

Local 4

International Union of
OPERATING ENGINEERS



William P. Ryan
Business Manager &
General Vice President

office@iuoelocal4.org

16 Trotter Drive
Medway, Massachusetts 02053
Telephone (508) 533-1433
Fax (508) 533-1430

Fall, 2003

NOTIFIED MEETING

THE QUARTERLY NOTIFIED MEETING WILL BE HELD 8:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 15, 2003, AT FLORIAN HALL, 55 HALLET STREET, DORCHESTER, MA. THE OFFICERS WILL READ THEIR QUARTERLY REPORTS.

DUES FOR THE CURRENT QUARTER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2003, ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE. Failure to maintain your good standing in regard to dues may cause your suspension from the Local Union and your removal from the job site.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Present at the Notified Meeting will be the consultants to our Health Plan, the Plan's Trustees, as well as senior staff from the Health & Welfare Office. The calendar year 2003 deficit, projected at \$7 million in the April NewsLetter, is now projected to reach \$10,000,000.

PAUL HAYES TO RETIRE

After eleven years of exceptional service as Business Representative, and forty-eight years of membership in IUOE Local 4, Paul Hayes has notified the office of his desire to retire at the end of this year.

Initiated into Local 4A in 1955, Paul worked much of his career as a crane operator. Paul was the Master Mechanic at Seabrook Station, and has served as the steward on several of the various Pipe Line projects.

First elected to office in 1977, Paul has served on the Executive Board since 1980. In 1992 he was elected Treasurer of the Local, and has kept a weathered eye on the finances of the Local Union since.

We wish Paul and Mary Ann a long and healthy retirement. His thoughtful advice, quiet determination and exceptional work ethic, will be greatly missed.



BUSINESS MANAGER

RYAN'S REPORT

No issue has created a greater challenge for the Building Trades, and this Local, than the issue of keeping our Health Care Plans afloat. It's an issue I've addressed many times in this space since the storm clouds first appeared on the horizon in late 1999.

While the experts will be on hand at the October Meeting to answer questions and propose solutions, it is important to discuss the factors driving this national problem:

No issue has more impacted our Plans than the hyper-inflation that exists in the medical industry. Since 1998 medical costs have increased on average 13% annually and prescription costs have risen by nearly 20% each year. After six years at 13%, that 1998 \$4.00 Health & Welfare contribution becomes \$4.52, \$5.11, \$5.77, \$6.52, and \$7.37 in 2003. **Next year that number could grow to \$8.35 per hour!** There is not enough money to fix the problem.

After eight years of a good economy, with many major projects underway, both the economy and those projects have turned down. Our insured population reached its high numbers at the same time hours began to decline. This is not a surprise to either the staff or to the Executive Board - I have forecast this event since 1995, and have spoken of it often.

In anticipation of these changes, we built our reserves from virtually zero to \$35 million. In a changing economy, we anticipated burning through \$5 or \$6 million in reserves. No one ever forecast a \$10 or \$11 million shortfall!

A portion of the reserves have been invested with a conservative money manager, another portion invested in laddered treasury notes and more in money market funds. With declines in the stock markets, and earnings on treasuries and C Ds at a forty-year low - our investment portfolio did not bail us out.

Please come to the October Meeting. We expect recommendations of modest cuts and additional funding.



MANAGER'S REPORT CONTINUED

Work on the Big Dig is now more than 90% complete. Having said that, many of our employers are still busy on that mammoth project. Modern Continental, Barletta, S.I.W.P., Roads Corp., McCourt/Obayashi, Cashman, J. F. White, McCourt and MRP (Testa) all have sizable crews on the Dig. While the Power Plants are complete and on-line, work at Logan Airport continues.

While hours of work for our members are off by 14.5% (we had budgeted 16%), and pockets of unemployment remain, 2003 will still surpass all of the years of the 80's and most of the 1990's. I expect we'll work more than 6.6 million hours this year. Had we not used the Cooperative Trust, the Big Dig and the good economic growth as the device to take back our industry, Massachusetts would now mirror Maine after the paper mill expansions and New Hampshire after Seabrook Station.

On the horizon are the widening of Route 128 from the Braintree split to the Mass Pike, and the widening of Route 3 from Weymouth to the Bridge. These projects are expected to use alternative bid processes to speed construction. Also ready to get back on track is Cashman's Greenbush Line. The Federal Budget allocation (and the State revolving funds) for Sewer & Water projects also proves the value of the attention we have paid to this growing industry sector.



RON BURNAP

I'd like to thank everyone who helped raise money, and gave of their time and talent, for two very worthwhile causes. **Dad's Day**, (Dollars Against Diabetes) to help fight diabetes, and the **AFL-CIO, Walk to Cure Cancer** at the U Mass Campus in Worcester. With the

donations from the S.A.C. Fund, our members, and very generous donation from the J. H. Lynch & Sons Company, we were able to raise nearly \$15,000 to help to find a cure for cancer.

Work on the University of Massachusetts Campus, and the new Worcester Vocational School, is well under way. We were unsuccessful with the Worcester Bridge Rehabilitation job at \$15 million, but the Route 146 Relocation at \$38,000,000 was won by the J. F. White Contracting Co.

The new Worcester Courthouse is in the news again. Governor Mitt Romney's administration is looking to see if the State can afford to build it. He should try and learn if our justice system can afford NOT to build it.

I guess Mitt has never spent a day in the jury waiting room, or walking the crowded dark halls to a small outdated court room for a hearing. These buildings were fine in the early 1900's, but not now. We need this project so Worcester can continue to grow and we can all go back to work.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) requires that people who work on large, portable crushing plants have an MSHA certification. I've had a couple of contractors, when challenged, ask me to send them people who have MSHA certification. Right now, we only have a few of our members with this certification. To protect our jurisdiction, and increase your work opportunities, be in touch with Bill Mooney at the Training Center. We can put this class (and others) together over the winter months.



LOU RASETTA

I hope that you are all well, and are enjoying this fine autumn weather! The work situation in my area of coverage continues to improve with a number of fairly large projects set to get underway.

I hope that these new jobs will help to get our members with low hours a chance to reach the required hours needed to receive benefits.

Once again it is important to stress the need for all of our members to be equipped to carry out any assignment given to them. This includes having Hazmat certificates, Fork Lift licenses, Electric and Waste Water certificates, as well as upgrades to all our hoisting equipment licenses. If we're to be successful in our jurisdictional battles with the other trades, it is imperative that we be better equipped, more knowledgeable and vigilant in protecting what is rightfully ours.

It has been said that all good things must eventually end, and so it is with our job at the Mystic Edison Power Plant. Over the last five years, hundreds of our members have experienced wonderful work opportunities at this facility. Local 4 has done itself proud on this project, and we have been told by Raytheon Corporation that no one has ever exceeded the skill and professionalism of our members working on this site. Kevin Bennett, steward on this job, deserves a special "tip of the hat" for his work on this project. I'm sure that everyone who worked at this job site appreciates Kevin's fine work and dedication to our members.

In closing, I wish you all a prosperous fall season.



ROD GILLESPIE

On November 4th, Election Day in Maine, the Operating Engineers and other people around the State will be voting whether to allow the Passamaquoddy Tribe and Penobscot Nation to build a Resort Casino in Sanford, Maine. The Building Trades and developer Marnell Carrao from Las Vegas have negotiated and signed a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) to build this \$650 million, world class Resort.

This huge project includes a six-story, 875 room Victorian style hotel, a casino, convention center, theater, restaurants, parking garage and an eighteen hole golf course. Manpower estimates are for more than two thousand jobs during the 2 to 3 year construction period. There will be nearly 5,000 full time jobs when the resort is fully staffed, and 5,000 additional jobs outside the Casino for suppliers and vendors.

We're looking at two plus years of work for a large number of Operating Engineers. These are jobs we desperately need for our members and their families, but they will not become a reality unless we win the referendum in November. Some may not have a desire to ever visit a casino. I respect their views, but it's hard not to support an opportunity to put thousands of people to work in Maine at a time when jobs are scarce, and layoffs in the mills are part of the daily news. Marnell Carrao has built half of the casinos in Las Vegas, and has built another in Atlantic City. Their intent is to build one in Maine that everyone will be proud of, and build it better than their last one.

Please get out and support this exciting project and **Vote Yes on Question 3.** The latest polls have **Question 3** in a dead heat. The non-union contractors association is opposing this for obvious reasons, as are a number of the businesses like L.L. Bean, MBNA, Hussey Seats and Cianbro. They are opposed for one primary reason - they like being able to hire low wage workers with minimum benefits. **They don't want worker's wage rates to increase in Maine!**

In other news, we have 27 operators refueling Seabrook Station in New Hampshire. George Cairns Co. has a dozen operators working in North Conway reconstructing Routes 302 and 16. Maine Yankee Decommissioning Project has 16 operators on site and expects to go with this number through the winter and finish the major work by spring. Tetra Tech (Foster Wheeler) has a dozen operators on the Hazmat site in Kittery. Lane Construction's crews are trying to finish up paving projects before the frost shuts them down for another season. As you can see, the leaves are turning, and we know what comes next. Work safe and drive carefully on the highways.



JOHN PANARO
DIRECTOR OF ORGANIZING

I hope everyone is healthy and preparing for the winter, which we all know is right around the corner. Organizing is moving forward as we get stronger every day in various market sectors. As I've said before, organizing is difficult, frustrating and at times heart wrenching. With that statement, I want to take the time to introduce your full time organizers.

Steve Wyman is a veteran organizer who's been on staff for five years. He's as good as anybody in the business. **Paul DiMinico** and **Chris Fogarty** have been organizers for 3 years and can do it all. **Mike Bowes** and **Peter Bernazzani** caught on quickly because the veteran organizers believe in the "team concept." **Bruce Green** is making an exceptional effort in Maine. With a year under his belt, he's in the most challenging area of Local 4's jurisdiction. All these Organizers have earned and deserve our thanks.

J. D'Amico Co., Randolph, MA - Twelve new members were added to our rolls with the signing of this company. This third generation Sewer & Water, family contractor, is a big signing for Local 4 because of their well established reputation as a contractor and the addition to our growing market share. We have placed 3 veteran operators with the company so far. Organizer **Steve Wyman** spent endless hours including many weekends on this multi year campaign.

Revoli Construction, Reading, MA - Organizer **Steve Wyman** started this campaign over 3 years ago. There were many bumps in the road, but victory was the end result because of hard work and long hours. This prominent Utility Contractor is already signed to our Master Agreement, and has hired more than half his workforce from us. The signing of this Shop Agreement adds 11 new members to our ranks.

Bro-Con, Fitchburg, MA - Owner Claude Whitman looks to grow and expand with the help of our membership. Organizer **Paul DiMinico** did a fine job signing another Sewer & Water Contractor. This Agreement brings 2 new members into the Local. We have placed 2 equipment operators with the Company so far.

Site System, New Bedford, MA - This minority company adds 1 new member to our Local. They have hired 4 of our members already. **Organizing creates work for the membership.**

Pisani Crane, Franklin, MA - Owner Steve Pisani looks to grow and expand with the use of our Local membership. The

Local will add 2 new members. The Company has already hired 2 veteran operators from our membership ranks. Organizer **Mike Bowes** developed a level of trust with the owner and that helped the signing of this crane rental company.

Local 4 would like to acknowledge the signing of the following companies, and welcome them into Local 4:

TIECO Marine LTD, Alexandria Bay, NY - 2 operators placed with the Company;

M & X Utility Company Inc., Dorchester, MA - 2 operators placed with the Company;

Carlin Contracting Inc., Waterford, CT - will use the Local's membership;

Pelletier Logging Inc., Ipswich, NH - signed with Local 98, will use the Local's membership;

Interstate Construction & Development, E. Bridgewater, MA - will use our members;

Letourneau Products, Freetown, MA - Shop Agreement signed 1 new member;

Affordable Excavating, Brewster, MA - 1 member placed with the Company;

Second Generation, Bellingham, MA - Shop Agreement signed adding 1 new member;

Sentry Fence & Iron Company, North Reading, MA - 1 member placed with the Company;

Marotta Contracting LLC, Lynn MA - 1 member placed with the Company;

L J Heavy & Hauling, Cranston RI - 2 operators placed with the Company already;

North Shore Marine Inc., Salem, MA - will use the Local's membership;

United Stone & Site Inc., Canton, MA - 1 equipment operator was placed with the Company;

Caracas Construction Corporation, Ludlow, MA - signed with Local 98, will use the Local's membership;

As you can see, Local 4 has an Organizing Strategy that is effective and is creating work opportunities for you every day.

The **Rocky Hill Quarry** (18 members) located in Elliott, Maine, was sold to Pike Industries, an open shop company. Pike Industries Inc. notified Local 4 that they have set aside the Collective Bargaining Agreement, and have imposed their own terms and conditions. Work offers were made to a majority of our former bargaining unit employees at the new facility. Rod Gillespie, Bruce Green and myself met with the Company attorney last Friday, and are scheduled to meet the next three Fridays in Portland - as Pike's attorney said "to bargain in good faith." Stay tuned . . .



DAVID FANTINI

As another construction season draws to a close, work opportunities were less plentiful than last year. The State's budget will determine what the new year will bring.

Modern Continental continues to push hard on their Route 3 North Project.

They plan on having six lanes of highway open, from New Hampshire to Route 128, by the end of November. The Design Build concept seems to be the wave of the future, and it's been the talent of the Local 4 operators who have made this possible. Both Mass Highway and Modern Continental have continuously complimented the talent and professionalism of the Operating Engineers on this project.

The Maritimes and Northeast Pipeline Project has just about come to an end with only a handful of people still on site. This project, and the related offshore work, turned out to be excellent jobs for our members in a difficult year. These projects were responsible for a number of our members getting their hours.

Carlin Contracting, a recently signed company with Local 4, has started work on the Billerica Water Treatment Plant. Letourneau Land Clearing, A-Plus Survey and Webster Engineering are already on site. J. F. White has also begun to mobilize for the reconstruction of a bridge in downtown Haverhill. Trailers are on site, and preliminary work should begin soon.

Marios Brothers, MDR Contracting, G. Conway Company and S & R Contracting are all busy with multiple jobs in the area. Marios has site work in Ipswich and Bedford. MDR has road reconstruction in Chelmsford and site work in Ipswich, and Conway is busy in Groveland and Wilmington. S & R has two bridges, a large demo job, and a pier project on the Merrimack River, all in the city of Lowell.

I'd like to ask that any members living in Wilmington or Tewksbury to please be in touch with me. There is a proposal to build a \$300 million Mall off the side of Route 93. There is going to be a series of town meetings where it will be important for us to be involved and to be heard.

Win a 2003 Harley-Davidson

The Labor Guild will raffle a Silver and Black, 2003 Road King Classic, Harley-Davidson, to help defray the cost of their relocation. Tickets are \$100.00 and only 500 tickets will be sold.

For tickets call the Labor Guild at 781.340.7887.



NORMAN TEED

The fall season is quietly embracing our area putting that nip back in the overnight air reminding us that winter is just around the corner. Hopefully, this winter will not be as tough as last year's. But whatever it brings, it will close out what has been a lackluster construction season for work opportunities in the south of Boston area.

I hope that all our Brothers and Sisters remember what the republican administration in Washington and our State House have done for us in providing funding for highway and bridge work these past few years. The time to show our appreciation will be in the 2004 election cycle. We need to vote on these bread and butter issues. Electing a president and governor who will provide funding for work opportunities not subsidizing big business and the rich.

Governor Romney has finally approved work to proceed on the M.B.T.A. Greenbush Line through Weymouth, Hingham, Cohasset and Scituate. What the construction schedule for this winter will be has not been clarified by the J. Cashman Company as yet, but anything will be welcomed.

The tunnel boring at J. F. Shea's Fall River Project is almost finished. This employer has praised the efforts of our Operating Engineers working on site. Keep up the good work!

What has been positive this season is the competitiveness of our signatory contractors bidding and winning sewer, water and excavation work on the south shore. The key is the talent of our Brother and Sister members to competently and efficiently operate the equipment needed to complete the work on time and under budget. Hopefully, there will be a push to complete work by our employers before the season closes in on us providing some more work opportunities for our members. Keep in touch.



BILL O'KEEFE

I'm pleased to say work in the 128 Perimeter area has picked up. The wet spring and Massachusetts' unstable fiscal picture had slowed work substantially.

The weather has improved, and the State has stabilized its revenue picture. The employment picture has improved and future projects are on track.

Paving work has improved with the start of the new fiscal year. Sewer and water projects continue to provide employment for Local 4 members throughout the area.

Many colleges and universities have started, or are planning projects in the near future. Those underway include Salem State College, a \$25 million residence hall; Wellesley College, a parking garage and science building; Orlin College of Engineering in Dedham is planning \$20 million for 2 new buildings and Brandies University's Heller School is planning a \$12 million addition. Some college projects have been deferred. Those include a \$7 million under graduate building at Wellesley College, and the \$37.5 million Yawkey Athletic Center at Boston College.

Retail projects continue to provide jobs for our members. The \$62 million Walker Brook Project in Reading has D. W. White on the site work, Francour on the piles, and Capco erecting the steel. Two shopping centers in the Natick area will be renovated and added to for \$18 million.

Housing projects that are planned or started include Walpole, \$25 million; Peabody, \$30 million; and Waltham, \$20 million. Site contractors signatory to IUOE Local 4 are pursuing these projects.

Many of our employers will not bid public school work because of the No File Sub Bid Law covering site work. The General Contractor controls payments to site sub-contractors on these projects. This abuse of our contractors must be addressed by the State Legislature.

School projects in Massachusetts account for a large part of the public money spent on construction. Public school projects planned or started in the 128 Perimeter area include Waltham Middle School, \$24 million; Elementary School, \$12 million; plus two deferred projects for \$25 million; Reading High School, \$54 million; Needham High School, \$51 million and Dedham Middle School, \$21 million.

Approximately \$400 million in school construction has been deferred until The Commonwealth gets its financial house in order. These projects are needed for our children and to jump start our economy. I'll see you on the job.

APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for Local 4's Apprenticeship Program will be available during the month of November. Applicants must apply in person at our Training Facility in Canton **every hour on the hour between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday only.**

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older, and physically capable of performing the work. They must have a high school education or equivalent, and reside within the jurisdiction of Local 4. **They must have a valid driver's license and a Social Security card in their possession.** They must also meet the requirements of the INA Act of 1986.

They may call the Training Center for directions at 781.821.0306.

LOCAL HONORS FIFTY-YEAR MEMBERS

On September 17th we recognized, and granted **HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP**, to the following 11 men who attained fifty years of continuous good standing in our Union!

In addition to their Gold Cards, the attendees received a Fifty-year Certificate, watch and lapel pin.

Thomas P. Billings	Edward F. Peters
Robert E. Dragoo	Joseph Pichetti
Fred A. Egizio	Clarence W. Ryder
Leonard J. Francis	A. Eugene Smith
Wesley R. Landry	Joseph L. Sullivan
William L. McGrath	

Unfortunately, A. Eugene Smith passed away on August 8th before he was able to receive his Honorary Membership.



Business Manager Bill Ryan is presenting Ed Peters with his 50-year Certificate flanked by President Lou Rasetta, Recording Secretary Norman Teed and Treasurer Paul Hayes



Accepting his 50-year Certificate from Business Manager Bill Ryan is Joe Sullivan with President Lou Rasetta, Recording Secretary Norman Teed and Treasurer Paul Hayes.

IN MEMORIAM

The Officers and members of the Local offer their sincere condolence to the families and friends of the following:

Hollis R. Batron	Victor J. Russo
James R. Callahan III	Lewis W. Sanders III
Charles A. Cardillo	Jeff C. Silva
Stephen J. Chapman	A. Eugene Smith
Constantino Federico	Frank A. Spoon
John Ferraro, Jr.	Anthony E. Toti, Sr.
Frank W. Lanza	George E. Wheeler
Roy Medeiros	

IN RETIREMENT

We wish a long, healthy and well deserved retirement to the following:

Dean R. Barber, Sr.	Americo Ferreira
Richard Clemence	Richard Marshall
Curtis Cobb	Charles E. Moore
John J. DeCoteau	George Nunes

Fraternally yours,

William P. Ryan
Business Manager