

LOCAL 4

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

AFL-CIO

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NOTIFIED MEETING

The Quarterly Notified Meeting Will be held 8:00 P.M. Wednesday, April 16, 2003, at Florian Hall, 55 Hallet Street, Dorchester, MA. The Officers will read their quarterly reports.

Dues for the current quarter, April, May and June, 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

A recommendation from the Executive Board will be offered to the body as a motion, as to the distribution of the future wage increases (construction agreements), and to distribution of upcoming wage increases in all other bargaining units (Shops, Quarry, etc.) Discussion will follow.

Health & Welfare Funding Crisis: No other issue has received more coverage in the national media, at the Union Meetings, and in our NewsLetter, than the rapidly escalating cost of health care. For the past four years I have written extensively on the abuse in our Nation's health care delivery system, and the systematic plundering of consumers at the hands of the publically traded pharmacy companies.

We have just completed the two best years of work in Local 4's history. In 2001 we worked 7.8 million hours. Last year those hours slipped slightly to 7.6 million. These numbers reflect more than 3 million hours of work above our highest point in the 1980's. In spite of this exceptional work, our Health & Welfare Fund lost \$1,000,000 in 2001, and \$3,560,000 in the year just ended.

Our consultants project a deficit this year of \$7,500,000, a three year total shortfall of \$12,000,000.

We are faced with the dual, and competing responsibilities, of providing health care coverage to our families, and the need to not allow our Health & Welfare Fund to slip into bankruptcy.

TRAINING CENTER

With the construction season limping out of the starting gate, the membership is anxious to get back to work. Many have failed to make themselves marketable in a changing economy by acquiring the necessary certifications and licences. With Homeland Security requirements imposed on many sites, it is important to have a five-year work history prepared and to be drug free.

Call the Operating Engineer's Training Center (781.821.0306) for classes that will assist you in broadening your operating skills, and call Modern Assistance Program (617.774.0331) for confidential help with any problems of alcohol or substance abuse issues.

IUOE 36TH GENERAL CONVENTION

At the February 16th election for Delegates to the General Convention, the following candidates were elected:

Kevin P. Bennett
Paul J. Hayes
William D. McLaughlin
Norman A. Teed

Charles C. DiPietro
Robert W. Leatherbee
Paul D. Mogavero

Anthony J Fusco
Edward G. McLaughlin
John C. Panaro

These elected Delegates will join **Business Manager William P. Ryan** and **President Louis G. Rasetta**, who are ex-officio delegates to the Convention in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, for the start of the 36th General Convention on April 6, 2003. Among the Amendments to the Constitution will be an increase in the per-capita tax the Local must remit to the International Union on each member, each month. The current per-capita tax is \$7.00 per member, per month or nearly \$40,000 per month. On July 1, 2003, it is projected to increase to \$7.75 per, member, per month or \$44,290 each month.

WORK OUTLOOK

The 2003 construction season is off to a slow start after a long and hard winter. We have budgeted a 16% reduction in the expected hours of work for the year. Many of the big projects are nearing completion, and this fact, when coupled with a sluggish economy, requires us to maintain a guarded outlook for work for the year. Our organizing efforts take on added importance, if we're to continue to increase market share, and create additional work opportunities for our members.

MEDWAY OFFICE BUILDING

On Tuesday afternoon, March 25th, the officers of the Operating Engineers Local 4 Building Corporation closed on the building we are buying in Medway. Located just six-tenths of a mile east of Route 495, this location is very convenient for the majority of our Massachusetts members. Constructed less than a decade ago as the New England regional office for Kiewit Construction, this building and its site are in prime condition. The office hopes to be able to have necessary remodeling accomplished, and to be relocated by early June. This 17,000 sq. ft. building, is located on a 13 acre site. It will permit the Agents, Organizers and staff, to have sufficient space to meet the demands of a growing and dynamic Local Union.

The Building Corporation will lease to the Training Center a state-of-the-art, 10,000 sq. ft., fully equipped, three bay, mechanic's shop, and a very large fenced-in area. Our Training Center will use this satellite location to relieve some of the pressure from a busy and congested site in Canton. With the large paved area required by the State Police, it is expected that CDL training and licensing will move to Medway. Currently there are three cranes in the middle of the Canton site, used to certify crane operators, under the **National Certification of Crane Operators** program. With these three rigs moved to Medway, the Canton site becomes more valuable for training our earthmoving operators.

For the near term (nine to 15 months), we will lease back to the owner 6,200 sq. ft. of space as they close out claims on the Central Artery Project. Subsequent to that space becoming available, the plan is to then move our Fund operations into this building.

Fraternally yours,



Business Manager