is in high gear with Teichert Construction – Turlock Division. Teichert also has the Hwy. 4 bypass in Angel’s Camp with lots of excavating, grading and paving.

In Denir, Mozingo Pipeline is working on a new middle-school administration building and multi-purpose building with three new classrooms. The Port of Stockton Ethanol Plant and the Keyes Ethanol Plant have a lot of crane work going on.

Congratulations to Teichert pin recipients Jim Shawnego, Martin Salatti, Michael Gibson and Fred Solari.

Calling all VOTE members

This is your voice! Get politically involved in your union by volunteering your time for the Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program. Call the hall at (209) 943-2332 for more information. It is important to get labor-friendly politicians elected.

District 12 VOTE volunteers attend a health-reform hearing Feb. 8 at the Utah State Capitol.

In the state of Utah we either have more work than we know what to do with or we are praying for more. The state has allocated plenty of money over the past few years for transportation. Even though the private market has slowed down like it has for the rest of the country, the public market will pick up. Projects ahead include the commuter rail from Sandy to Provo; the light rail line from Sandy to Daybreak – mid-Jordan; the light rail line in West Valley – 3500 South; the light rail line from North Temple to the Salt Lake Airport; I-15 Utah County; Redwood Road from Bangerter Highway to Saratoga Springs; and the Mountainview Corridor – Legacy Highway.

There is no need for despair. Even though Mother Nature has dealt us a huge blow this winter, and many of you have been laid off for much longer than anyone should have to be – there is a good year ahead in 2008. With your help and support, District 12 will continue to grow. Do not hesitate to call us with leads about companies that could benefit from union labor. We are always out there trying to create more work for our membership.

With the presidential race this year, the Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program will have lots of opportunities for you to come and support candidates who will support us. The presidential race is not the only race this year, so get involved early! Bring your family, and together we CAN make a difference. If you are not currently a member of the VOTE program, please give the hall a call at (801) 596-2677.

Remember: Keep your registration active; you must renew it at least once every 84 days. If you are on the C-list, you must update your registration at the first of every month.

If you are interested in knowing more about your union and your benefits, please attend New Member Orientation on the first Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. at the hall, 1958 West North Temple, Salt Lake City.
OAKLAND  I  Volunteer offers words of wisdom

The Oakland District honors 2006 Volunteer of the Year Michael Colley. His continued volunteerism and work ethic is contagious. In his own words, Michael shares his philosophies and lifestyle:

I’ve been a Local 3 member since 2002. I was sponsored into the apprenticeship program by Manuel Marques of J&M Inc., for which I’m forever grateful. I worked for J&M Inc. for four years as a parts runner before being sponsored into the apprenticeship program, which I successfully completed in 2006.

In 2007, I began working for O.C. Jones & Sons Inc., where I’ve enjoyed learning about grading and pacing.

I’ve been married to my wonderful wife, Wanjai, for 10 years. She is my inspiration in everything I do. When the political season rolls around, she’s right there with me, either phone banking, precinct walking or whatever else needs to be done. I think that volunteering isn’t just my duty as an Operating Engineer, but it’s also an honor to serve my Union brothers and sisters. I live by a personal philosophy of: “Whatever it takes.”

My advice to apprentices and journeymen alike: Get involved in the Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program, even if it’s just for a couple of hours per year; every little bit helps. After all, our future is in our hands.

When I’m not working, I can be found spending time with my family and friends. I enjoy playing guitar, hunting and camping. I also spend time volunteering at church.

I try to get to the RMTC as often as possible to upgrade my training as an Operating Engineer. There’s always room for improvement in everything we do.

REDDING  I  Members win big in Anderson event

Out of 56 competitors and nine hours of competition, Local 3 members prevailed. Russ Gentry won the $500 prize, Thomas Wood won the $300 prize, Mike Gibbons won the fastest time in the balance-beam competition and five Local 3 members placed in the top 10. This event was a huge success and showed off the skills of Local 3 members.

HAWAII  I  Members honored by officers in district

From Kauai

Kiewit is working on the Kauai Marriott – Kauai Lagoons on the east side of the island of Kauai overlooking the Nawiliwili Harbor. This first phase of many is called Kalani Pau – the future site of 78 high-end condos. The project is expected to last until January 2009. Other Kiewit projects on the island include Kukuiula, the Kikiaola Draft Harbor and the Kilauea Bridge.

From Oahu

Local 3 officers and members alike are busy on the Island of Oahu with all the service-pin recipients and the work. Business Manager Russ Burns, President Fred Herschbach and Trustee/District Rep. Kalani Mahoe traveled to the island to award members working for Delta Construction and Grace Pacific Corp.
YUBA CITY  I Gradesetting class a success in district

Hello from District 60. The work picture includes spring projects advertised late in 2007 and some leftovers from last fall. Granite hands return to work on Hwy. 149 and Hwy. 20 near Smartsville. DeSilva Gates will return to Hwy. 99/Hwy. 20 in Yuba City. New projects are bidding each month. Come by the hall in Yuba City, 468 Century Park Drive, and check out the job board. Bid dates and pending projects are listed.

Teichert started the setback levee at Starbend. DeSilva Gates will begin on Hwy. 70 in Yuba County near Nicholas. Viking Construction is currently working on the Plumas Lake interchange and overcrossing and has the Durham Dayton Highway Bridge ahead. Visit the Caltrans website at: www.dot.ca.gov/dist3 to see all the work in District 60’s seven counties. The hall continues to monitor and update our job board. Come by and have a look.

Thanks to Gradesetting Instructor Robert Wilson for his hard work teaching the class. District 60 members and staff benefited from Robert’s knowledge and skills and learned invaluable lessons that will help them for years to come. Volunteers like Robert are always needed in our communities and local groups, just as Local 3 needs your help in our local state and government politics. We have great gifts for our Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) volunteers. Ask your business rep. for information or call the hall at (530) 743-7321. When we pull together to let local politicians hear our views, they listen.

One final note on behalf of one of ours: A donation account has been set up at the Yuba City Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union (OEFCU) for Mark, Zimmerman and his wife, Laurie. Mark is a longtime member of Operating Engineers, and his wife is now at Stanford Medical Center for a bone-marrow transplant. They face not only the physical and emotional costs of illness but the added burden of providing a place to live for Laurie and her 24-hour care provider near Stanford’s Bone Marrow Transplant Center. Laurie is required to live within a short distance from the center while undergoing treatment. Mark and Laurie Zimmerman greatly appreciate any donations of support. Call the OEFCU at (530) 742-5285 for more information.

The Yuba City District Gradesetting Class includes, from left: Zachary Esparza, Ron Bartlett, Larry Woodward, Instructor Robert Wilson, Mitch Gomes, David Josephson and Tim Hammond.

SACRAMENTO  I Willing travelers find work in mountains

The public work picture is starting to pick up; however, many projects will not go to bid until spring. We should see a dramatic increase in jobs this coming summer. By the time this goes to print, Teichert Heavy and Highway will have completed another pre-job for another section of I-80 for the eastbound and westbound lanes in and near Truckee. The project should last about three years. Teichert also has a project between Soda Springs and Donner Pass.

Other upcoming projects include the Lincoln Bypass on Hwy. 65 and the new terminal B and hotel at the Sacramento County International Airport.

The bulk of private work in District 80 remains in the areas between Northstar and Truckee. If you’re willing to travel, there will be plenty of work in the mountains starting May 1. Many members worked 7-10s or 12s during the last two or three weeks before Oct. 15, 2007. Remember: This is construction.

Balfour Beatty was the low bidder on the Vineyard Water Treatment Plant at $182.5 million. West Valley Construction is working on 44th Street replacing the water main.

At the Crocker Art Museum, Duran and Venables is paving, Preston Pipeline and Zayas are excavating and grading, and Berkel and Company is making drill and cast piles.

At UC Davis, projects continue with signatory contractors DeSilva Gates, Beebe Construction, Tidelands Construction and Lyles Mechanical Co.

The Balfour Beatty Freeport Intake project is about 40 percent complete. Signatory sub-contractors Blue Iron and Case Pacific are onsite. Case Pacific is doing the drilling out of casings, the placement of rebar cages and the pumping of concrete into casings.

The Upper Northwest Interceptor Project No. 1 and No. 3 with Traylor-Shea has Viking Drillers drilling test wells.

With the help of Testing and Inspection Business Agent Michael Strunk and District 80’s Organizing Department, newly signed Krazan Testing and Inspection will be monitoring all the wells. The Michels Pipeline Upper Northwest Interceptor No. 3 and No. 4 are about 60 percent complete, and the company is using Krazan Testing and Inspection to monitor its wells.

Aggregate plants in the area continue to be a mix of work. Rinker/Cemex Plant Cache Creek is keeping its members working steady. Syar’s Madison crew is working three to five days a week, depending on weather. Granite Esparto is shut down except for maintenance projects and material load-out. Teichert Woodland and Esparto plants are expected to run about 70 percent this year.

The Kino Aggregates crew includes, from left: Brian Duddy, Dustin Plant, Lance Carter, James Potts and Rey Vargas.

Members Bob Lynch, Jay Trowbridge and Salvador Moreno receive their 25-year pins and commemorative jackets at Auburn-Placer Disposal.

Auburn-Placer Disposal – a company located in Auburn employing about 60 members. The general manager for this facility is John Rowe. Three employees were honored for their service with Auburn-Placer Disposal Feb. 11 during a 5 a.m. breakfast. Members received a nice, black letterman’s-style jacket with leather sleeves and company logo. At noon, the company provided a luncheon for the employees, and then they received their 25-year service pins from Local 3. Honorees included 26-year member Bob Lynch, 25-year member Salvador Moreno and 26-year member Jay Trowbridge.

Sierra Metal Fabrication and Auburn-Placer Disposal understand the need for a skilled and specialized workforce and that retention of employees is the key to success. Managers Jason White and John Rowe consider their employees an extended family and never view them as a faceless number.

RGW is finishing up on Hwy. 99 and the Grantline overpass and interchange and started on the Sheldon Road and Sheldon Highway overpass and interchange project. Sterling P. Holloway is onsite clearing land.

Teichert is working at the Promenade Mall in Elk Grove. Hatton Crane Rental is at the mall setting iron for one of the buildings. Steve P. Rados and Mountain Cascade are going strong on the Freeport Pipeline project. Steve P. Rados is also working on the Northwest Interceptor in Citrus Heights with Anderson Drilling and Vadhais.

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**NEVADA**  I  Work arrives as winter exits

With the signs of a good winter slowly vanishing from the Northern Nevada landscape, there is hope of a decent work year ahead. The return of the housing market may be slow in coming, but a few projects will keep some members working. The Regional Transportation Committee has eight new projects proposed this year, while the state of Nevada has minor upkeep projects. Three paving projects in Northern Nevada are ready to begin if the Nevada Department of Transportation’s (NDOT) budget allows. The University Board of Regents released plans on two new learning centers estimated at $45 million. Continuing work, such as Red’s Development project at the Sparks Marina, is performed by Q&D Construction and RTC Construction. Cruz Excavating and RTC Construction keep a few hands busy this spring with two separate phases of the 36-inch transmission water main in the northern Virginia/Old I-395 area. Several new jobs beginning this spring include the train-trench cover in downtown Reno, the baseball stadium and the Truckee River Levee and flood wall.

District 11 would like to remind all our members of the challenges ahead with upcoming elections. The importance of being well informed about the candidates and the ballot issues cannot be measured. One example of the effects it can have on our members is recently elected Gov. Jim Gibbons, since his budget cuts for transportation come at a time when our roads and infrastructure need it most. Get informed. Visit this website for Nevada roads: fixnroads.com. For more information, contact the hall at (775) 857-4440.

Our second quarterly district meeting is May 8 at 7 p.m. We anticipate a large turnout for this meeting; therefore, it will be held at the Best Western Airport Plaza Hotel and Conference Center at 1981 Terminal Way in Reno. Please contact the hall if you need directions.

Mark your calendars: The Nevada District picnic is Saturday, May 10 at the Lazy 5 Regional Park in Sparks.

District 11 mourns the loss of two young members – Robert Sanchez who worked for Q&D Construction and Surveyor John Britt. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them and their families.

From Elko

As you read this article, hopefully the weather is better than when it was written! Currently, we have about two feet of snow on the ground – if you can find any place where the wind hasn’t blown in 4-foot drifts. The current construction work picture is slow with snow removal helping a little. Metal prices have stayed up with gold hanging almost 20 years in Local 3. From left: Members Jay Yarbrough, Jerry Skow, John Avina and Tim Owen get it done in Gilroy’s Papé Machinery Shop.

Local 3 staff members update the membership at the Feb. 7 Pre-Retirement Meeting in Nevada.

Don’t forget: Our district meeting is April 21, 7 p.m. at the Morgan Hill Hall, 325 Digital Drive. Please make arrangements to attend so you can get caught up on your union’s current events. We also have an ongoing Gradechecking/Gradesetting class every Wednesday at 6 p.m.

With recent economic adjustments, the housing market and winter weather patterns, hours are down, but some shops have been fortunate enough to keep members working. Papé Machinery, located in Gilroy, has been servicing the south county for about four years. This John Deere dealership has been around for years under several different ownerships, and all the members enjoy working at Papé. Lead Partsman Mark Mahoney has almost 20 years with OE3 and couldn’t be happier – unless, of course, he was on a golf course! Shop Foreman Jerry Skow is working on 15 years with OE3 and heads the shop crew and field members. Three-year member Tim Owen and 11-year member Jay Yarbrough are also on the crew. Field mechanics John Avina and Anthony Cary and Partsman Frank Diaz have more than 13 years of combined service in Local 3. Sales, parts and service – these guys get it done for you in the south county.

Field Mechanic Anthony Cary has five years of service in Local 3 and works for Papé Machinery in Gilroy.

**MORGAN HILL**  I  Papé Machinery keeps members working steady

There have been many recent changes to the District 90 staff: Former Eureka District Rep. Steve Harris was assigned to the Morgan Hill District. He brings many years of experience and wisdom, as he was a former organizer and business agent and has come up through the ranks. Interim District Rep. Jeff Ulrich was reassigned to senior business agent and will cover the central areas of District 90. Business Rep. Al Sousa is now an organizer but will also remain a business representative for several shops. Business Rep. Manuel “Manny” Pinheiro will continue covering the south area and Wilson Quarry. Business Rep. Larry Aparicio will continue covering the north area along with additional responsibility in northern Santa Cruz. Dennis Garringer has moved into the dispatcher position. Secretary Yvette Jones continues to service the membership as she has since 1999. Yvette worked in Alameda in the Organizing Department and for the Office of Compliance and Civil Rights (OCCR) and came onboard in the Morgan Hill District in 2001 bringing knowledge and experience to our office. Annie Lopez returns as permanent secretary and brings her bilingual and secretarial skills.

Our District 90 picnic is June 14 at 11 a.m. Be sure to mark your calendars and get your tickets early! Bring your family out for a good time. We will have cotton candy, sno-cones and a bounce house for the kids. We will also raffle off cool prizes, including a stainless-steel barbecue grill. Tickets are $10 before the event and $12 at the door.
DISTRICT MEETINGS • All meetings convene at 7 p.m.

Please note: In addition to the regularly scheduled business during this round of district meetings, the membership will be updated on the Local 3 Pension Fund. As always, we encourage all members to attend their district meetings. Please note the new dates and locations for the April and May meetings.

APRIL 2008

14th District 04: Fairfield
Cordelia Fire District
2155 Cordelia Road

15th District 80: Rancho Cordova
Machinists’ Hall
2749 Sunrise Blvd.

15th District 40: Eureka
Wharfinger Building
1 Marina Way

16th District 70: Redding
Red Lion
1830 Hilltop Drive

16th District 50: Clovis
Veterans’ Memorial Building
453 Hughes Ave.

17th District 60: Yuba City
Best Western Bonanza Inn
Event Center
1001 Clark Ave.

17th District 30: Stockton
Italian Athletic Club
3541 Cherry Land Drive

21st District 20: Martinez
Plumbers 159
1304 Roman Way

21st District 90: Morgan Hill
Operating Engineers’ Building
325 Digital Drive

MAY 2008

5th District 10: Rohnert Park
Operating Engineers’ Building
6225 State Farm Drive

5th District 17: Honolulu
Farrington High School Auditorium
1564 N. King St.

6th District 17: Maui
Maui Beach Hotel
170 Kaahumanu Ave.
Kahului

6th District 01: Burlingame
Transport Workers Union
1521 Rollins Rd.

7th District 17: Hilo
ILWU Hall
100 W. Lanikaula St.

7th District 12: Salt Lake City
(location change)
Hilton SLC Airport
5151 Wiley Post Way

8th District 17: Kona
King Kamehameha
Kona Beach Hotel
75-8660 Palani Road

8th District 11: Reno
Best Western Airport Plaza Hotel
1981 Terminal Way

9th District 17: Kauai
Hilton Kauai Beach Resort,
Orchid Room
4331 Kauai Beach Drive
Lihue

It’s picnic season: Save the date!

What better way to celebrate spring than a picnic? District picnics, held throughout our jurisdiction every year during the spring and summer months, have become a family tradition at Local 3. Business Manager Russ Burns and the officers invite you to get involved in your union, and attend the picnic in your district. It’s guaranteed to be a good time for the whole family.

District 04: Fairfield
Saturday, April 19
District 30: Stockton
Sunday, May 4
District 11: Nevada
Saturday, May 10
District 12: Utah
Saturday, May 31
District 60: Yuba City
Sunday, June 8
District 90: Morgan Hill
Saturday, June 14
District 70: Redding
Saturday, June 21
District 01: Burlingame
Sunday, July 13
District 20: Oakland
Sunday, July 27
District 80: Sacramento
Sunday, Aug. 3
District 10: Rohnert Park
Sunday, Aug. 10
District 50: Fresno
Saturday, Sept. 6
District 17: Hawaii
TBA

District 30: Stockton
May 4, 2008
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Micke Grove Park
Off Eight-Mile Road and
Hwy. 99

Adults: $10; $12 at the door
Retirees: $5
Children under 12: no charge

Menu includes steak barbecue,
asparagus, hot dogs, beans,
salads, French bread, ice cream
and beverages.
Lunch served from noon to
2 p.m.
Entertainment will include
raffle and fellowship.

District 11: Nevada
May 10, 2008
Noon to 3 p.m.
Lazy 5 Regional Park
7100 Pyramid Highway
Sparks, Nev.

Adults: $10
Family of four: $25
Retirees: no charge
Children under five: no charge

Menu includes pulled pork,
barbecued chicken and beans,
cole slaw, ice cream, rolls and
beverages.
We’ll have entertainment for
the kids – a clown, games, face
painting and balloons, as well as
lots of great raffle prizes.

District 12: Utah
May 31, 2008
9 a.m.
Draper City Park
(North Pavilion)
12450 S. 1300 E.
Draper, Utah

Single: $5
Family: $10
Retirees: no charge

Breakfast menu includes eggs,
bacon, ham, hash browns,
waffles, rolls and donuts, fruit,
juice and coffee.

Honorary Membership

The following retirees have 35 or more years of membership in Local 3 as of February and are eligible for Honorary Membership effective April 1, 2008.

Robert Bannister 1514845 District 80: Sacramento
Charles Bird 1547338 District 11: Nevada
Michael Donaghy 1543002 District 70: Redding
Douglas Gerstner 1089285 District 80: Sacramento
Stephen Gonsalves 1324937 District 17: Hawaii
Robert Lubke 1547399 District 17: Hawaii
James Matsumoto 1219647 District 17: Hawaii
Dickson Young 1446533 District 17: Hawaii
### DEPARTED MEMBERS

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### New Contractors

- **District 12: Utah**
  - PSI Industries
  - PSI Crane & Rigging

- **District 17: Hawaii**
  - Pacific Forming, Inc.

- **District 20: Oakland**
  - Darrah Trucking & excavating, Inc.
  - National Staffing, LLC

- **District 30: Stockton**
  - Deigert Engineering & Construction

- **District 50: Fresno**
  - Columbia Bridge & Iron, Inc.
  - Hydraulic Cranes, LLC
  - Security Paving Company, Inc.

- **District 80: Sacramento**
  - Hillenbrand Excavation, Inc.
  - Triangle H. Excavation
  - Testing & Inspection
  - QC Southwest, Inc.

### New Members

- **District 04: Fairfield**
  - Lisa Halsey-Gunther
  - Steven Meyer
  - Patrick Moran

- **District 20: Oakland**
  - Nathan Redford
  - Sam Ulker

- **District 60: Yuba City**
  - Scott Fincher

- **District 70: Redding**
  - Joe Granberry

### Bylaws Committee Annual Meeting

The Bylaws Committee met Jan. 31 for its regularly scheduled annual meeting at Local 3’s Alameda Headquarters. Topics included a review of the Bylaws Supplement, the union’s budget for 2008, public-employee dues and finances and an economic forecast. Committee members had no recommendations for further Bylaws changes at this time. The new Local 3 Bylaws will be printed after the 37th International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Convention in April 2008.

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**Bylaws Committee Annual Meeting**

The Bylaws Committee met Jan. 31 for its regularly scheduled annual meeting at Local 3’s Alameda Headquarters. Topics included a review of the Bylaws Supplement, the union’s budget for 2008, public-employee dues and finances and an economic forecast. Committee members had no recommendations for further Bylaws changes at this time. The new Local 3 Bylaws will be printed after the 37th International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Convention in April 2008.

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**Reminder: Membership card**

Rec. Corres. Secretary Robert L. Wise reminds you to carry your current Local 3 membership card as identification and proof of your good standing as a member of Local 3. Having a current card with you allows you to participate and vote at meetings.
Giving gifts that last a lifetime

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

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

All money raised goes for scholarships and no union officials receive any compensation for their services.

To encourage and enable the most talented and deserving students, a partnership between Local 3, employers and related businesses created the scholarship fund to provide financial assistance for the children of Local 3 members. The Thomas Morton Foundation became the charter member of the Local 3 Scholarship Emeritus Circle with a donation of $25,000.

Other fund-raising opportunities include the Local 3 cruise and the Tom Stapleton Golf Tournament. In 2008, many Local 3 members participated in a cruise to the Southern Caribbean with $50 of the fee earmarked as a donation to the scholarship fund.

The Tom Stapleton Golf Tournament held annually in September remains the biggest source of revenue for the fund. The 2007 tournament raised nearly $100,000 – more than any other year in the history of the tournament.

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

The Local 3 Scholarship Fund offers a variety of ways to contribute:
• Cash gifts in any amount to the general scholarship fund.
• Merit sponsors and memorial and honor gifts. You can contribute to the scholarship fund in the memory or honor of a loved one, friend, colleague or to commemorate a special occasion. The fund will acknowledge your gift to the person(s) you designate and will also provide written acknowledgement of your gift and the amount. A $500 minimum is necessary to establish a named gift, and there are three donation levels:
  - Merit $500
  - Second-place academic $5,000
  - First-place academic $6,000
• Bequests. Gifts made through your will will allow you to retain control of your assets during your lifetime and distribute them as you wish upon your death. Many people choose to include a gift to the Local 3 Scholarship Fund. The most common types of bequests are leaving a fixed-dollar amount or specific property. A charitable bequest may reduce your estate tax. Consulting an attorney is advisable any time you make or change a will.
• Securities. There may be an advantage to giving marketable securities – stocks, bonds or mutual funds – instead of cash. In some cases, you may receive a charitable deduction on your taxes, as well as avoid taxes on capital gains. Consult your financial adviser for details.

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

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

$20
$50
$100
Other $_______

Name:_________________________ Address:_________________________
City:________________________ State, Zip:_____________________
Phone:_______________________

Clip out & mail to:
Robert L. Wise, Recording- Corresponding Secretary
Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3
1620 South Loop Rd., Alameda, CA 94502

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FOR SALE: Case 455 C loader, Cummins turbo diesel, built about 1987, 4-in-1 loader bucket, 10 ft. bucket, yard capacity, new track pads, rear ripper. $16,000 or will pay cash difference for a late model bucket. Have other construction equipment available. Free delivery from Petaluma. Have a right to edit ads. Deadline 4/4. ((707) 845-2146. Reg# 1047032.


FOR SALE: 1974 Chevy stepside, box 5-speed, 3:73 posi, not daily driver, low miles on transmission, 17" chrome rims, newer tires. 1421 Hours. Buckets sold separately for $1,800. (415) 269-1695. Reg# 1750641.

FOR SALE: '99 Ford pickup, 250 heavy-duty V8 Super-duty power stroke, $14,000 diesel, 4dr, under blue book. AND: Chevrolet '03 impala sedan 58,000 miles. ((530) 742-7171 or (530) 300-1875. Reg# 761201.

FOR SALE: 2001 Alpenlite Ltd., 30' 5th Wheel Trailer, 3 slide-outs, full-height BDRM; Exc. storage & closet space; stocked kitchen/wbwr. (209) 966-6753. Reg# 971522.


FOR SALE: 1967 Chrysler 300 Hemi, 3000 cc V-8, 4-speed w/overdrive, dual carbs, made in England. For sale by original owner. ((530) 228-0694. Reg# 0879954.

FOR SALE: 1999 CB1100XX Blackbird, 7,396 miles, 1 owner, garage kept, new tires, 4,350 engine, oil & fuel, battery, fuel-injected, Two Brothers carbon fiber slip-ons, Dynatek Power Commander reprogrammer, Corbin Smuggler seat. Very nice condition. In Petaluma, Calif. ((559) 630-1515 or email jodiessel@gmail.com Reg# 2278566.

FOR SALE: 2002 Toyota Tundra. Model 22CSPL, 23 ft. (new Feb. 2003) 55 gallon fresh water, tv antenna (with TV) and 40-gallon waste/washer and toilet, twin 30 LP tanks, outside 2-burner propane stove, awning, CD player, tons of storage w/extra tie-downs inside, new tires. Use only 5 times. ((707) 577-9044-1360 e-mail: mq1261@wildblue.net for pics. Reg# 252265.

FOR SALE: Air compressor with 80-gallon tank, single phase 5 HP 200 volt motor $600 OBO. AND: 80-ton hydraulic press in good condition $1000. Call Don (916) 485-2433 Between 8AM-9PM. Reg# 2342296.

FOR SALE: 2000 Oldsmobile Intrigue, 106,000 miles, all leather interior, dual climate control, moon roof, power windows/power door locks, power steering, sunroof, CD player, second car/commuter. Good gas mileage. Asking $8450 OBO. Call (331) 295-6801. Reg# 2632032.

FOR SALE: 2005 CASE 580 SUPER "M" series II backhoe 4WD, Gannon 4 in 1 loader bucket w/"D" ring, Extendahoe, 360 degree rotation, 3 seat belt, Ride Control, 900 lb weight kit, 19.5 L X 24 10-ply tires. 421 Hours. Buckets include 12", 18", 24", 30", 36" and 48". Three year old, factory plastic. Large dining table with 4 chairs, double pane windows, sky light, temp control exhaust fan. Call for more info and take a look. (530) 892-1949 Reg# 2348389.


FOR SALE: '91 int. equipment hauler, diamond plate bed, 35 GVW, DT-466 Turbo diesel engine. Currently non-op. With or without winch. $8,100. Call Edward (408) 272-2038 PM or cell (408) 431-6223. Reg# 1036686.

FOR SALE: Nice, 2 bed,1 bath home in Antioch. Central heat, completely fenced with oversized and enclosed garage. Drive by 107 John Gild Ave., Antioch. To be sold “as is.” $238,500. For pictures e-mail joysdell@aol.com. Phone (530) 347-5638. Reg# 1477881.

FOR SALE: '99 Saturn Station wagon, 185,000 miles, all leather, all interior set up to tow behind motorhome. Stoew-master, tow bar included w/upload hooks. $8300 OBO. Call (559) 875-3554 or (559) 965-2131. Reg# 0892632.

FOR SALE: 2000 Golf Stream, 19.5 L X 24 ft. FQS 5th Wheel Coach. Has less then 50mi on it. In immaculate condition, 4 slide-outs, large living room, fireplace, ceiling fan,27 tv, dvd, surround sound, stove, microwave, oven, all new, new front & rear box plastic. Large dinning table with 4 chairs, double pane windows, sky light, temp control exhaust fan. Call for more info and take a look. (530) 892-1949 Reg# 2348389.

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FOR SALE: '91 Anchor winch. Fish finder. Tandem axle trailer. Good ocean or lake boat. Located in redding, CA 78900 OBO. Call (530) 229-1376. Reg# 1332587.

FOR SALE: Case 455 C loader, Cummins turbo diesel, built about 1987, 4-in-1 loader bucket, 10 ft. bucket, yard capacity, new track pads, rear ripper. $16,000 or will pay cash difference for a late model bucket. Have other construction equipment available. Free delivery from Petaluma. Have a right to edit ads. Deadline 4/4. ((707) 845-2146. Reg# 1047032.

FOR SALE: 1995 VW Cabrio, 67,700 miles, automatic transmission, 17" chrome rims, tinted windows, forest green with black top, beige leather interior. Like new! For sale by original owner $87,000 OBO Please Call: (559) 916-9024. Reg# 1159437.

FOR SALE: '06 18.5" Lowes Sunriner pontoon boat. '06 Honda 40 ho w3 years old local on warrantty pontoons are lifetime. Trolling buddy plate on motor only 120 hours set up for fishing, Captains seat, removable downriggers, swivel fish finder, built in tackle box, rod holders, really good on fuel. $18k Call (209) 845-9665 (209) 743-5308. Reg# 2004972.
TRADITION CONTINUES AT EUREKA CRAB FEED

The tradition of “the freshest crab and all the trimmings” continued Presidents’ Day Weekend for Local 3 members and their families attending the Eureka Crab Feed. Live music, dancing and a Dutch raffle were also part of this year’s event, and everyone had a great time. We hope to see you all in the North Coast next year for another helping of crab.