



2017 Bi-Annual Newsletter

Brothers and Sisters,

Our Union is strong, growing and forging new relationships through contractor relations, special projects such as Helmets to Hardhats and our most valuable asset our training. We are developing new relationships with regional leaders at the county level in our jurisdiction and also at our State Capital on both sides of the aisle to showcase the advantages of skilled labor and what this means to our respective communities. We have developed a PAC Fund which is registered with the State of Georgia and have respective by-laws that read that no money is to be donated to any politician that does not have the agenda that benefits more jobs and opportunities for Operating Engineers no matter what party affiliation they represent. Politics is a business and it has to benefit more opportunities for our contractors, whether it's private projects, work with the City of Atlanta, pipeline, or industrial which in turn helps our membership with jobs.

On June 1, 2017 we showcased our skills and training to U.S. Congressmen, State Senators, House of Representatives of the State Of Georgia, Georgia AFL-CIO, Workforce Development and contractors showcasing what it means to be an Operating Engineer of Local 926, with a career that elevates individuals into the middle class economic structure through skills training and benefits through collective bargaining. Signatory contractors such as Maxim Crane, J. M. Wilkerson, Dennis Taylor and Company, Heaton Erecting, Boyette Brothers and Derr Isbell Construction were present and we appreciate them taking time out of their schedules to participate and show the value of the Joint Apprenticeship Program.

We all agree that more needs to be done for our troops and our commitment has been to find a way for a soldier who is out-processing, can come into an apprenticeship program through direct entry, learn the basics enough to transfer to an apprenticeship program with the Operating Engineers throughout the country close to their home or work for one of our contractors at the base. This is the program that we are developing and we are very excited about at Fort Benning to give soldiers a real opportunity with a career and a real retirement! Once this program is developed it will forge more organizing opportunities in the Columbus, Georgia area which will instantly impact that region in their standard of living.

The organizing team consists of YOU and every member of the men and women out in the field talking about the advantages of being in a Union, at the training site developing apprentices or giving assessment tests, or at the Hall developing relationships with contractors, politicians or recruitment and what our expectations are and carried forward to the jobsite.

It is not a secret that we have the best operators in the business in which we represent and we are the best value for the dollar for the contractor. "On Time and Under Budget with Results" is our slogan and it's because we do things right the first time and safely so everyone goes home to their families after an honest day's work. We are working on many projects and a clear vision for our future together, listed below are a few of the highlights and where we are at with ongoing objectives.

❖ Building For Our Future

Apprenticeship Programs are being established all across this country by many Non-union companies and their intentions are to develop programs so they can establish low paying jobs and fewer benefits. With this being stated there are real opportunities in key areas that will help us gain market share and/or opportunities with new contractors by showing the value of one of our most prized assets.....our training.

1) **Surveying** – Through negotiations we have secured two contractors willing to help sponsor and develop this new endeavor that will help us secure the prevailing wage rate and grow our membership. With the help of Local 15 in New York we have an accredited training program and are presently looking for a start date for a small group of apprentices to begin their careers as Operating Engineers.

2) **GPS Systems** – I will be the first to state that there is NO replacement developing a skilled operator in our training, but this is merely a guide like a computer is for a crane operator, with this addition we will be able to provide more training opportunities for our members, contractors and grow our membership which will help us grow market share. We have sent our Training Director & Instructor to this training and have been building a relationship with the local John Deere Dealer in hopes for more opportunities of working together.

3) **Drones** – Technology in this field is changing rapidly and the opportunities are endless. A background check and other requirements are subject in order to earn this license, but having this certification will definitely be an advantage for the member and provide more opportunities.

4) **Stationary Engineers Training** – We have successfully negotiated in our Federal Contracts a contribution amount to help in a training certification and certificate program developed by the National Training Fund for stationary engineers this will help grow our training facility.

Please make sure you stay on top of your certifications and when given the opportunities look for more to attain which helps you get the next job.

Monthly Union Meetings are on the 3rd Friday at 7:30pm

May God Bless You, Your Family and God Bless the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 926.



IUOE Local 926 Executive Board Members

Mitch Byrd	Bus. Manager & Fin. Secretary
Jeff Haire	President
Johnny Spann	Vice-President
Richard Shakespeare	Treasurer
Chris Carr	Rec/Corresponding Secretary
Gary Mashburn	Conductor
David Clegg	Guard

<u>Trustees</u>	<u>Auditors</u>
Dennis Clayton	Edward Caines
Jeff Wilson	Ross Powell
	Mark Templeton



In April of this year, the Local started a political action committee, the Operating Engineers Legislative and Political Action Committee (OELPAC). The Committee currently has ten members, with Mitch Byrd serving as Chairman, Rich Shakespeare as Treasurer, and I as Political Director. The purpose of the OELPAC is to engage local and state politicians, and candidates for political office, for the betterment of the economic conditions of the members of Organized Labor, and ALL Georgians. Those candidates that express the same interests as the OELPAC, and who will actively support our agenda, could receive support, in various forms, from the PAC. It will not matter what political party they represent, only that they support Organized Labor and its role in this state. We have made friends in the State House and Senate from both the Republican and Democratic side. In our short time in existence, we have made two endorsements: Vincent Fort for Mayor of Atlanta, and Stacey Abrams for Governor of Georgia. These endorsements have included contributions to their respective campaigns. These endorsements were not made lightly. Both of these candidates have committed to working for, and with, Organized Labor for the betterment of all citizens of their respective offices. The Chairman and I have both had several meetings with these candidates, and each of them is actively working with Organized Labor. I urge each of our members to check out each of these candidates, and to attend one of their events. As news of an upcoming event is known, it will be posted on the Local's website. Also, as of July 1, the Local has started a Voluntary Check-off fund to help support the OELPAC. It is one-half of one percent (1/2 of 1%) of net wages. If you are interested in supporting the OELPAC through the check-off, contact the Hall for further information. This is a VOLUNTARY check-off. If you do not wish to contribute, you are not required to contribute. If you have any questions concerning the OELPAC, you can contact me at jeff@iuoe926.org.

President Jeff O. Haire



ORGANIZING DEPARTMENT

Since the beginning of the year, we have added a new addition to the organizing department - Chris Carr. We are excited and happy that Chris has joined our team and look forward to what he has to offer. With half the year already gone we have been very busy. The organizing department has been involved with several job fairs and career days, which helps us steer young adults towards IUOE, and helps us advertise local 926. The organizing department has put on a couple of New Member/ Union History classes for everyone who wants to become a member. The last class of the year will be held on October 27th. If you know of anyone wants to become a member or has never been through this class please encourage them to attend.

The organizing team has been busy stripping good operators from the non-union side. We have literally been climbing tower cranes and sneaking on to jobsites to talk to operators. If you ever see a good operator stop and talk to them, get their name and number and send it to either Anthony Nash (404-372-3049) or Chris Carr (404-277-0902). Also, with the new addition of the surveyor training if you know of any surveyor, help us to get in contact with them. You, as a rank and file member, are Local 926's greatest assets, and every member out in the fields can help grow our local.

We have been heavily involved with organizing crane, dirt, and paving companies. Recently, against one of the paving companies with which we have been working, we have been able to file an unfair labor practice for unfair treatment of a union supporter. We have been putting pressure on both owners of the company and have a few more job actions that will be taking place soon.

Four Seasons Environmental has been in steady negotiation with local 926 so we have been consistently house calling all 180 workers as well as gaining new authorization cards from their new hires. In June, the organizing department was asked to help one of our brother locals progress their organizing efforts. We were sent to Local 501 in the LA area to help them with several job actions and hand billing. We were successful in shutting down one of their shareholder's meetings as well as getting law enforcement called on us almost every day.

We are very blessed with being tasked to help take on this fight and to grow our local. If any member has any questions at all about organizing, please do not hesitate to reach out at any time. We, as a team, are here to support any organizing efforts that may be brought to us. We are always happy to hear your ideas and feedback.



Wow, 2017 is now over halfway over, and it has been great so far. Work is busier now than any time in recent memory. We were able to bring in a new class of apprentices in May and are talking about another before the end of the year. The new class, along with the graduation of Dustin Mull (12/14/16), Joe Jenkins (1/25/17) and Anthony Crisp (3/2/17) brought us to a total of 25 apprentices.

The government program that the training site had been getting equipment from for the last forty plus years has been taken away from all I.U.O.E training sites across North America. The shutdown and possibility of a permanent closure of this program left us to look for other means of obtaining resources. One way is W.I.O.A. (workforce investment opportunity act) which contributes funds to the program for apprentices that qualify for these services. Two, the pipeline work in our jurisdiction, which is always a big man hour type work. Three, is our signatory contractors, through contract negotiations, saw the need for improved funding of our training site. Four, is the membership, who agreed during wage disbursements for increased funding of the J.A.T.P. The vision is for members and apprentices to train on the same equipment that they will see on the job. The training site is for all members to use, but even if you do not always have the opportunity, others that can will help improve the skills of our craft that will secure the future of our membership and our local moving to the future. All of this has lead us the ability to refurbish our friction crane, paint the building and purchase a 2014 John Deere 650 dozer with GPS capabilities and a 2017 Cat 259D compact loader with a bushog attachment.

We at the training site have also been busy keeping up our certifications and going to classes to obtain new ones. We have been to a TOPCON GPS class to become familiar with this system and get curriculum to bring back to the membership. Development of this class is underway. We also attended a drone class to prepare for getting a pilot's license which is necessary for anyone making commerce during the flying of drones. The use of GPS along with drones will all tie in with the surveyors' program, which is also under development. These are all new horizons for all of us but if we do not stay up with technology we will get left behind.

Director Rich Shakespeare, Instructor Gary Mashburn and Linda Bailey Secretary



Summer is here and so is the WORK.

With the continuing growth of the economy, the building and maintenance industry is growing rapidly along with all the support it will need to keep up with the demand. Operating Engineers are always on the front lines ready and prepared to meet the demands of our contractors. This is why it is so important for all of us to stay up to date with training and certifications to keep up with the growing industry. Not only do we want to make ourselves more valuable, but we want to continue to meet our contractor's needs. Once again, I cannot stress the importance of maintaining your certifications along with the necessary training that keeps us working to support our families.

Recently, after attending the Georgia Labor Management and South Atlantic Conferences, we have opened the doors to the surrounding Locals and Affiliates to the importance and value of having their partnership in growing a larger footprint in Georgia. This includes all of us continuing to do the best job we can, and to be proud of our accomplishments. At this time, we are beginning to see the final products of everyone's hard work with the finishing of two new stadiums in Atlanta and many other projects along the way. Another example of hard work is the Dalton Expansion (pipeline) which is wrapping up another successful job, and looking forward to the news of more work coming into the area.

Moving toward the future, we are looking forward to over 3 billion dollars of expansions to the Atlanta Airport along with all of the Tower Cranes in Atlanta popping up everywhere bringing the demand for skilled and qualified operators. Your team here at Local 926 is working hard to meet the challenges of filling these jobs for our contractors and appreciate your support. It is the job of every one of us to grow and support this Local and to be a leader in the industry. This is why it is so important that we all keep our eyes and ears open, and continue to be active in supporting our brothers and sisters.

In closing, I would personally like to thank each and everybody for their hard work and professionalism in supporting our Contractors, and I look forward to working with you as we continue to grow. While on the subject of growth, don't forget to look at those paychecks for the raises that came into effect July 1st.

Business Agent Updates from Mark Templeton



Dear Brothers, and Sisters:

I hope the first half of 2017 has went well for all. A lot has been going on with the Stationary Local 926 has agreed to a collective bargaining agreement with Four Seasons Environmental at the CDC we are currently working on getting that contract ratified, and in place to start improving these workers lives.

We have just recently negotiated very good wage, and fringe increases at the Richard B. Russell, / Martin Luther King Buildings, as well as the Sam Nunn Building. We have two more negotiations due up between now and January and hope to keep the momentum going.

We have been working diligently with the Helmets, to Hardhats program to get a program kicked off in the state of Georgia. We will be having our second meeting on July 14, 2017 at Ft. Benning. This is a great program for all involved the Union, the Government, and most importantly our US Service Men, and Women. This program will allow departing Service Members to work their last six months of active duty with the Union of their choice. Local 926 has already provided the Public Works Department with a program to do erosion control work on post with these soldiers which will save the Government money, and start turning out site work operators in this area. We hope with this new manpower it will give our organizers the opportunity to organize in our area.

If any of you know someone in the Atlanta area with commercial HVAC experience please have them send a resume to the office. We have a shortage in this field, and others that we hope our new Stationary Engineer Training Program will correct, but in the meantime, we need skilled craftsmen now.

Thank you.
David Clegg



For eligibility of the **Group Life Insurance Policy**, and the added \$8,000 Accidental Death Policy (*actively working members only*)—your Union Dues must be paid current or in advance at the time of death for either of the stated benefits to be paid to your beneficiary. Also, through American Income Life Ins. Company there is an additional Accidental Death Benefit of \$2,500 for all members who are current on Union Dues.

Basic rules for CPF retirement:

Vesting: 5 years of service *with the Central Pension Fund* - *If you are considering retirement, please contact us approximately 45 days prior to the effective date of retirement.*

Eligibility:

Normal Age—65;

Special Age—62 with 25 years of service;

Early Age—55 with 10 years—there is a 3% per year penalty (from age 65)

Basic eligibility for Retiree Health Insurance:

Southern Operators Health Fund – must be retired and receiving pension from CPF; be age 62 with no lapse in coverage for the previous 24 months; enrolled in Medicare A & B immediately upon eligibility.



Monthly Union Dues Increase

July 1, 2017

Active Members	Retired Members
\$8000 Life Insurance + Accidental Death Policy	\$4000 Life Insurance
\$29.00 monthly	\$16.00 monthly
\$87.00 quarterly	\$48.00 quarterly
\$174.00 bi-annually	\$96.00 bi-annual
\$348.00 annually	\$192.00 annually

We are no longer mailing delinquent notices.

REMEMBER to check your payment records to ensure your Monthly Union Dues are current.

IUOE LOCAL 926 ~ Newsletter
PO BOX 170
REX, GA 30273