



It Can Wait

Safety Day keynote speaker Karen Torres talks about her personal experience with distraction's unforgiving consequences. Karen says, "When you're behind the wheel, put it down. It can wait."

Taking Time Out for Safety

5,147 people never made it home from work in 2017 – that’s 5,147 lives that were taken by workplace accidents, all of which could have been prevented.



Employees spend time examining the equipment, products and services designed to help us complete our work safely and effectively. A representative of KB Sales is seen here showing Gas Operations’ Steve Hodge and Bob Culleney the range of ladders available.

Every day, Long Island native **Karen Torres** lives with the pain and anguish that lie in the wake of losing a loved one suddenly and senselessly. “We were just talking about our plans for the weekend and what I was going to make him for his birthday. Hours later, he was gone,” said Karen, as she recounted the last conversation she had with her father before he was fatally struck by a cement truck while making road repairs along Sunrise Highway on Long Island.

Patrick Mapleson was killed the day after his 66th birthday and seven months shy of his planned retirement. The driver of the cement truck had reached down to pick up a bottle of water that had slipped from his hands, taking his eyes off the road long enough to veer off course and into Patrick’s work zone.

“We all think it won’t happen to us, until it does,” Karen said. “There’s no luck in this. It’s about what you do and what you don’t do. Put it down, it can wait.” She encouraged all who attended our 2019 Safety Day to bring that message home to their families, and to drill it into their youngest drivers, citing car crashes as the #1 killer for teens 16-20.

With the largest Safety Day turnout on record, Karen’s powerful message promised to have a significant ripple effect. Over 780 employees attended this year’s Safety Day on May 6 and May 7 at The Castle in Chester, NY.

“This year, our team decided to host the event over the course of two days to encourage as many employees as possible to attend,” explained EHS&Q Specialist **Denise Coyle**, who’s been helping to plan Safety Day since the annual event was reintroduced at O&R in 2016.

“There’s so much that goes into Safety Day. Thanks to all the team members – union and management – who dedicated so much of their time to make this day as educational and impactful as possible. If everyone who attended brought something back that helps them stay safe – a renewed mindset, a better understanding of the PPE available, new contacts for guidance and advice – then we did our job,” said Safety Section Manager **Tom O’Connell**.

3 Sobering Facts

- 14 workers die every day on the job.
- Accidental injury is the third leading cause of death in the U.S.
- The three leading causes of injury are crashes, slips/falls and workplace violence

Source: National Safety Council



Full STE(A)M Ahead



Port Jervis Middle School Life Science teacher Megan Wieboldt briefs her seventh grade students on the finer points of operating a LEGO Mindstorms EV3 robot.



These fourth graders at Lincoln Elementary School in Pearl River are holding robots they will be programming to guide a tour of the map of New York.



Fifth graders at Northvale Elementary School shine as they inspect the inner workings of the solar power station built in their school's courtyard.

What better headline to cover this story on our 2019-2020 STEM grant reception than these words taken straight from a Twitter note posted by Stony Point Elementary School teacher **Jennifer LaBier**:

“Thank you @ORUConnect for all you do for our students! The class is so excited they won your grant. These third graders are full #STEM ahead,” Jennifer posted following O&R’s May 15 grant award reception held in our Spring Valley Auditorium.

“You could feel the electricity in the room. Everyone was buzzing with enthusiasm over what turned out to be our program’s best year yet,” said Strategic Partnerships Manager **Linda Feger**. This is the fifth year O&R has offered competitive STEM Classroom Grants and, with the support of Linda, Strategic Partnerships Associate Specialist **Lisa Culhane** and O&R’s Education Advisory Board, a record 63 grants were awarded totaling \$54,098.

The Education Advisory Board, made up of O&R employees and community educators, reviewed a total of 114 grants submitted this past winter. Our most recent batch of winning projects for grades Pre-K through 12th grade run the gamut of STEM studies from coding and engineering to green screen technology and simple and complex structures.

“When we look to the future of our business, it will be extremely important for us to attract skilled STEM professionals. There’s no better investment in securing a competitive next-generation workforce than to support STEM education among the young students here in our own backyard,” explained our President and CEO **Bob Sanchez**.

In a time where budgets are tight and getting tighter, the extra funds provided by our company to accelerate STEM education have not gone unappreciated.

“O&R has been very supportive and generous to us educators. I don’t know that everyone truly understands how much these grants mean to the teachers and the students,” said **Gregory Montague**, a STEM educator in Rockland County, who also sits on O&R’s Education Advisory Board, along with our own Senior Engineer **Anny Thomas**, Principal Engineer **Rollie Mangonon**, Corporate Affairs Manager **Kate Wysokowski** and retired educator **Curtis Helt**.

Make sure to remind the educators in your life that these grants are available. Keep an eye on *Currents*, *Conor* and *eBoards* this winter for information on the next application deadline.

Check out *Conor* for a video that brings you inside the classroom for a look at our STEM grants in action.

Inviting the Future Inside



Electric Operations’ Sandy Martinez and Ken Flessa, pictured far right, show RCC students the personal protective equipment (PPE) we use to work safely.

A team of O&R employees helped our company open up its doors to Rockland Community College (RCC) students interested in advancing their education in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

“We wanted to invite these undergrads behind the scenes here at O&R so they could start to envision the types of careers they can pursue in the utility industry,” explained Electric Operations General Manager **Orville Cocking**, who is also a member of RCC’s Foundation Board.

One of Orville’s goals as a board member is to inspire RCC students to reach past their associate degrees and continue their STEM studies. “RCC gives them a strong start, but we don’t want them to see it as the end of their journey, but only the beginning of the next chapter.”

During their April 12 visit to our Spring Valley campus, students learned about our electric distribution system, safe work practices, personal protective equipment and emergency response. Electric Operations Manager **Sandy Martinez**, who facilitated the program, had students return on May 3, for a closer look at Customer Service, Gas Operations, Technology and Automation Engineering and our Distribution Control Center.

In a note to Sandy, RCC Administrator **Elizabeth Kendall** thanked O&R for the opportunity. “You and your team were amazing and the students really had a great time,” she said.

Many thanks to Aaron Anaya, Dan Brown, George Cocks, Tom Frisbie, Jacqueline Frosco, Ken Flessa, Carla Guaman, Sandy Martinez, Karleigh Murphy-Rodriguez, Boris Sabovic, Van Simeon and Denis Smalley for giving RCC students a look inside our business.



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This deal only applies to the first 100 Tricklestar 7-Outlet Multi-Sensing APS purchased.

March with Pride on June 30!

Bring your family and friends and march with O&R and Con Edison at the 2019 WorldPride | Stonewall 50th Parade. We'll be meeting at 4 p.m. on 27th Street between 5th Avenue and Madison Avenue, north of Madison Square Park. (The parade begins at noon, but with so many participants this year, we are marching later in the day.)

RSVP to: dl-lgbtqparadeparticipants@coned.com For more information or questions on the PRIDE parade event, contact O&R coordinator: **Paula Sklavenitis** at sklavenitisp@oru.com

About NYC WorldPride | Stonewall 50th March

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising, NYC Pride will simultaneously host WorldPride. It's the first WorldPride hosted on United States soil, and the second North American WorldPride in the event's nearly 20-year history.

The first march was held in 1970 and has since become an annual civil rights demonstration. Over the years its purpose has broadened to include recognition of the fight against AIDS and to remember those we have lost to illness, violence and neglect.



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Our credit union is offering 12-month CDs at 2.60% and 36-month CDs at 3.10%. These rates require direct deposit. Some restrictions apply. For more information, call 845-774-0831 or email info@orutilfcu.org.

Stop Bites and Stings

A variety of products are available in Stores that make working outdoors through the spring and summer months safer and more comfortable.



BUG BAND

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Offers a natural, effective, water-resistant and DEET-free way of repelling all types of insects.



SAWYER INSECT / TICK REPELLENT

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To be applied only to clothing, not skin.



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PRO-TICK REMEDY / TICK REMOVER

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Helps you remove ticks by the embedded mouth part.



Grapevine



New Business Services Manager **Siobhan Keane-Revie** and Strategic Applications Senior Planning Analyst **David Revie** celebrated the birth of their first child on March 16. **Ronan Revie** weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and measured 20 inches.