Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I can’t emphasize the importance of training and keeping up with one’s own skill set. Many of the collective agreements administered by the Operating Engineers have a training component built into them. For those who do not currently have a training component, the employer, through the need to comply with the Occupational Health and Safety Act, shall provide training to their employees.

We often go about our day not thinking of the need for training. Not only does it provide us with a better understanding of the health and safety concerns, it also provides you, the member, with the means to find other employment if, and when, the need arises.

Have you ever asked yourself “I’ve been at the same employer for twenty years, and what if the company falls into receivership? Will I be able to bounce back from this and get another similar job?” The answer to this may not be favourable if your skill set hasn’t been maintained.

As a union, we fully believe in training and education. This is what differentiates us with our competitors. OE 987 always publicizes to contractors and owners, that our people are the best trained, most knowledgeable, efficient, and safest workers in the industry. Let us be able to continue to say this to them with confidence.

In solidarity,

Marc Lafond

Business Manager
Please welcome the newest member of our team, Vince Johnson. Vince brings with him over 10 years’ experience working as a materials dispatcher at the Seven Oaks Hospital, where he has always been a union member. As well, his Father has been an active member of Local 987 for 33 years, taking up the role of Shop Steward for many units. In August of 2014, the Operating Engineers of Manitoba, Local 987 welcomed him to the organization where he is now employed as a Business Agent/Organizer. As a new Business Agent for the union, he hopes to certify and educate non-union and union employees alike to help them achieve their goals as proud, hard-working Manitobans. He truly looks forward to the challenge of creating a positive change to benefit as many people as he can.

OE 987 would like to congratulate Janice Chase, Business Representative on her retirement on June 30, 2014.

Janice joined the union staff in September of 2007 where she came on board due to a merger between SEIU into OE987. She previously worked for the SEIU as a business representative for many years before she joined our organization working in that same capacity. During her employment with the union, she has diligently supported most of the rural municipalities, as well as several health care units we currently have under our umbrella.

She will be missed & we wish her all the best during the next chapter of her life!
Congratulations to our members for having attained 30 years and over membership in the Operating Engineers of MB Local 987!

Every year the Operating Engineers of MB presents an OE Local 978 gold watch to those members who have attained 30 years and over membership, to commemorate their achievement.

Over the years we have been fortunate to have a very stable and committed unit of members who are hard working, and first-rate at their occupations.

This year, the following members attained membership of 30 years and over:

- BERARD, William - 987
- HAIGHT, Deen - 987
- LESLIE, Ronald - 987
- SHABAGA, Grant - 987
- ZDARSKI, Vinnie - 987
- FAVREAU, Maurice - 987
- JEANSON, Joanne - 987D
- RIVARD, Marc - 987D
- THIESSEN, William - 987
- BERDZIETNY, Stan - 987A
- HIEBERT, Werner - 987A
- MATHEWS, Lynn - 987
- SNOWDON, Michael - 987
- BEER, Gerald - 987D
- FONTAINE, Guy - 987
- LEBLANC, Albert - 987
- SENKIW, Mary - 987D
- YAKYMOW, Paul - 987
- TAIT, Fred - 987
- HUNNIE, Harold - 987
- MCINTYRE, Lindsay - 987A
- SUTHERLAND, Grant - 987A
- BERNARD, Roland - 987
- HALBRICH, David - 987A
- MARTEL, Glenn - 987
- SHABAGA, Mark - 987
- JOHNSTON, Halli - 987
- FITZGERALD, Kevin - 987A
- LAJOIE, Gerry - 987
- RYLAND, Ron - 987A
- THOMAS, David - 987
- BRATHWAITE, Barbara - 987D
- HOWARDSON, Darrell - 987
- MCCULLOCH, David - 987D
- STEPHENS, Donald - 987A

We are very pleased to recognize these loyal members, who are a great example of how hard work and dedication pays off. While they illustrate persistence and commitment to their industries and trades, they become a model for those who are new to the union, showing what they too, can achieve in the future.

Business Manager Marc Lafond presents gold watch to Roland Bernard, a member of 987 for over 32 years.

President Belinda Blanchard presents gold watch to Dave Thomas, a member of 987 for over 31 years.

Fred Tait, a member of 987 for over 35 years, accepts his gold watch from Business Manager Marc Lafond and Vice President Patrick Campbell.
The OE987 first ever picnic on Sunday, June 22nd, went off without a hitch and included a lot of sun, fun & great food! The morning started off with warm sunshine, a slight breeze, and it appeared we picked a perfect day for a picnic. Members and their families started trickling in early in the afternoon, and you could see the excitement on the youngsters’ faces as they made their way over to the children’s activity area. The little ones got to play the bean bag toss, some played soccer, others had a great time jumping around in the big Mickey Mouse bouncy castle!

There was face painting, kite flying, and some got a chance to operate the mini excavators which they absolutely loved! Others took the opportunity to ride in the cab of an actual crane, creating exciting memories for parents & children alike.

We had two experienced grillers serving up hamburgers & hot dogs of which there was plenty to go around. There was loads of chips & pop, and even a popcorn machine making fresh buttery popcorn!

Hong Tang, an employee at Misericordia Health Centre, and a member of local 987 for over 15 years, said that the highlights of the picnic for him was the great food and activities. He was very glad that members, families and their friends had this opportunity to get a glimpse of the union’s facilities and how they operate. He also mentioned that the picnic was well organized creating an enjoyable experience for everyone.
Overall the picnic was a lot of fun & we believe it has allowed our members to put a human face to our organization, and gave them a better understanding of our vision for the union and it’s membership.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended, and we look forward with anticipation to the next picnic in the coming year!

Robert Kaderle, a member of local 987 for over 4 years who works at MB Housing, said that the best part for him was seeing his son taking the opportunity to be up on a real crane! As well, his daughter had a wonderful time having her face painted, and had a great time at all the activities.

Henry Menyer, who is also an employee at Misericordia Health Centre, has been a member of local 987 for over 5 years. He said that on the whole, the picnic was very exciting for him and his family, and the food was great. He mentioned that the kids had a great area to play in, and that his daughter loved being in the bouncy castle. As well, she got her face painted with beautiful blue clouds and stars which she displayed with pride!
Beginning in March 2014, OETIM delivered four Crane courses at the Red River College on behalf of Manitoba Apprenticeship which included two level 1, and two level 2 classes. Our success rate has exceeded previous years, and OETIM would like to thank our Instructors for their dedication and commitment to the industry. We continue to offer Heavy Equipment Operator training, and have been running courses consistently. Heavy construction projects will be starting in the North, therefore there is a lot of interest for Heavy Equipment training in that area. OETIM will be partnering with University College of the North to deliver this training.

At this time, we would like to welcome Jordan James, our new Program Coordinator to the OETIM team. Jordan previously worked as a Red Seal Crane Operator for over 10 years, and now brings his knowledge and experience to our institute. He is offering regular courses on zoom boom, skid steer, crane awareness, and basic rigging. Course dates are posted on OETIM’s website at oetim.com.

We have recently purchased a Caterpillar 252B2 Skid Steer. We will now be offering this training at the institute to members, delivered by our new Program Coordinator. All other training requests can be made directly to our office.

I encourage all members to check their safety certificates and expiration dates. Many courses are now available on-line, and therefore can be done at your convenience. Members who do not have a home computer, or who need assistance, please feel free to call the office and book a time to come into our training lab.

Hope you all have enjoyed the summer, and are optimistic despite the winter months ahead.

Sincerely,

Betty Lou Doerksen
Executive Director

Check out our website at www.oetim.com for upcoming course dates!

UPCOMING COURSES

- Powered Lift Truck (Zoom Boom)
  September 9 & 10, 2014
- Skid Steer
  Thursday, September 11, 2014
- H2S Alive
  Friday, September 19, 2014

CALL TO REGISTER 204-775-7059
or Toll Free 1-866-949-0333
Minimum number of students required.
Show Your Union Pride

Now Offering Class VII
Powered Lift Truck Certification & Re-Certification Courses

Meeting your current and future training needs!

If you would like to purchase a Local 987 shirt or hoodie please call (204) 786-8658 or come and see us at 244 Cree Crescent

For more information call us at 1-204-775-7059 or toll-free at 1-866-949-0333 visit us online at OETIM.COM

Now Offering Class VII
Powered Lift Truck Certification & Re-Certification Courses
Meeting Schedule

Winnipeg District Meeting: Thursday, December 4 at 244 Cree Crescent, Murray Industrial Park, Winnipeg at 7pm

Brandon District Meeting: Thursday, December 11, 2014 at the Trails West Inn, 210 - 18th Street North, Brandon starting at 7pm

Winnipeg General Membership Meeting: Sunday, Sept 21, 2014 at 1:00pm, 244 Cree Crescent

Christmas Open House 2014

Local 987 Christmas Open House will be held in Winnipeg on Friday, November 28th.

The Christmas Open House in Brandon will be on Thursday, December 11th, 2014.

In Memoriam

Robert C. Bryant
born 1940, deceased July 4, 2014

Renny Derkacz
born 1942, deceased July 21, 2014

Glen McLean
born 1945, deceased August 16, 2014

Roger Blanchette
born 1940, deceased September 4, 2014

Local 987 wishes to honour and thank our members who have recently passed away.

OE 987 would like to congratulate Aliya Wiebe and Abigail Street, both from Manitoba, who were the winners of The Canadian Conference bursary in 2014!

Bursary Application Deadline

Reminder to 987A/987D members who have dependents attending university or community college that bursary applications must be in by October 1st, 2014. Forms can be downloaded from our website at oe987.mb.ca.