Moving the immovable

Kiewit operators take on Dublin hills for mass grading project

IMPORTANT ELECTION NOTICE

See page 25 for important information regarding the election of delegates and alternate delegates to the 37th Annual International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Convention.
Continuing the tradition of skilled craftsmanship

Brothers and sisters, I want to start off this month by recognizing all of our members who recently reached the major milestone of 50 years of service in Local 3. The commitment and dedication these members have shown throughout the years – through the good times and the bad – is the reason this union is where it is today. At the June 2 Retiree Picnic, the officers and I had the distinct honor of paying tribute to our 50-year members, and we are pleased to have an entire page dedicated to them in this month’s issue of Engineers News. As you’ll notice, it’s a long list of nearly 200 retirees that I’d say are better described as skilled craftsmen.

Many of you have had the privilege of working under their tutelage – I know I have and a few of the officers have as well. One of our primary goals as officers of this great organization is to continue the tradition of skilled craftsmanship established by Local 3’s retirees. We’ve made training a priority and have seen to it that Local 3’s Apprenticeship Programs have the personnel and resources they need to kick it up a notch. The result of our efforts can be seen all around us on completed projects throughout Local 3’s jurisdiction.

In the California Bay Area, the rebuilding of the collapsed span of the MacArthur Maze in Oakland was finished in record time due in large part to the skilled Operating Engineers who worked on the project. The connector collapsed April 29 and was finished 26 days later on May 25, in time for Memorial Day Weekend – an entire month before Caltrans projected its completion. More on our members’ accomplishments on this project can be found in Oakland’s District report on page 20.

Another Bay Area project showcasing the excellent craftsmanship of Operating Engineers is the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge Project. Local 3 has dozens of journeymen operators, mechanics, surveyors and inspectors – and even a few apprentices – putting their skills to good use on this multi-billion dollar job. Work for our membership will continue through to the next phase of this project, since Local 3 recently signed a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with American Bridge/Flour J.V. The second phase involves the construction of a self-anchoring suspension bridge – a $1.4 billion phase set for completion in 2012.

The Hetch Hetchy Water Project is another project of great significance for our membership. Local 3 recently signed a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for this estimated $4 to $10 billion, 10-year long project.

In addition to these high-profile jobs, the mega-bond measures our California membership worked so hard to pass in November 2006 are keeping us busy in the public sector. Private work is down slightly, but our work picture overall is strong. Take a moment to look at the district reports section in this month’s issue, and you’ll see what I mean. The busy season has arrived.

As you work to keep up with the pace this summer, Local 3 will be working to keep up its commitment to training the best operators in the industry. It is my intention and the intention of this administration to continue the union tradition of skilled craftsmanship, with timely, high-quality work as a result.

In solidarity.
Local 3 apprentice, staff make Matteo’s Dream a reality

Matteo's Dream is a playground for disabled children, named after a seven-year-old boy who’s blind and uses a wheelchair. His dream to have a place where kids like him can play has become a reality, thanks to an army of volunteers and a crew from Local 3's Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC).

First-step Apprentice Vernon Hubbard, Director of Apprenticeship Tammy Castillo and Rancho Murieta Crane Instructor Ricky Malone made their way to the playground in Concord on a recent Sunday to volunteer their time and expertise in heavy lifting. Their job was to hoist and place nearly a dozen castle-tower tops. Using a boom truck from the Ranch, Hubbard put his operating skills to good use, while taking directions from his instructor, Ricky Malone. Castillo was on-hand to help coordinate the use of the truck.

In addition to the castles, the playground includes a wheelchair-accessible tree house, textured slides, and ramps and pathways that are wide enough for two wheelchairs to pass. The entire 12,000-square-foot area was surfaced with rubber, rather than sand, so wheelchairs and walkers can safely get around.

This place is truly a dream for many children, as the sign at the park entrance says, it is “A playground for children of all abilities,” built for and by the community.

Apprentice no stranger to the media

Apprentice Doug Greene is no stranger to the media, as he was recently hailed “a tropical intellectual” by Sacramento Bee columnist Bob Sylva. With his dreadlocks and black-rimmed glasses, Greene holds a casual manner, but his life has not been casual, as he hails from the West Indies and came to the U.S. chasing many dreams.

His dreams to become an excavator operator for OE3, is coming to fruition; his apprenticeship has already granted him the skills to operate dozers, scrapers and compactors.

Greene was also interviewed by Engineers News in October 2003, during the Semi-Annual Meeting in Sacramento. At that time, Greene was the Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) captain, which was then called the Operating Engineers Community Action Team (OE CAT), and he was in his first year of the apprenticeship program.

For more on Greene and his international journeys as musician, father, husband and Operating Engineer, visit www.sacbee.com/107/story/166165.html

In 2003, Apprentice Doug Greene visits with Retiree Hubert Mynatt at the September Semi-Annual.

From the earth to the office, communication is key

I can’t tell you enough, brothers and sisters, how important communication is to this organization. From the dispatchers to the apprentices, we are all involved in Local 3. What we do is essential to smooth-running operations. When there’s a glitch in the system, it is also essential that these issues be addressed, yet it is just as necessary that we reiterate the importance of every last member in the field and every last staff member in the office. We focus a lot on what needs improving and that is what keeps us moving forward, but it is just as important to thank you all for your work and your quality of work, whether it’s moving earth or filing contracts.

With that said, I especially want to address the impressive direction the Ranch is going. Director of Apprenticeship Tammy Castillo and Director of Training John Teller are doing a great job getting the training center in top shape, and their invaluable work was brought to my attention at the May Trust Fund meetings.

Also discussed at these last Trust Fund meetings was the pension, which we continue to review closely. The final audits for the pension should be available at the time of this writing. These funds operate cyclically, and we all play a role in maintaining the security of our funds. While the market is always a factor, construction hours play a part, and I am pleased to report that construction hours are up, along with new signatory contractors, which you can see on page 24 of this edition of Engineers News.

There is no better way to see just how cyclical Local 3 really is than to attend the Retiree Picnic. This year’s June 2 event was a success, as more than 200 50-year members were honored underneath the red-top tent after lunch was served. Check out the photos in this edition on pages 14-15. I had so many conversations with so many wonderful members. And back to being thankful and communicating that sentiment, these events take a lot of effort, and so I want to thank the many volunteers for their efforts.

Communication will be improved from now on, since as of June 1, the officers are all reporting to the Alameda Headquarters. This move will streamline the business of the local and provide better service to the members. With all of us in one location, we will be able to work together in real time without having to think about phone conferences, e-mails and messages. I come from the field and from the old school way of things, and I prefer talking to someone face-to-face!

The winter back-log of work is getting caught up, which means the possible beginning of a slight slowdown. You all remember the rain of last year! This winter was much drier, so we continued to work. Permits are being pulled and work should pick up soon.

Speaking of work, these new California environmental regulations regarding exhaust emissions will create a lot of work for us, and I don’t mean the good kind. Basically what the regulations say is that by certain dates all engines that aren’t up to environmental codes must be replaced or we face fines. This is putting a tremendous financial burden on contractors in the state. I am not saying I don’t value the environment and protecting it, but I think some other way to pay for these upgrades and lessen the burden on us to do so must exist. Unions have combined resources with politicians to try and get some relief, and you can help by visiting www.leginfo.ca.gov to find the legislative representatives in your area. Contact them about what you can do to help.

Again, this is another example of communication: Every little bit every one of you do to help Local 3 only makes it stronger. I thank you all.
Moving the immovable
Kiewit operators take on Dublin hills for mass grading project

Story and photos by Mandy Jessup, associate editor

From I-580, the Dublin hills look serene, green and immovable, but a quick drive off the interstate and up the hillside, the earth is being moved as easily and quickly as water. The second phase of Kiewit’s Schaefer Ranch mass grading project is well underway, and the concept of permanence is changing.

Push-pull 657 scrapers team up in synergy, massive D11 dozers effortlessly clip hundreds of yards of earth, compactors move in sync and mechanics are on call across the expansive 2,500 acre jobsite of Schaefer Ranch – the future site of some 300 single-family homes on 500 acres in the hills of western Dublin. The first phase included initial mass grading and the Dublin Boulevard extension. This current phase, worth $63 million, is a mass grading job incorporating cuts, fills and blasts to existing hills.

Even though the freeway is miles away, the fast-moving speeds and timing of this operation feels just as fast as any freeway, since some 40 OE3 members will move a total of 9.4 million cubic yards of dirt, 42,000 yards a day and must move nine loads an hour to be cost efficient.

The operators are not without direction in this fast pace, since in the middle of the roar of engines and the churning of $11,000 tires, one man – the maestro of it all – stands signaling calmly with hand gestures both beautiful and effective in getting the equipment in and out. Foreman Rod Hall is a fourth-generation, 26-year member of Operating Engineers, and his smile and grace show how much he loves what he does.

Taking a break from signaling to his crew, Hall said: “We’re moving dirt, moving the hills here.”

Which is an odd concept – that hills can be moved – but cutting into the hills and filling the ravines, some 378 feet down, is exactly what these operators are doing.

Twenty-two-year member and Master Mechanic Larry Sisk who oversees some 12 mechanics and four oilers, discusses the amount of concentration a job this size calls for, while pointing to the 651 spread.

“They are constantly keeping the earth moving, so it takes an incredible amount of teamwork, especially when you’re operating a $1.7 million piece of equipment.”

“We work together as a team with the same target – keep the equipment moving,” Burke said. “You have to trust each other.”

Welder Joe Hobbs agrees and says he loves what he does: “It’s something different everyday; there’s always something new.”

The mechanics work two shifts, overlapping more than 20 hours a day to maintain and modify the equipment rumbling effortlessly over hillsides and down ravines.

While these landmarks – the green foothills, ravines, forests and hillsides may seem permanent, OE3 operators prove they are not. Nothing wins against the quick diligence of Kiewit’s dirt-movers and mechanics.

Substantial completion of this phase should finish late August.

The soils, rocks, trees and ravines they deal with offer up a blend of seashells 984 feet above sea level and on the ground – a mixture of colluvium dirt and sandstone.

While the earth-movers drive by in good pace, the mechanics, welders and oilers work at a different speed and under a different pressure, but their timing is everything too, since they have to keep the equipment running.

Third-step Apprentice Cody Burke is part of this crew.

“In my second year, I’ve been able to learn the ropes of engine systems and what goes into each of our pieces of equipment,” Burke said. “I love the fact that we have such a large spread of heavy equipment and we’re able to move earth in the most efficient way.”

Kiewit’s mechanic team
POP season begins at the Ranch

The Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMT) recently welcomed its first class of new Local 3 apprentices for their Probationary-Orientation Period (POP). The five-week session began April 2 and ended May 4. With their initial training completed, the POPs are now working in their respective districts as first-period apprentices.

The POP season runs now through the end of August, with a new group of apprentices starting every five weeks. Supplemental Related Training (SRT) and Journey-level Upgrade Training will begin in September.

Hydraulic leaks

Good ones, bad ones and ones that aren't important

First off, there's no such thing as a good hydraulic leak. The only good thing a hydraulic leak tells you is that there's at least some hydraulic fluid left in the system – it's not bone-dry yet.

A bad hydraulic leak is when you can follow the machine with a trail of oil left on the ground, or every time the machine stops, it marks its spot. Depending on the severity of the leak, it may require immediate attention.

Signs of needing immediate attention include but are not limited to, you getting wet, a trail or large spot on the ground, the hydraulic pump's loud sounds while the paint is blistering off and/or the level of hydraulic fluid in the reservoir is out of the sight-glass or off the stick.

Hydraulic leaks usually start off as minor, with evidence of dirt sticking to the hydraulic cylinder around the seal areas as in Figure 1.

As the leak progresses, it shows signs of fresh fluid as in Figure 2.

Eventually, it gets to the point where it's washing the dirt away as in Figure 3.

In general, leaks only get worse, and since environmental protection is a hot-button issue today, we have to be conscious of contamination. So, fix the bad leaks first, and monitor the minor leaks, so you can repair them before they become bad.

District 80: Apprenticeship Spotlight

Fifth-step Apprentice Mario Cardoza has worked for Teichert for the past three years and is the lead man at jobsites. He sets up jobs from start to finish and knows how to read all plans and set all grades.

Early in his apprenticeship, Mario started gradechecking and is now a fine gradesetter. He also has the natural ability to run any piece of equipment.

“Mario learns very fast,” Rancho Murieta Instructor Vince Carrillo said.

Teichert Foreman Chris McBride agreed and said Mario is doing an outstanding job. According to Chris, Mario already has the qualities of a foreman, since he keeps everything running smoothly.

Like all apprentices, Mario wants to work so he can be a successful Operating Engineer. Mario recently bought his first home at the age of 21.

District 80 congratulates Mario for all of his accomplishments and for being featured in this month’s Apprenticeship Spotlight.

District 80 also congratulates Apprentice Volunteer of the Year Fernando Orozco for putting in the most apprentice hours of volunteer time this year. His “voice of the engineer” was heard loud and clear by all the members who received calls from him. Fernando is an asset to the Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program, as well as the apprenticeship program. He is working on an underground crew this season and is glad to be earning and learning on the job.

Fernando thinks the VOTE program is very important, because it’s a good way to stay well informed on the issues, and it’s a good way to meet fellow apprentices and journey-level operators.

In his spare time, Fernando enjoys being with his family and friends.

Congratulations to Fernando Orozco for his many hours of service and dedication to the VOTE program.

Many thanks are also extended to all those who participated in the VOTE program this year.

CCO PRACTICAL TEST

New CCO candidates and candidates who have already passed the written portion of the CCO exam should contact Pauline McCullough at (916) 354-2029, ext. 225, to schedule an appointment or obtain CCO information on the Practical Test.

2007 CCO Written Exams

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Deadline for application</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 26</td>
<td>July 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>Sept. 7</td>
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<td>Dec. 9</td>
<td>Oct. 26</td>
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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank all of the good people attending the Stockton District picnic on May 6 who helped me get through a medical emergency.

My heart rate and blood pressure had dropped suddenly and stayed low for several hours. The cause for this problem could not be determined, but I have been feeling fine since that day.

I sincerely appreciate the kindness of the Operating Engineers “family.”

Vern Baumbach
Reg# 982900

Credit Union

By Rob Wise,
Credit Union secretary/financial officer
& recording - corresponding secretary

Is your borrowing under control?

The sensible use of credit is part of a total financial strategy. Using credit can provide benefits but can also have drawbacks. A few guidelines described below can help you feel comfortable with your credit use:

Developing and using a wise borrowing strategy

The sensible use of debt should be part of a sound financial strategy. Debt can enable us to enjoy things that are otherwise beyond our current reach. However, borrowing can also have its ugly side. Too much, too expensive or the wrong kinds of debt can make life miserable.

The basics

Borrowing costs money. That isn’t necessarily bad – it just means when you pay it back, you have to pay more than you borrowed. The components of a good debt strategy are quite simple:

• Choose when and what to borrow carefully
• Find the best interest rate and terms based on your needs and wants
• Live up to your repayment responsibilities
• Periodically review your debt; refinancing your mortgage or auto loan may save you money

The importance of a good credit record

A good credit record does more than just make future credit approval easier to get. Most lenders use your credit record to determine credit limits and rates. A good credit record will save you money. You can request your free credit report at www.annualcreditreport.com. Otherwise, you can order a report from one of the three credit-reporting agencies:

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<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tr>
<td>Equifax</td>
<td>(800) 685-1111</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experian</td>
<td>(888) 397-3742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TransUnion</td>
<td>(800) 888-4213</td>
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Common sense borrowing habits

• Never borrow what you can’t repay
• Never borrow for a luxury if you can’t afford the necessities
• Prioritize your borrowing
• Reserve some borrowing capacity for emergencies

Getting help if needed

Take action immediately, if your borrowing is getting out of control. If credit cards are the problem, stop using them or cut them up. Contact lenders to develop a workable repayment plan. A qualified credit counselor can help.

Consider all the terms

Comparing credit cards can be confusing. You have to consider interest rates, fees and associated benefits. The right card for you should reflect how you use it. If you pay the full monthly balance, the interest rate is of little concern. Focus on any annual fee and benefits, such as airline miles. If you carry over balances, the interest rate should be a top concern.

The right mortgage for you should balance interest rate, term of loan and down payment requirements that fit your situation. Adjustable-Rate Mortgages (ARMs) usually have lower initial rates, but your payments may rise. Long-term mortgages usually lock a higher initial rate, but the rate will remain the same for the entire term. If you expect to stay in one location only a few years, an ARM may be best. If an increase in monthly payments would be too painful, look at a fixed-rate mortgage or an adjustable one with rate-adjustment limits.

Prioritize borrowing based on long-term value

Most financial advisers agree that housing, a dependable car for commuting to work, college tuition and any necessities are top priorities for borrowing money. These priorities are based on long-term value and will enhance your financial well-being. If your goal is long-term value and financial success, it is best to postpone borrowing for luxury autos, recreational “toys,” major furniture purchases and vacations until your priorities are met.

Take control of your financial future

Being conservative in your use of borrowing can help you take control of your financial future. Borrowing for the right reasons and living up to your repayment responsibilities can make borrowing a useful financial tool. Your union credit union, Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union (OEFCU), offers competitive rates on Visa credit cards, mortgage loans, home-equity loans and more. For more information on our financial services, contact any of our branch offices or visit www.oefcu.org.
The Northern California Surveyors’ Joint Apprenticeship Committee (NCS-JAC) is proud to have a staff of instructors who are not only masters in their craft of land surveying but are also top-quality teachers. Since our training program covers such a large area – the 46 counties of Northern California – it is necessary to hold instructors’ seminars two to three times each year, so our instructors can brainstorm and share ideas. Our last seminar brought about several great new ideas the Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) considered and approved at their recent meeting.

Instructors have stressed math refresher classes for journey-upgrade students and any apprentice who is in need. The NCS-JAC administrator will assess each new student upon entrance into our training program. If remedial math is needed, the student will be presented with a list of NCS-JAC-approved courses that meet at an adult school or a community college. The course will be considered a base course, necessary to help with the survey math currently used in the program. Depending on individual needs, the student will be directed to take the course concurrently with their NCS-JAC studies or before starting our course curriculum.

Provided the student takes an approved remedial math class, which must be approved in writing by the administrator before the course, and completes the class with a grade of “C” or higher, the NCS-JAC will reimburse the expense of the class (i.e. tuition and curriculum) up to $250. This is quite an offering from the JAC, and it will certainly help those students in need. It will also help the instructors as they continue teaching the math necessary for the Surveyors Apprenticeship Program, knowing the student has the basics to continue. A student must be enrolled in the training program, evaluated by the administrator and have expressed written approval for the class to participate in this unique opportunity.

Call our office at (510) 748-7413 for more information on the NCS-JAC Training Program and all of the opportunities available to you.

Instructors: Back row, from left: NCS-JAC instructors at a recent instructors’ seminar include NCS-JAC’s Donna Mason, Ted Rollheiser (retired, Brelje & Race), Matt Fallau (Wilsey & Ham), Jeff Nielson (Mid-Coast Engineers), Hector Estrada (Mark Thomas) and Socorro Vera (GPS). Front row, from left: NCS-JAC Administrator Joanie Thornton, Tom Finnegan (GTS) and Lead Instructor Fred Seiji (retired).
Another great Retiree Picnic

What a marvelous time we had Saturday, June 2 at this year’s Retiree Picnic at Rancho Murieta. It was good to see all of you and your spouses – we are always honored to serve you. I have to say, we heard some old war stories that were slightly embellished from last year! Many told us they enjoyed the Bingo game and the prizes.

We thank all of you for coming and enjoying the day. Business Manager Russ Burns, the officers and staff also wish to thank you and commend you on your many years of service, especially our 50-year honorees. Many thanks to Director of Apprenticeship Tammy Castillo, Director of Training John Teller and all the Rancho Murieta staff. A special thanks to Facilities Manager Gary Herren, Cafeteria Manager Red Herrera and the entire kitchen staff for all their good work.
Local 3 welcomes new signatories

I have had numerous people inquire about the Organizing Department’s success rate in 2007. With support from Business Manager Russ Burns and the officers, the Organizing Department has been very productive, signing nearly 30 new companies in the first five months of 2007. It gives me great pleasure to introduce the following new employers to our already long list:

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<tr>
<th>COMPANY</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Complete Decon, Inc., Benicia, CA</td>
<td>(707) 747-4800</td>
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<td>2. Rock-N-Dirt, Cedar City, UT</td>
<td>(435) 865-7370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Cox &amp; Cox, Redding, CA</td>
<td>(530) 243-6016</td>
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<td>4. Wittsell Excavating, Inc., Orland, CA</td>
<td>(530) 865-5388</td>
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<td>5. Arrow Construction, Inc., San Jose, CA</td>
<td>(408) 888-8888</td>
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<tr>
<td>McCullen, CA</td>
<td>(916) 640-0600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lincoln, CA</td>
<td>(916) 343-6273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. George Reed Merced, Modesto, CA</td>
<td>(209) 521-9761</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Dave Bush Engineering, Hanford, CA</td>
<td>(559) 584-1575</td>
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<td>9. Majestic Excavating, St. George, UT</td>
<td>(935) 705-6171</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Crescent Diving &amp; Contracting, Crescent Mills, CA</td>
<td>(530) 816-0019</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Dale Mote Contracting, Yuba City, CA</td>
<td>(530) 713-5959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Sean M. Tractor &amp; Trucking, Half Moon Bay, CA</td>
<td>(800) 349-6462</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. Ascent Elevator, San Francisco, CA</td>
<td>(415) 671-4900</td>
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<tr>
<td>14. By the Bay Survey, Walnut Creek, CA</td>
<td>(925) 786-7452</td>
</tr>
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<td>15. Synergy Inc., San Francisco, CA</td>
<td>(415) 457-3000</td>
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<tr>
<td>16. Aquatic Designing, Arcata, CA</td>
<td>(707) 822-4629</td>
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<tr>
<td>17. Reliable Welding, Dunnigan, CA</td>
<td>(209) 712-7474</td>
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<tr>
<td>18. Blain Oberg Construction, Orem, UT</td>
<td>(435) 830-2917</td>
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<tr>
<td>19. J. Venuti, St. George, UT</td>
<td>(435) 674-4499</td>
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<tr>
<td>20. Lift Services, Reno, NV</td>
<td>(775) 337-6500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Pacific Rim, Reno, NV</td>
<td>(775) 808-8247</td>
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<tr>
<td>22. Demco, Pittsburg, CA</td>
<td>(510) 432-4500</td>
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<tr>
<td>23. RNR, Elk Grove, CA</td>
<td>(916) 416-1139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Performance Excavating, Fallon, NV</td>
<td>(775) 423-1515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. California Trenchless, Castro Valley, CA</td>
<td>(510) 782-5335</td>
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<tr>
<td>26. Tri Valley Excavating, Sunol, CA</td>
<td>(925) 862-0708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. Mach 4 Construction, Elko, NV</td>
<td>(775) 778-9988</td>
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<td>28. B&amp;D Crushing</td>
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<tr>
<td>29. Fogle &amp; Sons, Inc., Paskenta, CA</td>
<td>(530) 833-5312</td>
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*Tech News*

By Abraham Fontanilla, Michael Strunk and Ed Wodzienski, business representatives

It’s easy to become a Certified Yearly Dues Payer

Much has been written and will continue to be written in *Engineers News* about the Local 3 Bylaws changes that will take effect in the coming months. As most of you are aware, the membership overwhelmingly approved the measures proposed by the Bylaws Committee and supported by Business Manager Russ Burns and his administration to equalize and add fairness to Local 3’s dues structure. In case you were away working on one of our many jobsites and unable to attend any of the special-called district meetings, the membership will see dues rates lowered across-the-board for the first time in the history of the local. This reduction is only part of the story. Also for the first time, the membership can anticipate and easily calculate their dues for a given group, or in the case of our surveyors and testing and inspection membership, a given job classification. The specific details of this reduction will be published in the August issue of *Engineers News*.

If you spend a good deal of time as a traveler or just have a hard time keeping track of your quarterly dues payments, you should be aware there is an easier way to pay. Rather than making quarterly dues payments, or in the case of our members, participating in a monthly dues check-off plan through their employer, many members find it easier to become a Certified Yearly Dues Payer. Yearly Dues Payers make just one payment a year and are recognized by their Gold Card, a plastic wallet-sized card with their name, registration number and years of service printed on it, alongside a gold International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) logo on the front, with the Local 3 officers’ names and titles on the back. In addition to the Gold Card, you receive a hard-hat sticker, a yearly dues-payer-lapel pin and a letter of appreciation.

Yearly Dues Payers Certification may be obtained by making your year’s dues payment at any district office at any time during the fourth quarter, which is Oct. 1 through Dec. 31. Becoming a Certified Yearly Dues Payer benefits Local 3, and it’s an excellent way to ensure your payments are recorded on time. It’s also a great way to help the local and the environment by cutting down on printing and mailing costs.

Party Chief Doug Thomas (above) and Rodman Chris Slater (right) work for Bestor Engineering on the Riverside Mobile Home Park in District 90.

Name: Bob Sawdey
Age: 68
Years in Local 3: “30 years, plus nine in Local 9, Denver.”
Job classifications: mechanic/welder
Best part of Local 3: “The benefits were the best. It didn’t make too much sense until you drew on them.”
Companies worked for: “Worked for M.K., Kiewit, Gibbs & Reid, Granite and Guy F. Atkinson. One year I worked for five different companies. That was when I was a lot younger. If they gave me a bad time, I would switch companies. I wouldn’t lay down and take it – I stood up for myself.”
Advice to apprentices: “Biggest thing you need to do is get informed on who is running this outfit (OE3) and how. Get informed.”
Favorite job: “With M.K. – the thistle slide job. It started in the spring of 1983 in the Spanish Fort Canyon and lasted about two years. It was a good job, because I got a lot of hours, and it was the best outfit in the world to work for. We were cleaning up a flooded canyon and washed-out railroad. We had to put in three tunnels – one water (for the river) tunnel and two railroad tunnels.”

———

Name: Calvin Withers
Age: 87
Positions held/job classifications: “First-generation operator. Worked on the Grievance Committee for seven years.”
Family: “Wife, Ruby. Five kids – three boys and wish they would have joined. They should have joined; they would be a lot better off now.”
Favorite equipment: “Operated all different types of cranes, but the crawler crane was my favorite. Now I enjoy reading the Engineers News and seeing all the new cranes out there. It’s fantastic. Cranes weren’t quite big enough back when I operated them. We had to stick our necks out – now they are bigger, safer, better for the operators.”
Advice to apprentices: “Stick with the union.”
Best part of local 3: “Best part of Local 3 was pay day. The benefits seemed to be better than what my friends had.”

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Name: James Cologna
Age: 72
Years in Local 3: 49 years
Favorite equipment: “Cranes. Ran cranes for 15 years. I also ran loaders, forklifts and service equipment but like the crane the most.”
Best part of Local 3: “Probably the benefits versus the elements. Should be thinking about your benefits early in life.”
Favorite project: “Crane rental, when you are seeing different people and different jobs.”
Advice to apprentices: “When you can run equipment without thinking about what you are doing, you have become an operator. Like driving a car.”
Retirement: “Work out about three times a week. Visit with friends. Attend these retiree meetings, and sometimes do a little volunteer work with Local 3 during the political season. I like to keep track and stay up-to-date with what is going on in our local. Some guys still call me and want to know what is going on.”

From left: Jay and Marianne Nelson and Leora and Charles Luke grab lunch before the April 13 Retiree Meeting begins in Salt Lake City.
No slowing down for member, contractor Craig Blaisdell

Story and photos by Heidi Mills, managing editor

Craig Blaisdell is a third-generation Operating Engineer and one of the most active members in the Redding District. As the owner of Blaisdell Construction, he works throughout Northern California, mostly in and around Redding, estimating and overseeing all of the company’s field operations. As the owner of Blaisdell Motoring Enterprises, he travels to drag races across the western U.S., selling motor coaches and custom-built race-car trailers he designs himself. In his “spare” time, he and his wife of 33 years, Lynette, raise and sell cattle on their ranch in Palo Cedro, about five miles east of Redding.

Between traveling and the businesses, life for this 55-year-old member is busy to say the least. He’s one of those guys who make you wonder: How does he do it all? His answer: “I don’t know – I just do it. It doesn’t seem like that hectic of a life. I wouldn’t know what to do if I had a lot of time on my hands.”

Indeed, Craig Blaisdell has never had a lot of time on his hands. Before signing up with Local 3, he initiated in Local 701 in 1977, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, George Blaisdell Sr., and his father, George Blaisdell Jr. He worked several years as an estimator and manager with Stimpel Wiebelhaus before starting his own construction company 15 years ago. Lynette started the business selling trailers and motor coaches in 2005.

“We don’t slow down; we just speed up,” Blaisdell said.

Same goes for his show cars – the fastest of which runs up to 200 miles per hour. The other cars he owns top out at around 160 mph.

His favorite is the fire-engine red 1969 Camaro SS, although there are a number of close seconds. His 1927 Ford Super Gas Roadster is clearly at the top of the list – shining in blue and orange, it’s ranked 22 in the world by the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA). His 632 cubic-inch Super Comp Dragster is ranked 28.

To maintain their rankings, the Blaisdell Entourage traveled this year to Las Vegas, Nev., Fontana and Pomona in Southern California, Phoenix and Tucson, Ariz., Boise, Idaho and Seattle, Wash. Most recently in April, they were in Redding at the 18th Annual Kool April Nites Car Show. Joining them were Local 3 Retiree and Former Redding Business Agent Wilbur Chase and Retiree Denton Hollifield, along with Blaisdell’s best friend since the 3rd grade – Roger Gannon, and his mechanic, nine-year Local 3 member Kelly Peacock. Blaisdell credits these friends and many others for his success.

His father taught him how to run equipment; Dick Stimpel and Bill Wiebelhaus of Stimpel Wiebelhaus taught him how to run a business, and Jack Baker of W. Jackson Baker gave him the opportunity to go out on his own – but most of all, Blaisdell says he wouldn’t be where he is today without his wife and partner, Lynette.

“My secret is that I’ve never been divorced,” Blaisdell said. “Not having to worry about any personal problems makes the rest of life a little easier. Sure, there’s been some valleys and ups and downs, but we just keep on going.”

Judging by his current lifestyle, keeping going – racing cars and working construction – is what he will continue doing for many years to come.
What’s happening with public employee dues

After six long months of reviewing financial information in the form of expenses and revenues for the Public Employees Division, we are nearing a transition to percentage-based dues.

The Public Employees Division is currently running with a negative cash-flow budget, meaning we spend more money providing services to our members than our monthly dues generate in income.

The first goal is to cover direct costs, i.e. operating costs, such as salaries, benefits and employee costs, which include vehicles, offices and phones. We will then need to address overhead costs, such as our Information Technology Department, Member Services and Accounting.

To cover our direct costs, we need to raise dues by $5 per member across the board by the end of the calendar year. This means some of you will experience a $5 increase some time in the coming months or you will have a second dues increase within the year. Some units will see increased dues over the next four years, so all units are at the benchmark percentage we will roll out this summer.

I know dues increases always cause heartburn, but I hope you understand the need to cover our expenses. In the coming months, you will receive an informational letter detailing our expenses and income. We will be traveling around the jurisdiction to meet with members and answer questions relating to expenses and how the percentage-based dues structure will work.

I hope you all have seen improvement in service delivery, and I encourage all of you to hang in there with us through this difficult time.

San Jose city workers attacked over wages, benefits

By Bill Pope, business representative

A current trend to blame city and county public employees for causing the structural deficits responsible for the deficits of millions of dollars in government jurisdictions exists among the general public today, particularly in California.

The San Jose Mercury News, neighborhood activists and other community leaders claim the wages and benefits provided to Local 3 members have soared over the last five years. One newspaper reported that wages increased more than 46 percent and other benefits, including retirement, increased 100 percent during the same time frame.

This is a one-sided view of the story. A closer analysis of those statements shows our members actually had less money in their pockets during this time period. The last salary increase Local 3 members received before December 2006 was 1.5 percent in April 2005, and most of that salary was taken by increased benefit costs for members and their families.

During the same time period, medical premiums averaged double-digit increases a year. Our members responded to the increases by agreeing to quadruple the amount they pay for their portion of medical coverage.

The portion Local 3 members pay for retirement also increased, primarily because of the loss of investment returns during the dot-com bust. The pensions non-safety members receive is the highest-year salary times 2.5 per year of service and is capped at 75 percent of that salary, while safety members receive 85 percent to 90 percent of their highest-year salary.

Local 3 members who work for the city of San Jose are joined with other labor unions in the city and labor councils to wage a campaign to change the public’s perception that public employees are robbing the city and its taxpayers. The truth is, we are not.

Local 3 members in the city of San Jose are the unsung heroes. They have the most impact on the quality of life of San Jose’s citizens on a daily basis.
Wages, insurance stall negotiations
By Dan Venters, business representative

The spring is always a beautiful time of year in Nevada and Eastern California. I get to witness these wonderful daily weather changes – the blooming of flowers, snow showers and the greening countryside – because we have many contracts being negotiated this time of year. By the time this article is published, we hope to have most of these contracts settled or close to settlement.

There are two huge issues prevalent in all of the open contracts again this year: wages and insurance. With outrageous gas prices driving the cost of consumable products through the roof, members require significant wage increases, but most employers are claiming no revenue. Add the national average increase of about 10 percent to insurance costs, and the employers are really feeling the heat of providing health and welfare. Therefore, we need you, the members, to be patient and stay strong while your negotiating committee attempts to settle your contracts. Thanks in advance for your assistance.

CEMA holds successful PAC fund-raiser
By Tom Starkey, business representative

More than 40 members attended our first-ever County Employees’ Management Association (CEMA) Political Action Committee (PAC) Fund-raiser April 4 at the Wyndham Hotel in San Jose. CEMA raised about $1,200, which went directly into the Political Action Fund for upcoming 2008 Board of Supervisors elections. The featured guest was 4th District Supervisor Ken Yeager, who spoke briefly and answered questions from the audience. Members also had the opportunity to better inform Yeager about issues of concern for CEMA managers.

Thanks to our members, who are elected office holders and who helped sponsor the fund-raiser at the $100 contribution level: Milpitas Mayor Jose Esteves, Richard Hobbs with the San Jose Evergreen Community College Board and Jorge Gonzales, who serves on the San Jose Unified School District. Other $100 sponsors included members Dolly Barnes, Amando Cablas, Edna Esguerra, Mark Hand, Cheryl Houts, Teri Lehan, Richard Nichols, Sheila Stevens and Becky Williams.

Rancho Murieta Community Services District ratifies contract
By Rick Davis, business representative

I will start this month’s article with the good news that one of my units has ended negotiations and reached an agreement on a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The Rancho Murieta Community Services District agreed to a renewal agreement, and the members ratified a contract that will be in place through 2009.

The negotiated agreement was positive overall for the employees and helped some of them become competitive with surrounding entities. For the first year of the contract, the plant operators and mechanic will receive a 12 percent salary adjustment, utility workers will receive a 10 percent adjustment and the other classes in the unit – accounting assistant, office assistant, gate officers and security officers will receive a 4 percent adjustment effective April 2007. In the second year of the contract, the plant operators and mechanic will receive a 10 percent salary adjustment, utility workers will receive a 9 percent adjustment and the other units will receive a 4 percent increase. In the final year of the contract, the plant operators and mechanic will receive an 8 percent salary adjustment, utility workers will receive a 6 percent adjustment and the other classifications will receive a 4 percent adjustment. Included in the new contract is an increase in standby pay to $175 a week, an increase in shift differential and listed holidays being counted as time worked as it pertains to overtime. The union was able to keep health insurance as status quo for the members with few to no increases for the next three years. We negotiated a list of safety equipment the district will provide to security personnel and negotiated a differential pay for the utility worker who is certified for operating a backhoe, with a two-hour minimum.

Another important issue to the members was a revised salary schedule. This was accomplished by changing an eight-step salary schedule to five steps, which will give members who are due a step-raise another 5 percent bump the last year of the contract.

I want to thank Sean Montgomery and all the other employees at Rancho Murieta who supported the negotiation process and ratified the new contract.

Alpine County: Same 'ole, same ‘ole

In other news, I must again speak of Alpine County. Unfortunately, a longtime employee, member and supporter of the union, Cami Chavez, left employment with Alpine County. I don’t think “left” is the right word; I should probably say “forced out.” The “professional,” “employee friendly” Alpine County Administration brow-beat another employee into submission and forced her out. Chavez is another one of the health services employees who left county service after coming under the scrutiny of Judy Molnar, the assistant to the Board of Supervisors. At the same time Chavez resigned, Kim Woffinden resigned her position with the county for the same reasons. They just got tired of the constant scrutiny and special attention from Molnar and the Director of Roads and Director of Health Services Dennis Cordoza. During these resignations, another employee in the same department went off work on stress for the same reasons. What do you say, supervisors, are all these employees wrong, or is there another problem?

Cami, thanks for all your help the last couple of years, and even though the Board of Supervisors does not have the value system, fortitude or ethics to thank you for all your years of dedicated service to the county, I thank you.

Local 3 Wellness Program – coming soon!

In association with Matria Healthcare, Local 3 is launching a Wellness Program in August for members enrolled in the Northern California Health & Welfare Trust Fund and Public Employee Health and Welfare Trust Fund. The program is customized for Operating Engineers, offering assistance on the development of new behaviors to improve the health and quality of life of our membership. More details to come in the August issue of Engineers News.
Retiree Picnic

11:50 p.m. the first rack of beef goes in.

11:50
Friday night, the coals are stirred.

10:30
Saturday morning, bingo is underway.

11:00
time to pull the meat out.

11:50 a.m.
the first rack of beef.

11:50 a.m.
guests catch a ride to the picnic area.

12:00
lunch is served.

12:00 p.m.
the national anthem is sung.

12:30 p.m.
50-year awards are presented.

1.p.m.
50-year awards are presented.

11:30 a.m.
the first rack of beef.

11:40 a.m.
guests catch a ride to the picnic area.

1:00 p.m.
50-year awards are presented.

1:30
50-year awards are presented.

11:30
Friday night, the coals are stirred.

11:50
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From left: Retirees Barney Gruber and Ray Walters.

From left: Business Manager Russ Burns and 50-year member Charles Parsons.

From left: Raymond Basquez Jr., Raymond Basquez Sr. and Fernando Ortega make up three generations of Operating Engineers.

From left: Tony Costa with Jane and Cloyd Cavana.

From left: Retirees Gary Cunningham and Harold Puckeylow.

From left: President Fred Herschbach and Retiree Ray Dutter.

From left: 35-year member Paul Pfannenstiel and 50-year member Bruce MacFarland.

From left: Mike Forman, Bill Piziali and Financial Secretary Jim Sullivan.

From left: Treasurer Dan Reding with members Bill Piziali and Joe Wendt.

From left: Retirees Barney Gruber and Ray Walters.
BURLINGAME  I  District creates history in the making: Laguna Honda Hospital

The next phase of the San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridge is on track. Business Manager Russ Burns has signed a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with American Bridge/Flour J.V. to construct the self-anchoring suspension portion of the project. The estimated cost of this portion is $1.4 billion. The projected cost of the entire project is $6.3 billion with a completion date of 2012. The Ironworkers, Laborers, Cement Masons, Pile-drivers and Carpenters are also signed to the PLA.

Business Agent Gary DeRenzi is in charge of San Francisco projects for District 01.

Please call Dispatcher Craig Thompson at (650) 652-7969 if you need to get on the out-of-work list. Although the season started slowly, orders have picked up, and work is going strong.

Work in San Mateo County is really heating up as the summer rolls along. Hein Brothers Demolition cleared the way for DeSilva Gates Construction to start widening Hwy. 101 in San Mateo by adding lanes to help alleviate traffic in the heavily traveled stretch of road between Hwy. 92 and the San Francisco Airport. This project will provide work for Operating Engineers during the next couple years.

Good news from South San Francisco: Campanella Corporation recently did the building demolition on several buildings along Hwy. 101 to make room for a new Lowe’s. Campanella is the first of several signatory contractors to work on the first all-union Lowe’s in the country. Hillside Drilling, Top Grade Construction, J Flores and Consolidated Engineering Labs are on the project.

The San Mateo Community College District recently extended its commitment to a PLA for projects passed under county Measure A – a measure many San Francisco District 01 Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) members supported through phone banks and precinct walks. This new commitment from the college will add $327 million worth of construction jobs for the county community colleges – that’s union jobs – which many Local 3 members will staff in the near future.

Kiewit Pacific Co. is progressing nicely on the Devil’s Slide Tunnel Project on Hwy. 1 south of Pacifica. Several Operating Engineers are on the project, and Kiewit is finishing prep work and should begin drilling some time mid-August. We will keep you posted.

Disney Construction is working hard on two bridges at the north end of the project, connecting the tunnels back with Hwy. 1. Tower crane operators Jeff Scott and Robert Brown work long hours to ensure the project is safely completed on time.

The business agent for all San Mateo County projects is David Hayner.

In Petaluma, where Hwy. 101 and the Petaluma River meet, lies the Petaluma Facility. The business agent for all projects in southern Sonoma, Marin and San Francisco is Rich Hickey.

Play-by-play of Laguna Honda Hospital Renovation

Since the Laguna Honda Hospital Renovation was featured in the October 2006 Engineers News, progress has been underway. Members are currently working on Phase C of the new hospital, which includes the construction of a 300-bed south residence building, a 420-bed east residence building and a 60-bed link building. The project also includes a complete remodel of the existing hospital.

Much of the project is hidden from public view by the eucalyptus groves covering the western slopes of Twin Peaks; however, the trees were not tall enough to hide the boom of Sheedy’s 350-T Grove hydraulic crane, rigged with 141 feet of main boom.

Tight quarters at the jobsite meant the crane had to be moved into place while it was partially erected. Journeyman Danny Siebert manned the outriggers and directed Fourth-step Apprentice Tim Shea at the wheel of the six-axle, 54-feet-long carrier, while Foreman Ed Robinson signaled. The team reversed the crane from a carpark up a ramp with the crane swung over the front.

Once in place, counterweights were added using a Linkbelt 70-T helper crane bringing the total counterweight to 178,000 pounds. In the back seat of the crane, Danny Siebert lifted air conditioning units to the roof of the new hospital.

Also on the Laguna Honda Hospital Renovation are elevator operators Phil Vaesau and Edgardo Monterrosa, employed by Cabrillo Hoist.

MORGAN HILL  I  On the job with Sanco Pipeline

This crew works for Sanco Pipeline on the Highlands of Los Gatos Project. From left: Ken Machado, Superintendent Mike Hyde, Greg Delang, Nicolas Dorcich, Al Donohue, Glenn Mikulaco and Tony Ace.

Come out and share in the District 01 picnic fun!

Date: Sunday, July 8
Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Location: Coyote Point County Park, San Mateo; Eucalyptus Picnic Areas 3 and 4
Cost: adults – $10, retirees and children under 12 – free
Menu: tri-tip, salad, hot dogs, beans, cake and some refreshments
NEVADA  I  Meeting re-cap in District 11

At our recent March 29 district meeting, the membership elected three new Grievance Committee members: Jonathan Moon, Mitch Gallegger and Jim Corless. The membership also elected a Market and Geographic Area Committee, with new members Phil Busch, Pat Young and WM McMaster. Congratulations go out to the new committee members.

District 11 held a video presentation April 12 with a Power Point presentation on the recommended Bylaws changes presented by Vice President Carl Goff, Financial Secretary Jim Sullivan and District Rep. Steve Ingersoll. The membership overwhelmingly voted in favor of the Bylaws changes for a dues reduction. Thanks to all the members for coming out to the meetings and supporting the local.

District rundown of work picture, agreements

Work at the Tracy Clark Power Plant continues and is scheduled until this fall. Subcontractors under the Master Agreement are keeping more than 30 Operating Engineers employed.

Road and Highway Builders keep members hopping on the Hwy. 50 job at Hazen. The mass dirt is finished, and paving has started.

The work picture in Northern Nevada is picking up, but with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) funding less, the workload is lighter than in previous years. Members concerned about this issue should log on to www.fixnvroads.com.

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As always, be safe and productive.

A reminder for the membership in the Elko area: The monthly District 11 meeting will be held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Elko office at 1095 Lamoille Highway. Hope to see you there.

The ballots have been tallied for the Master Agreement and private work wage allocations:

AGC Master Construction
Total ballots received: 294
10 cents to wages: 132 votes
10 cents to Pensioned Health & Welfare: 162 votes
10 cents will be allocated to Retiree Health & Welfare

Private Work
Total ballots received: 293
19 cents to wages: 100 votes
19 cents to Pensioned Health & Welfare: 104 votes
10 cents to wages and 9 cents to Retiree Health & Welfare: 89 votes
19 cents will be allocated to Retiree Health & Welfare

Rock, Sand and Gravel (voted on April 18 by the membership at the hall)
6 cents to Retiree Health & Welfare

Nevada Truck Crane Rental (voted on April 25 by 13 members at the hall)
15 cents to Supplemental Dues
36 cents to Retiree Health & Welfare

Mine Crane (voted on May 16 by eight members at the Elko office)
$1 to wages
Four cents to Retiree Health & Welfare

From left: Vice President Carl Goff, Business Manager Russ Burns, President Fred Hershbach, Grievance Committee members Mitch Gallagher, Jonathan Moon and Jim Corless, Treasurer Dan Reding, Grievance Committee member Dylan Gallagher and Financial Secretary Jim Sullivan.

From left: Jim Corless receives his $100 Circuit City gift card from District Rep. Steve Ingersoll.

Member Steve Nichols is the March 29 District meeting raffle winner of a Benelli Nova shotgun.
STOCKTON  I Aja named political director, Morgan to lead Stockton

From Tom Aja – Yogi Berra once said: “When you come to a fork in the road, take it.” Recognizing the wisdom in that advice, I have taken that fork in the road. Since March 1, 1994, I have had the distinct honor and privilege to represent the members of the Stockton District and work with a fantastic team. For 13 years, the last five and a half as district representative, a significant amount of my energy and attention has been devoted to political issues and candidates that impact the socioeconomic well-being of our members and their families. Recognizing my political involvement, Business Manager Russ Burns made me an offer I cannot refuse – to become the Local 3 political director. In that capacity, I will work directly with Vice President Carl Goff to provide a political environment in which our members and signatory employers have the ability to prosper and grow. I have no agenda or pre-conceived concepts of how I will perform my duties. I will meet with the district representatives and their Political Action Committees (PACs) to hear and see what issues and candidates are important to them. My task will be to provide any assistance they need to achieve their goals.

Kris Morgan has been selected to succeed me as the Stockton District representative. He brings a wealth of experience, since he has been a business representative in Sacramento, district representative in Wyoming and South Dakota and most recently, the Utah Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) director. His experience will be invaluable in completing the training I started with an excellent team of agents. Their youth and experience is a great combination that will provide positive results.

The 25th Annual Stockton District picnic was another huge success. About 475 members and families enjoyed their shared experiences in near-perfect weather with a tasty menu of New York steak and asparagus, complimented with barbequed beans prepared by retired Business Rep. Bob Blagg. Worthy of recognition is the Starr Family, who decided to incorporate a family reunion into our picnic, and as a result, they increased our picnic attendance by 35 people. To make our picnic a memorable occasion Business Manager Russ Burns, Financial Secretary Jim Sullivan and Treasurer Dan Reding were able to fit our picnic into their busy schedules. All these elements combined to make our picnic one of the best we have ever had. It will be difficult to have a better picnic, but plans are being made to do just that next year. The Stockton District staff combined with the best volunteers one could hope for deserves all the credit for another great picnic.

On another picnic note: Retiree Vern Baumbach became ill for an unknown reason and left in an ambulance. I spoke with him a few days later, and all is well. He appreciates everyone’s concern. See his comments in the Letters to the Editor section on page 6 in this edition of Engineers News.

As a result of my change of assignment, this is my last article as the Stockton District representative. I am not going away. I will be here on occasion as the work assignments dictate, and I look forward to seeing everyone wherever we may meet.

FAIRFIELD  I Ghilotti Bros. takes all in District 04

It has been a super slow start, but summer is finally here. It seems like every year our work season starts a month later than the year before. Fortunately, it has been ending a month later, as well. So here we are in July, and the work is going as strong as most summer months go. Who knows? Twenty years from now, maybe July will be smack-dab in the middle of our off season. For now, work is good.

In Northern Solano County, the usual suspects are hard at it. Top Grade is working on three different sites, including the State Fund building in Vacaville, the Sutter building in Fairfield and the City Corporate yard in Fairfield. Teichert is busy at South Town in Vacaville – working on the Vacaville/Dixon bicycle trail and on Hwy. 505. Other contractors carrying over from last season are North Bay, McGuire and Hester, DeSilva Gates, Mountain Cascade and Ghilotti Construction. There is always one contractor that seems to be a little busier than the rest. This year, it’s Ghilotti Brothers Inc. The company has work on at least five different jobs and picks up more work all the time.

Bragg Crane had two cranes covering the coker at Shell, while the company’s bridge crane was down. Maxim is winding down at the Valero turnaround, which had about 20 operators working two shifts. Haskell is up to seven operators at its Chevron project working five 10-hour days on new gasoline sulfur-reduction equipment. Chernel is about a quarter of the way into a new coker build at Tesoro Refinery and has about 35 operators on the job.

If any of you are sitting at home, now is a good time to get in touch with Dispatcher Felicia Ramos to update your registration, and check for any open orders. Also, if any of you are working near a non-union contractor, let us know. We will have an organizer or an agent go out and talk with those folks. With all the work going on, this is a great time to organize.

We would like to offer our congratulations to Apprentice Mike Brown for completing the Construction Equipment Operator program and joining the ranks of Local 3 journeymen. Way to go, Mike! We’d also like to congratulate service-pins recipients Charles Ortega, Robert Tiburcio, Salvator "Toots" Bomarito and Jaime Espinosa.

Business Agent Angelo Cellini has been busy with all this “pinning.”
**ROHNERT PARK**  Willits Bypass Project on track for 2009

District 10 Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) volunteers joined about 200 other volunteers to contribute to the great success of the Eighth Annual Rohnert Park – Cotati Rebuild Day. Local 3 members were on hand to replace almost 250 feet of fencing at the Cotati Co-op Nursery School. Volunteers Steven Carney, Richard Howell, Andy Phinney, Lisa S., District Rep. George Steffensen and Dispatcher Gordon Lande rolled up their sleeves, jumped in and got'er done. Good work, folks!

What's the latest on the Willits Bypass? Earlier this year, the California Transportation Commission voted not to fund the Willits Bypass from funds generated by bond measures recently passed by voters. Caltrans District 01 convened a special meeting April 4 at the Willits City Council chambers. Visiting dignitaries included California Transportation Commission (CTC) Chair James Ghilinetti, Commissioner Bob Alvarado, CTC Executive Director John Barna and Caltrans Director Will Kempton. Invited guests included Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) Executive Director Phil Dow, local elected officials, legislative district representatives, city staff members and Willits Bypass design engineers. District 01 Project Manager John Bulinski chaired the meeting, which was open to the public.

The purpose of the meeting was to “summarize the status of the Willits Bypass Program and explore possible options for phasing the project” and to “gather public input.”

Caltrans District 01 proposed a first-phase project alternative with a full-freeway interchange at the southern end of the bypass route for a Route 20 exit, a transition to two lanes, several bridges, a shortened section of viaduct over the flood plain and a two-lane roundabout intersection at the north end.

In lieu of the hoped-for bond funds, Caltrans Director Will Kempton described available funding sources and indicated that he would seek funds from Caltrans' Inter-regional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) to augment the existing bypass funding, with the goal of building a first phase of the project. He emphasized the project would be in competition with statewide needs, so no promises could be made.

At the time of this writing, MCOG is still in support of the bypass and is awaiting the outcome of the CTC meeting. Caltrans Project Manager John Bulinski believes that if the CTC makes available the funding for the scaled-down project, the Willits Bypass Project will be on track to start in 2009.

**YUBA CITY**  Yuba City District picnic a success

Greetings from the District 60 staff. The work season got off to a slow start but has picked up nicely. Almost all signatory contractors and employers in District 60 have a good work picture for this year.

**Shimmick Construction** is still busy on the project south of Grimes in Colusa County off Hwy. 45, and the company is also working on the Stoney Gorge Dam retrofit project in Glenn County. The **Teichert** plants in Marysville and Hallwood are busy, as is the **Baldwin** plant in Hallwood. The **Baldwin** plant in Orland is back and running after being down this winter, as the company installed a new scrubber system in the plant.

**Granite Construction** and **FCI Constructors** are busy again on the Hwy. 149 job in Butte County and will continue for the rest of this work season. **Granite** is also busy on the challenging Hwy. 20 road realignment in Yuba County east of Marysville. The rocky area makes for hard digging.

**Mercer Fraser** out of Eureka is back on the Hwy. 162/Federal Forest Hwy. 119 job in the mountains East of Oroville in Butte County. Work should continue the rest of this work season, as this is some steep country. **Mercer Fraser** is doing a realignment and widening of about five to six miles of this road.

**Teichert** started the Hwy. 20 job east of Colusa in Colusa County and is doing a widening, realignment and paving of about eight to nine miles of Hwy 20.

**Baldwin Construction** is paving in the Willows area and has road work north of Marysville on Hwy. 70.

**McGuire & Hester** made several improvements at its Dunstone Quarry in Butte County and is bidding some jobs in that area. As of this writing, the company was the low bidder on the Plumas Street work to be done in Yuba City.

All other signatory contractors in District 40 are also busy at this time.

We wish to thank everyone who came to the May 13 District 60 picnic at Durham Park in Butte County. It is a beautiful park, and everyone had a great time. The picnic was a success – we barbecued whole hogs over an open fire! We want to thank all the volunteers and offer a special thanks to Public Employee Director Don Dietrich, as he drove for several hours to help cook one of the hogs. District Rep. Dave Slack cooked the other hog, and both turned out great. We also had tri-tip, salad, beans, hot dogs and homemade ice cream from old-fashioned, hand-cranked ice cream makers. We raffled off many great donated prizes, and the main raffle event was the Honda All Terrain Vehicle (ATV). We want to congratulate Loren Beebe, the proud winner of the quad. Again, thanks for your support at the picnic. We look forward to the next one, as we believe it will be even bigger and better. There are several new ideas in the works already.

In closing, it is great working with and for the members and staff of Local 3. This union is made up of a lot of great people, and they are what make this union the biggest and best Operating Engineers in the U.S. Thanks to all and especially to our retirees, such as Ben Clark, who recently received his 25- and 30-year pins.
VOTE program raises money for Hawaii Food Bank

District 17 Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) volunteers recently helped the Hawaii Food Bank raise money for the less fortunate. President Fred Herschbach, District Rep. Kulani Mahoe, staff and family members patrolled the busy intersection of School Street and Likilike April 21. Armed with only a fishnet, safety vest and Hawaii Food Bank signs, they managed to collect more than $700 in less than two hours as Hawaii motorists threw dollar bills and emptied their ashtray change into fishnets.

Any member interested in participating in the VOTE program can contact their business representative or call the district office. Volunteers earn hours to redeem awards, such as buck knives, belt buckles and VOTE jackets.

Boys and their toys

Kauai Retiree Robert Paik and his red 1927 Ford “Tall T” five-window coupe make a nice pairing. Robert is a 33-year member and is retired from Shioi Construction in Kauai. Enjoying this toy is how he spends his retirement.

Thirty-three-year member Robert Paik and his 1927 Ford coupe.

I-580 connector finished in record time

Operating Engineers have won universal acclaim for the speed and quality of their work on the MacArthur Maze. On April 29, a tanker truck carrying 8,600 gallons of gasoline crashed and exploded on top of a section of highway that connects I-80 to southbound I-880. The connector melted and collapsed onto the I-80/I-880 highway. Hundreds of thousands of commuters use these highways as part of their daily commute. The Bay Area imagined the worst as traffic could potentially be crippled during commute time without these key pieces of infrastructure.

Once the flames were doused, Cleveland Wrecking and Bigge Crane were immediately on scene to perform demolition work. The wreckage was removed within a couple of days by crews working around the clock. After the debris was cleared, ACC West shored up the I-580 connector, which was opened in an amazingly short amount of time. It took only eight days to shore up the I-880 connector.

OE3 members at Levin Terminal were determined to see larger gains in their expiring contract and were successful in negotiations with help from Special Rep. Bob Miller, Oakland District Rep. Pete Figueiredo and elected committee members Manuel Gouveia and Nestor Rosales.

The next phase included the competitive bidding. C.C. Myers was awarded the reconstruction of the collapsed highway section. The media was out in force 24 hours a day, seven days a week as the crews for C.C. Myers and Maxim Crane completed the rebuild of a completely new span in record-breaking time. The incentives were there to do so: Every day C.C. Myers finished early, the company received a $200,000 bonus; however, every day the company went past the June 26 completion date, it would have to pay $200,000.

The I-580 connector was finished Friday, May 25, in time for the Memorial Day weekend commute – a whole month before the project was projected for completion!

In other District 20 news: Our annual picnic will be held in San Leandro, Sunday, July 22 at San Leandro Marina Park in the Seagull Area. Bring the whole family for a day of fun, great raffle prizes and a great barbecue. We will have a jumper and cotton candy for the kids. There is no better way to network with your fellow Operating Engineers than at the picnic. See below for more details.

Special congratulations are in order for our apprentices who have journeyed out: Kristi Tuemmler, Bobby Wilkes, Demetrius Verdun, Marvin Thompson, Joseph Patton and Daniel Zaboy.

The Oakland District would also like to congratulate Construction Equipment Operator (CEO) Apprentice Jose Gonzalez with Top Grade Construction and Crane Apprentice (KRA) Francisco Hernandez with Webcor Builders for completing the Apprenticeship Program and becoming journey-level operators.

We'd also like to give it up one more time for the members at Levin Terminal who stuck together and got the best contract in the history of the company.

District 17 picnic info

District 17: Hilo
Date: Sunday, Aug. 26
Time: 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Location: Wailoa State Park, Large Pavilion
Cost: Free
Menu: Pinacbet, pancit noodles, fish, salad, hind roast, chicken and too many pupus to mention! All alcoholic beverages must be brought in on your own and consumed inside the Pavilion only.
Games for all ages, bingo, lucky number drawings and live entertainment.

District 17: Maui
Date: Sunday, Sept. 9
Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: Keopulani Park
Cost: Free
Menu: barbecued hamburgers, hotdogs, etc.
We will also have a jumping castle.
Please RSVP.

District 20: Oakland picnic info

Date: Sunday, July 22
Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; food served at noon
Location: Marina Park, San Leandro; Seagull Section
Cost: adults – $10 in advance, $15 at the door, retirees and children under 12 – free
Menu: tri-tip, chicken, corn-on-the-cob, beans, salad, desserts and refreshments
We’ll have a bounce house and games for the kids, a raffle and horseshoes.
**FRESNO**  Bigge Crane operates the largest hydro crane in the valley

Local 3 members from three crane companies are working on a project at California Dairies in Visalia. The project includes setting tanks used to store condensed milk. Mike Maynard and Gus McClain of Sheedy Drayage are setting steel for the structure. Jack Anderson and Gary Heal of Bragg Crane & Rigging moved a 92,000-pound tank with a 300-ton Grove crane to within reach of a 600-ton Demag of Bigge Crane – the largest hydro crane in the valley. Mike Dickson and Loren Fondse of Bigge Crane are setting the tank into its resting spot using 118 feet of its 186 feet of main boom and 122 feet of its 295 feet of jib. It took 15 loads to bring it in and out again. It is definitely an impressive feat to watch. Who says there is no crane work in the valley?

Saturday, May 19 was a perfect day in the valley for a picnic. The Fresno District picnic was held at Kearney Park with good fun, great food and fantastic people, as always. Nancy Ellis, wife of member Joe Ellis, kept the kids laughing with games such as musical chairs and the whipped cream and gum-eating contests. We want to thank Vice President Carl Goff for making the trip to Fresno and spending time with members and their families. While everyone was trying to win the stainless steel rolling-cooler cart, Goff was smart to place his tickets in the containers for other prizes. It was good strategy, since he came out a winner. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped with this year's picnic.

Apprenticeship Coordinator Mark Fagundes and his wife, Yvette, also attended this year's picnic and are new, adoptive parents. Congratulations to this caring couple for adopting and welcoming nine-year-old Daniel and seven-year-old Ashley into their home and family. You hear nothing but pure pride in their voices as they speak of their children. They truly are a blessed family.

Congratulations are also extended to the following apprentices in their career advancements: Edgar Medrano, Oscar Medina, Joshua Pierce and James Quesada.

We hope to see everyone at the July 12 Fresno District meeting, 7 p.m. at the Veterans’ Building, 453 North Hughes at Clovis Avenue and 5th Street in Clovis. This is a new location, but we hope to make it a permanent meeting place. It has plenty of parking and no stairs to climb.

At California Dairies in Visalia, Local 3 members set tanks used to store condensed milk using a 300-ton Grove crane to within reach of a 600-ton Demag of Bigge Crane – the largest hydro crane in the valley.
DeSilva Gates is everywhere in District 80

Public works, public works and more public works! In the Sacramento District, there are pages full of public works contracts advertising for bids. From the South Lake Tahoe – Reno area to the western side of the Sacramento District, projects have been introduced and coming up for bid on a weekly basis. For example, the upper Northwest Interceptor – Section 9 Project was awarded to Steve P. Rados, Inc. at $51.98 million in the Citrus Heights area.

Michele’s Pipeline on Elk Horn Boulevard is in full swing on the third and fourth sections of the Upper Northwest Interceptor Project, along with Blue Iron. T&K Construction landed the first phase of the Dressler Ditch Reconstruction Project for the South Tahoe Public Utilities District valued at more than $750,000.

El Dorado County has projects all over the mountains: Ford Construction Co. was awarded a $1.6 million project on Airport Road in Placerville. Nehemiah Construction has the $18.3 million first phase of the Missouri Flats Road over-crossing. Sierra Nevada Construction will perform the Latrobe road widening for $2.3 million in El Dorado Hills. With Granite Construction performing all the dirt work, this project is valued at $40 million.

Through our travels on our state highways, please keep in mind our members with Caltrans. They daily risk their lives, continue to maintain our highways and keep them clear for our safety. Balfour Beaty is also in full swing on the Freeport Intake Project.

Yubacon was awarded the bridge replacement on Road 95 west of Woodland. Sierra Equipment Rental is performing the dirtwork on the Cemex Import Terminal Project in West Sacramento. DeSilva Gates, Marquez Pipeline and Viking Drillers are working on the Natomas Place project off Del Paso Boulevard in Natomas.

Teichert Construction has been laying pipe along El Centro and Del Paso Boulevard. DeSilva Gates Construction has been going strong in western Placer County.

In Loomis, DeSilva is in its second season at the Montserrat Subdivision off Barton Road. A.R.B., Inc. is also onsite for its second season, and Griffin Soil is stabilizing soil at this jobsite.

It is also DeSilva Gates second season across from the Lincoln Airport off Aviation Boulevard – the site of a new development. Mountain Cascade is finishing there as well.

Also in the northeast corner of Lincoln, DeSilva Gates started moving dirt for another development off Virginia Town Road, and Marquez Pipeline is also on the same project. Currently working onsite is Scraper Operator Ken Hulse, who has five years in OE3; Blade Operator Seth Landers, with seven years; and four-year member and Gradesetter Brian Wagner.

In May 2007, construction began on the Foothill Oaks Boulevard interchange on Hwy. 50 between the Shingle Springs Drive and Greenstone Road exits. The project is funded by the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians and will provide access to tribal lands directly adjacent to Hwy. 50. The 17-month-long project has roadway features, including more than 100,000 cubic meters of roadway excavation involving rock cuts and blasting and 27,000 metric tons of AC Paving. Major structural features of the project include a total of more than 1,300 cubic meters of concrete in eight retaining walls and 3,300 cubic meters of structural concrete in three separate bridge structures (two single-span cast-in-place pre-stressed box-girder bridges and a four-span flyover box-girder bridge). Bridge foundations include 255 meters of 1.2 meters in diameter of CIDH piling and 35 meters of 2.4 meters in diameter of piling. Work will be completed by Oct. 1, 2008.

We congratulate member Mitchel Bashnick, who recently received his 40-year service pin and works for RGW.

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Engineers News

DISTRICT REPORTS
OE3 Scholarship Fund
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 few 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, as well as new members, companies and organizations.

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.

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. Established by Ann Parks in memory of her husband, the Ed Parks Memorial Fund sponsors a first-place scholarship winner.

As the demand for meaningful scholarships increased, Local 3 developed new fund-raising opportunities. In 2007, many Local 3 members participated in a cruise to Mexico with $50 of the fee earmarked as a donation to the scholarship fund. Members have the same opportunity in 2008 with a special cruise to the Southern Caribbean in January 2008.

The Tom Stapleton Golf Tournament held annually in September remains the biggest source of revenue for the fund. The 2006 tournament raised nearly $60,000.

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 donor being able to give a gift that is greater than he or she thought possible. These gifts help build the strength and future of the scholarship fund and allow the donor 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.**

- **Random-draw 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:
  - Random: $500
  - Second-place academic: $5,000
  - First-place academic: $6,000

- **Bequests.** Gifts made through your 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, or if you have questions, please contact the fund administrator, Rec. Corres. Secretary Rob Wise at (510) 748-7400.

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**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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**2007 Local 3 Academic Scholarship Winners**

**FIRST PLACE ~ $6,000**

*Sponsored by the Ed Parks Memorial Fund*

Ana Gonzalez  
Manteca, CA  
Parent: Norbert Gonzalez,  
Reg. # 2412387

Chris Del Bianco  
Millbrae, CA  
Parent: Mike Del Bianco,  
Reg. # 2519548

**SECOND PLACE ~ $5,000**

*Sponsored by the Thomas Morton Foundation*

Brittany Marques  
Danville, CA  
Parent: Manuel Marques,  
Reg. # 1722317

*Sponsored by the Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union (OEFCU)*

Richard Ehlert  
Cottonwood, CA  
Parent: Tim Ehlert,  
Reg. # 2477377

First-place winners receive $3,000 their first year, and second-place winners receive $2,000 their first year. All four winners will receive an additional $1,000 during their second, third and fourth years of college, provided they remain full-time students.
**DISTRICT MEETINGS**

All meetings convene at 7 p.m.

**JULY 2007**

12th District 30: Stockton (new location)
Stockton Ballroom
9650 Thornton Road

12th District 50: Clovis (new location)
Veterans’ Memorial Building
453 Hughes Ave.

19th District 20: Oakland
Warehouse Union Local 6
99 Hegenberger Road

**AUGUST 2007**

7th District 10: Lakeport
Lake County Fairgrounds
Junior Building
401 Main St.

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

7th District 70: Redding
Engineers’ Building
20308 Engineers Lane

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

9th District 80: Sacramento
Machinists’ Hall
2749 Sunrise Blvd.

**SEPTEMBER 2007**

19th District 17: Honolulu
Kalakaua Intermediate School Cafeteria
821 Kalili St.

19th District 17: Kona
King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel
75-5660 Palani Road

20th District 12: Salt Lake City (new date)
IBEW Local 354
3400 W. 2100 S.

21st District 11: Reno (new date)
Engineers’ Building
1290 Corporate Blvd.

21st District 17: Maui
Maui Beach Hotel
170 Kaahumanu Ave.
Kahului

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**Come out to your district picnic!**

District 10: Rohnert Park
Sunday, July 1

District 01: Burlingame
Sunday, July 8

District 20: Oakland
Sunday, July 22

District 90: Morgan Hill
Sunday, Aug. 5

District 17: Hilo
Sunday, Aug. 26

District 17: Maui
Sunday, Sept. 9

**Lost & Found Friends**

If you have lost touch with a fellow OE3 member and would like to get re-acquainted with him or her, let us know your name/information and the name of your missed connection, and we’ll print it in the paper. If they contact us, we’ll get them in touch with you. Think of it as a missed connections bulletin board.

- Retiree Lee E. Grantham is looking for Prentiss Andrews, otherwise known as “Little Dude.”
- Retiree Woodrow “Newt” Newton is looking for Edward Walters.

Prentiss and Edward, if you’re out there, please contact Engineers News:
- By mail: Lost & Found Friends
3920 Lennane Drive
Sacramento, CA 95834
- By fax: (916) 419-3487
- By phone: (916) 286-2788

If possible, we’ll get you in touch with one another. For those hoping to find friends, use the above contact information, and be sure to include your name, registration number and phone number; we’ll print your name in the Lost & Found Friends section.

**E-Board certifies Bylaws dues resolution vote**

At the May 20, 2007 Executive Board meeting, it was moved, seconded and carried to certify the final results of members’ votes at meetings held in each district on April 9-20, 2007, to adopt the Resolution submitted by the Bylaws Committee amending Article VI (Dues) of the Local Union Bylaws as follows:

- YES to adopt 1,820
- NO to reject 115

**Dues changes**

As a result of the Bylaws changes mentioned above, members will notice changes to their supplemental dues at their next wage allocation date. Adjustments will take effect in the fourth quarter. More specific details on these changes will be published in the August issue of Engineers News.

**NEW CONTRACTORS**

District 01: Burlingame
J C Hutchins Construction, Inc.

District 11: Nevada
Kempeo, Inc. dba Theodore Kemp Roberts

District 12: Utah
J Venuti, Inc.

District 20: Oakland
DLC Equipment, Inc.

District 30: Stockton
Anderson Crane, LLC

District 40: Eureka
Cooper Engineering, Inc.

District 50: Fresno
Krazan & Associates

District 70: Redding
Gogle & Sons, Inc.

District 80: Sacramento
Performance Excavation (in California)
JD’s Sweeping & Rentals, Inc.

District 90: Morgan Hill
J J Nguyen, Inc.

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**Semi-Annual Meeting**

Rec. Corres. Secretary Robert L. Wise announces the next Semi-Annual Meeting of the membership is Sunday, Sept. 16, 2007 at 1 p.m. at the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo, Calif.

**Honorary Membership**

*Effective July 1, 2007*

Robert Clark 1456283 District 12: Utah

James Killeen 1509108 District 10: Rohnert Park

James Merrick 1514690 District 17: Hawaii

David Nordlund 1301480 District 20: Oakland
Effective April 1, 2007

Gary Olson 1386989 District 12: Utah
Effective Jan. 1, 2007

Louie Payne 1284974 District 90: Morgan Hill

Morley Wolin 1463544 District 30: Stockton
Effective Jan. 1, 2007

Roy Young 0899653 District 12: Utah

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**Bylaws Committee at it again**

After meeting in March, the Bylaws Committee re-convened May 8-9 at the union’s headquarters in Alameda. The committee conducted a comprehensive review of the non-dues portions of the Bylaws and developed a list of updates and upgrades to the text to submit for membership approval later in the year. Next, the committee will look to streamline and clarify the procedures to amend the Bylaws and the procedures of the Grievance Committees.
ELECTION COMMITTEE NOTICE:
37th International Convention – Delegates & Alternate Delegates

Robert L. Wise, Recording-Corresponding Secretary of Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3, announces that in conformity with Article XII, Section 3(b), Elections, and Article XIII, Section 1(b), International Convention Delegates, of the Local Union Bylaws, elections will be held at regular district meetings and special called meetings in each district during the months of September and October for Members of the Election Committee, which will conduct an election in February 2008 of International Convention Delegates and Alternate Delegates.

The election of Delegates and Alternate Delegates shall be held during the month of February 2008 by mail referendum vote of the Membership of this Local Union under the supervision of the Election Committee and a nationally known firm of certified public accountants, selected by the Executive Board, with such other technical and legal assistance as may be provided.

The election shall be conducted by a committee known as the Election Committee, composed of one (1) Member from each District in which nominations will be made. The Member shall be nominated and elected by secret ballot at the regular quarterly or specially called District Meetings by vote of those Members present whose last known address, as shown on the records of the Local Union ten (10) days prior to the first such District Meeting in September preceding the election, was within the area covered by the District. Each nominee shall be a registered voter in the District in which he or she is nominated, shall have been a Member of Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 for one (1) year next preceding his or her nomination and election, and shall be a candidate, or nominator of a candidate for Delegate or Alternate Delegate to the 37th International Convention.

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

MEETINGS TO ELECT THE ELECTION COMMITTEE:
September 2007
21°Fri-District 11, Reno, Engineers’ Building, 1290 Corporate Blvd.

October 2007
8°Mon-District 04, Cordelia, Cordelia Fire District, 2155 Cordelia Rd.
9°Tue-District 01, Burlingame, Transport Workers Local 505, 1521 Rollins Rd.
9°Tue-District 90, Morgan Hill, Engineers Building, 325 Digital Dr.
10°Wed-District 30, Stockton, Stockton Ballroom, 9650 Thornton Rd.
10°Wed-District 50, Clovis, Veterans’ Memorial Bldg., 453 Hughes Ave.
11°Thurs-District 80, Rancho Cordova, Machinists’ Hall, 2749 Sunrise Blvd.
12°Fri-District 12, Salt Lake City, IBEW Local 354, 3500 West 2100 South
12°Fri-District 20, Martinez, Plumbers 159, 1304 Roman Way
15°Mon-District 10, Rohnert Park, Engineers’ Bldg., 6225 State Farm Dr.
15°Mon-District 17, Lihue, Kauai High School Cafeteria, 3577 Lalo Road
16°Tue-District 40, Eureka, Best Western Bayshore Inn, 3500 Broadway
16°Tue-District 17, Honolulu, Kalakaua Intermediate Cafeteria, 821 Kalihi St.
17°Wed-District 70, Redding, Engineers’ Bldg., 20308 Engineers’ Lane
17°Wed-District 17, Hilo, ILWU Hall, 100 W Lanikaula Street
18°Thurs-District 60, Marysville, Marysville Joint Unif School Dist Bd Rm, 1919 B St.
18°Thurs-District 17, Kona, King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel, 75-5660 Palani Rd.
19°Fri-District 17, Maui, Kahului, Lihikai School Cafeteria, 335 S. Papa Ave.

OE3 cruise to the exotic Southern Caribbean on the Crown Princess
January 12-19, 2008
Seven nights from San Juan, Puerto Rico*
Reserve for only $100 per-person deposit July 13 – 20, 2007**

CALL TODAY FOR YOUR RESERVATION FORM
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Fares begin at $699 per person, double occupancy for an Inside Cabin; $799 per person, double occupancy for an obstructed view Outside Cabin; and $1039 per person, double occupancy for a Balcony Ocean View Cabin. These rates include port charges and fees. An additional U.S. tax of $67.85 will be added at the time of final payment. Third and fourth passenger (sharing a cabin) and single rates are available. Required deposit per person is $250 (except for promotional periods – see above dates). All deposits are fully refundable until final payment is due Oct. 24, 2007.

* A roundtrip air (from Sacramento) hotel/transfer package and a hotel/transfer only package will be available if there are enough interested passengers. ** Payment must be received by July 20.
Accident or error?

What is an accident? Often it is defined as a sudden and unforeseen event. However, in most accidents there are plenty of opportunities to anticipate problems; the warning signs are overlooked. It is important to understand the difference between accidents and errors. When the situation is reviewed, accidents are prevented when we take the time to assess and then act on warning signs.

Be alert to warnings and take heed when they are encountered. For example, are you irritated by the metal filings hitting your face and eyes while you grind? This is a warning that you need eye and face protection. Do you keep banging your knuckles when your wrench slips? That is your warning that the tool needs replacing. Have you or a co-worker ever suffered an injury because you failed to anticipate and ward off possible dangers?

Think about what could go wrong before it does. If something minor goes wrong, this is a warning to stop. Consider what has gone awry. Figure out what should be done to resolve the problem, and then take care of it. Accidents are usually errors on someone’s part. They are not an incidental part of the job. It is important not to accept accidents as procedural.

This is your challenge: Think about what pitfalls may come up during work tasks. Recognize the early warning signs of things beginning to go wrong. Have the strength to stand up and say: Hold on a minute. Let’s think about this. The few seconds you set aside for preventative thinking could save your life.

Source: www.pacificemployers.com/Safety/Error.htm

Contractors Corner

Protect your hearing

Because most construction jobsites have high noise levels, each of us needs to take proper steps to prevent injury to our hearing. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) rules addressing hearing protection indicate we can work in an area eight hours a day with a decibel level of 90. We can also work in an area of 100 decibels, but only for two hours. Finally, at the high-end of the scale, we can only work 15 minutes in an area of 115 decibels. Exposure to impulsive or impart noise should not exceed 140 decibels.

Employers are responsible for requiring the use of hearing protection in all operations where workers are exposed to high noise levels. As an employee, obey warning signs that tell you hearing protection is required, and if the noise is loud, use protection.

Source: toolboxtopics.com

From left: Oiler Robert Peña and Operator Dennis Brand use ear protection while driving pile on the Lewelling-Nesperian exit off I-238 in the Oakland District.

Five leading causes of injury-related deaths

By Guy Prescott, director

We think of the jobsite as a dangerous place. Being struck by equipment, falling and electrocutions are just a few of the possible work hazards we face every day. However, the overwhelming majority of injury-related deaths are not on the job but off-the-job-related accidents. The top five are listed below:

1. Automobile accidents come in number one, year after year, at 40 percent of all unintentional injury deaths. In 2005, 45,800 motor-vehicle deaths occurred in the U.S.

2. Poisonings accounted for 20,900 deaths, with 20,700 of these off the job. Forty-seven percent of all unintentional poisoning deaths were directly related to illegal drugs, such as cocaine, LSD and heroin.

3. Falls are the leading reason for hospital emergency room visits. A total of 17,700 deaths occurred in 2005 as a result of falls, and 17,000 of these were off-the-job fatalities.

4. A total of 4,600 choking deaths were recorded in 2005, with 4,500 of these off the job.

5. Drowning comes in number five, with 3,600 deaths, of which 3,400 were off the job.

We think about safety on the job a lot. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations set a minimum level of safety for us, but at home and on the road, it is completely up to us to set our own safety standards. With off-the-job fatalities so high, taking safety lessons from work to the home is not a bad idea. Fall protection works at home the same as it does at work. Using safety equipment and knowledge at home is as important as using it at work. So, don’t leave your safety knowledge at the gate. Take it home, and share it with the family. Your home is every bit as dangerous as the workplace. Be safe!
FOR SALE: '90 Harley Davidson FLSTF Fatboy. $11,000, OBO. Silver, low miles. Good cond. w/passing lamps, engine guard and windscreen. Saddlebags, cover, sissy bar and thigh. Original seat. E-mail: HD1990FATBOY@hotmail.com for pics. Call (916) 529-6549 to see. Reg# 2584110.


FOR SALE: AC/CC/PS/AT/PB great condition; Premium Sound & Pass-Key Security Systems. Call (530) 673-4969 or 701-0987 for test drive. Reg# 1709585.

FOR SALE: '99 Int. rv hauler mod. 4700 lp t444 7.3 motor with Allison 6 spd. ramp. This rig has many extras and in top shape. $45,000 obo, or comes with 2000-39ft. alfa toyhouse w 12 ft. cargo area with double fold out loading ramp, and living area pop out. Very comfortable living with your toys, $30,000 or both for $70,000 obo. Call: (530) 333-2010 or: robert.yeger@scbglobal.net Reg# 1142622.


FOR SALE: '94 T-Bird, 2 DR, Air conditioning, power steering. AM/FM stereo, good condition. 108,000 miles, $83,500 OBO. (916) 529-6549. Please leave a message or e-mail for pics: Lenlen_Saeto@yahoo.com Reg# 2584110.

FOR SALE: '02 Montana fifth-wheel, model # 2850rk, Fully loaded Exterior, 29’ 11” Exterior length 8,500 lbs dry weight, Outside shower, Safety glass windows, Shock absorbers & 2 Slide Awnings, Ultra-Smooth. Trailer Cover with Tire Covers Interiors, Recliner/Glider chair - Day/night shades, Booth dinnette - Shower/tub - Queen sofa bed Hardwood kitchen floor, Ceiling fan - 2 vent fans – Onan Generator, 10 gallon gas/electric water heater, Arctic insulation, Crank-down stabilizer jacks, too much to list. Call (408) 377-6056, $26,000 OBO. Reg# 2093165.


FOR SALE: Boat, 16'-ft. 1999 Alumaweld Stryker w/40 hp Mercury 4-stroke, low hr Outboard w/Happy Troller cut-off plate, 50-lb. truth Minn Kota Electric trolling Motor and 4 hp Suzuki w/fuel tank. 1 axle Galvanized Royal Trailer, Eagle Ultra depth finder, Fishfinder, 2 Walker Down Riggers, Canvas top with side curtains and Boat Cover, Walk-thru Windshield, Storage tackle Center, Rod holders, Spare Prop. Anchor with ropes and buoy. Boom Lift for Crabbing. Price $10,500. Firm. In Gridley, CA. Call (530) 846-2486. E-mail: chas2@scbglobal.net Reg# 0531650.

FOR SALE: Reduced '94 Winnebago (Adventure), 30-ft. basement model “454” Chevy. Engine banks power pack breakguard safe-t-steel 44,000 miles, 4,000 K Onan generator, roof air, awning all around, 100-gallon water tank, two holdings tanks, 55 and 56-gallon, twin beds, Bathroom w/shower, lots of extras. non-smokers and no pets. $18,000 OBO. AND: '99 Saturn station wagon, 5 spds, 76,000 miles, all set to tow w/tow bar. $4,000. Call: (559) 875-3545 or cell: (559) 905-2131 Reg# 0892630.

WANTED: Small backhoe or excavator. Must fit in full-size pick-up, have tires or soft track shoes and run OK. Please call (707) 882-2406. Reg# 1137650.

FOR SALE: 2001 Buick Le Sabre(custom); tan color. One-owner, only 45,000 mi. Always serviced by dealer. Call Dan (510) 351-1394 or: DJJOHNNY477@gmail.com Reg# 2000150.


Congratulations, 50-year members

- Ray C. Basquez, 09/55, Bonham, TX
- Robert L. Baker, 01/57, Sunnyvale, CA
- William Bacus, 04/57, Milton Freewater, OR
- Preston Avery, 05/57, Cupertino, CA
- David Walker Andrews Jr., 09/57, Honolulu, HI
- Richard Goodwin, 10/52, Wilton, CA
- Eugene Gordillo, 07/57, Brentwood, CA

Business Manager Russ Burns presents Robert Johnston with his 50-year clock.