

VOLUME 41 NO. 2  
APRIL 2021

# Engineers News

LOCAL 406

I.U.O.E.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF LOCAL 406 AND SUBDIVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

ABILITY

PROGRESS

SAFETY

UNITY

## WORK STARTING TO PICK UP FOR 2ND QUARTER

Spring is here and the Pandemic seems to be getting some order in its movements. Vaccinations are on the rise and from the statistics, it looks like the curve seems to be moving towards a more flattened course. We are planning for our Semi-Annual meeting if the statistics show that it is feasible to do so with safety in mind. Hopefully, this will be the last time that it will be for members only and maybe we can resume extending the invitation to guests in the future as we take precautionary measures to ensure the safety of our membership and their families.

Early in the year we met with contractors to get a projection on how they saw the workload for

By *D. Jason Billings*  
*Business Manager-President*



2021. We compared notes on all angles, and we concluded that the 2nd quarter of their year would start yielding work to get our Operating Engineers back to making a living. While you read the Business Representatives' articles you will see this unfolding. Looking forward past this quarter, it is a hard task to project anything with the uncertainties of Covid.

We are in the process of performing the annu-

*Continued on Page 3*

### ALL MEMBERS OF I.U.O.E. LOCAL 406, A, B, C, G, H, & R

**The Semi-Annual Membership Meeting will be held:  
Saturday, May 1, 2021 - 10 A.M.  
Operating Engineers Union Hall  
7370 Chef Menteur Highway  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70126**

**Attention**

Every year we look forward to our annual crawfish feast and seeing wives and children accompany our members for this event, but unfortunately we are still dealing with restrictions of COVID-19. To protect the health and well being of our members and staff we are limiting the meeting to members only. We will strictly be handling our union business and providing a pre-made boxed lunch.

DEDICATED TO PROMOTING THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY  
SAFE WORK PRACTICES, CONTINUITY OF EMPLOYMENT, AND JOB SECURITY

# ENGINEERS NEWS

(USPS 007-810)  
Owned and Published Quarterly by  
**LOCAL UNION No. 406 AND SUBDIVISIONS**  
7370 Chef Menteur Highway — Phone (504) 241-1311 — New Orleans, LA 70126  
**D. Jason Billings, Editor**

Periodicals Postage Paid at New Orleans, LA

**POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes To:**  
**Engineers News, 7370 Chef Menteur Hwy., New Orleans, LA 70126**

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Jason Tassin, *Guard*  
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Craig Kaiser  
Russell Maddie  
Salvador Mangano

David Perrault  
Miguel Perrault  
Mark Schexnayder  
Timothy J. Sziber  
William E. Young

### SCHEDULED MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

#### OFFICES AND BUSINESS AGENTS

##### NEW ORLEANS:

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JOHN BABIN  
MIGUEL PERRAULT  
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(504) 241-1311

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Robert Training Site: 50713 Highway 445, Loranger, LA 70446 (985)542-4322

**WEBSITE: [www.iuolocal406.org](http://www.iuolocal406.org)**



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## PENSIONERS

### Baton Rouge District

James A Dickerson Jr.  
Dennie H Dyer  
Joseph A Ester  
Roy Lejeune  
Ricky J Waguespack  
Ryan Waguespack  
Melvin R Wilson  
Cyrus W Wilson II  
Thomas N Workman

### Lake Charles/Lafayette District

Ricky B Broussard  
Talmadge Rogers

### New Orleans District

Robert Butler  
Michael Harris  
Jamie Leblanc  
Martin Pitre  
Evan J Roussel  
Eric A Weaver

### Monroe/Shreveport District

Kimble B Lisenby  
Richard Richardson  
Derwood Smith  
Roger Thornhill



## DECEASED

### Baton Rouge District

Edward E Adams	12/12/2020
Keith R Henderson Sr.	02/02/2021
William Lester Jr.	11/24/2020
Kenneth Thompson	07/18/2020

### Lake Charles/Lafayette District

George A Daigle	02/18/2021
Lovelace John Hebert Sr.	03/13/2021
Albert A Richter	08/25/2020
Bobby W Ryder	02/11/2021
Clint L Strother	03/16/2021

### New Orleans District

James E Gatlin	01/11/2021
Ronnie A Lambert	03/19/2021
George H Linker Jr.	02/21/2021
Christopher E Robinson	03/21/2021
Randall Root	01/23/2021

### Monroe/Shreveport District

Raymond Howard	10/16/2020
Billy Joe McNeil	12/19/2020
Donald Turner	12/26/2020

Continued from Page 1

al audit, as required by Nonprofit Labor Organizations and upon review of the findings so far, we hope that the growth that we are seeing in this quarter holds steady throughout the year to be able to recover some of the losses from last year (2020).

The insurance has had some changes over the last quarter, and it was a direct reflection of what happened in 2020. The Trustees had to start recovering losses from a historically terrible year and voted a necessary increase of \$0.25 to maintain the quality of insurance that we currently enjoy with a few minute additions to the coverage. There will be a letter coming in the mail, if you have not received it yet, from Southern Operators Health

Fund to explain these changes. The Local 406 Health and Welfare Fund has gain extended benefits to cover the shortfall in the self-pay portion of the Southern Operators insurance due to lack of work from the pandemic.

Each month I, along with the agents from all districts come together for the purpose of getting a consensus of the happenings from all over the state and put all ideas and problems out on the table for discussion. This has been an effective tool to ensure that we pull together and work as a team moving forward to make necessary improvements to Local 406's day to day business. The technology that we have implemented has given us the ability to

communicate on the go and has helped us be flexible as we are on the jobs meeting with members while conducting business. This method has improved communications and teamwork between the districts seamlessly.

Hurricane season is coming a month early this year, according to the National Weather Service. Please have a plan, prepare for the worst and hope for the best. If you need help in preparing, you can go to the State's website [getagameplan.org](http://getagameplan.org) for more details. Please keep me in your prayers as I continue to pray for you and your families as well.

**Business Manager Jason Billings, Brother Peter Babin, Brother David Hyatt, and Brother Miguel Perrault endorsing Senator Troy Carter for Congress, 2nd Congressional District at the New Orleans Union Hall.**



## Harrah's New Orleans & Harrah's Gulf Coast Casinos

by John Babin  
Business Rep.  
Stationary Engineers



In the last newsletter I reported on negotiations for new contracts at Harrah's New Orleans and Harrah's Gulf Coast Biloxi. I am happy to report that we have reached a deal at both properties and the workers have ratified both agreements at Harrah's New Orleans and Harrah's Gulf Coast Biloxi.

At Harrah's New Orleans we have a new six-year contract in place. After the pandemic some of our Engineers were laid off and any remaining Engineers working took a wage freeze for almost a year. Now all our engineers have been

recalled and with this new contract they will receive a 2.5% increase on their total package for the next three years. In the fourth year we will open the contract for negotiating wages only for the fourth, fifth, and sixth years of the deal. With the addition of a new 340 room hotel and a Super Bowl coming to the city in 2025 our strategy is to gain even higher wage increases for our members in the last three years of the contract.

At Harrah's Gulf Coast Biloxi, we also reached a deal for a new five-year contract and the workers ratified the contract as well. It is a five-year deal with a wage freeze in the first year and then guaranteed wage increases for the remaining four years. We have also negotiated increases in the start rates for the last two years of the contract. The biggest gain in the agree-

ment was to offer a new Union Insurance Plan. The Unite Here Insurance plan is the same plan that many culinary workers in Las Vegas have. It is a comprehensive plan that includes dental and vision and saves our members hundreds of dollars a month compared to the insurance plan the Harrah's offered their employees. Harrah's Gulf Coast is now the second casino that now has a Union Insurance Plan on the Mississippi Coast. The other is the Beau Rivage and our members there are very happy with the plan.

Our next major Stationary Engineer contract negotiations will be at the Mercedes Superdome which will take place this summer. I hope to get another long-term deal in place at the dome for our Stationary engineer members there as well!



### **NOTICE: Credit/Debit Card Processing Fee Increase**

**Local 406 began accepting credit and debit cards for dues payments in June, 2014. Fees have remained the same since that time, however, due to increases in our merchant fees, consequently there will be a moderate increase in the processing fee when using this form of payment. Thank you for your understanding in this matter and if you have any questions, please contact any district office.**

**Delayed Turn Around Season**

*by Miguel Perrault  
Business Rep.  
New Orleans  
District*



As we all know, the covid-19 pandemic has affected our industry tremendously. Work has been really slow since the nation-wide shut down last March. The usual turn-around projects were rescheduled for later dates. Fortunately, those dates are starting up. The New Orleans district has several projects that is underway, with more starting up in the near future. With those projects starting up unexpectedly, there were operators with expired certs, TWIC cards, safety qual-

ifications and was unable to man those positions.

While the slow start-up may have set back normal projects, I have been working behind the scenes with my fellow agents and business manager. Business Manager Jason Billings, Business Agent David Hyatt and I met with a contractor downtown New Orleans to secure an agreement for a tower crane project. This will help us with current and future projects slated for tower jobs. Business Agent Russell Maddie and myself met with management at Deep South in Baton Rouge to litigate operators for shutdown in April located at Shell-NORCO. Turner Industries

Group has been requesting manpower for several projects, Business Agents. Russell Maddie, David Hyatt, and William Young assisted me with guys from their districts. I was able to secure a few operators, to assist in the assembly and disassembly of a Demag 2800 with luffing jib to replace the chillers atop of the Marriott Hotel Downtown New Orleans, Canal St.

Please take advantage of your free time to update any requirements, most hire-in procedures are time sensitive. Another reminder, make sure you are current on your Union Dues and if you are unemployed, please call to get on the Out-Of-Work list!

Business Representative Miguel Perrault at the Marriot Hotel in Downtown New Orleans with (pictured left to right) Brothers Salvador Mangano, Jason Draper, Zack White, Roger Materne, and Joseph Long.



## Beginning the 2021 Application Process

by Craig Kaiser  
Apprenticeship  
Administrator



Hello from the apprenticeship brothers and sisters. I hope you and your families are in good health and everything is going well. This year was not a normal year. We were not able to place apprentices to work at the first of the year but by the end of February to the beginning of March we had a few calls come in and we were able to put some apprentices back to work and put a few first-year apprentices to work as well.

I mentioned in the last newsletter to check your credentials looking forward. This year we have a lot of classes and credentials that myself and the other instructors will need to attend this upcoming year to keep all our credentials up to date. In the last newsletter you saw the dozer and excavator that we had for three months from the National Training Fund and it was nice to have some updated equipment for the apprentices to learn on. The dozer and excavator have now left to go to another local, but I am very thankful that we had them to use. In February we received a dozer simulator from the National Training Fund that you will

see pictures of throughout this newsletter and it has been a great tool for training. After the completion of task there is a printable page that shows the results had this been a real-world job and list this such as excessive wear, damage to equipment, material above grade, material below grade. In addition to those, it also gives a total of whether the job came in as gain or loss. That has been an eye opener for everyone who has been on it. All three of these training tools have been used by both apprentices and journeyman wishing to sharpen their skills.

Looking forward into this year, I plan on making a motion at our annual apprenticeship board meeting to only take in 10 apprentices this year, as we still have apprentices that we took in last year that have not had a chance at being employed. Normally we take in approximately 30 but so far, I do not see the need to take that many this upcoming year unless something changes. We have until June 2, 2021 to make that determination, as that is the interview date for this year. At the time of writing, we have 51 apprentices and 18 of them is all we have working. I usually report later in the year on how many apprentices we take in and if this number is lower this year you will understand the reason is why I decided to share this.

## ACTIVE APPRENTICES: PLEASE REMEMBER TO COMPLETE YOUR ETHICS TRAINING & SEXUAL HARASSMENT TRAINING & SEND YOUR CERTIFICATES IN FOR YOUR CLASS HOURS.

These are the upcoming dates for incoming apprenticeship applicants and NCCCO applicants for 2021.

- **Application & Aptitude Day**  
May 26, 2021
- **Interview Day**  
June 2, 2021
- **Indenture Day**  
June 23, 2021

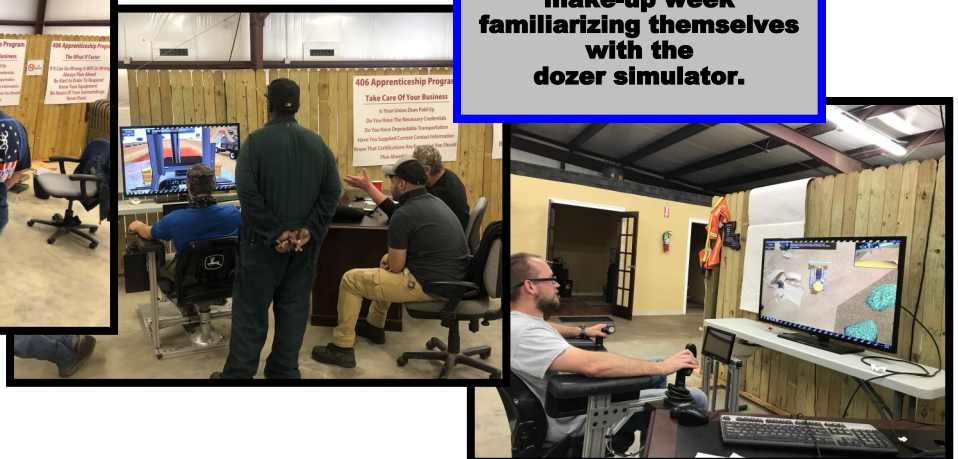
Our next NCCCO written test will be on June 26th, 2021 and the class days before the test will be on June 5th, 2021 and June 12th, 2021. Please contact Ms. Haylee Pierce at 985-542-4322 if you are interested in the next class. Applications will have to be mailed back before May 28, 2021 to participate in this test session.

Last item before closing, if you register for a class at the International Training and Education Center in Crosby and something comes up that causes you to not be able to make it please advise them. This is so they can open the class to another member. We have very few issues with this and would like to keep them to a minimum. Thanks, and may you have a blessed remainder of the 2021 year.

**Brother Wilfredo Castro demonstrating how to use the dozer simulator.**



**Apprentices during make-up week familiarizing themselves with the dozer simulator.**



# APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

**Apprentice Tyler Cunningham practicing for NCCCO.**



**Apprentice Troydell Pugh on the dozer simulator.**



**Apprentice Fredrick Roth operating the bobcat.**



**2nd & 3rd Year Apprentices working on the skid steer.**



**Apprentice Shaden Hammad installing new kill cable on bobcat.**



**Apprentice Tyler Cunningham cleaning up the shop.**



# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

The 2021 Hurricane Season will officially start on June 1, 2021 and end on November 30, 2021. Even with these dates representing the "official" start of the season, be aware that tropical storms and hurricanes have and will happen either side of the above dates.

Now is the time to think about and prepare for 2021 hurricane season. It's a good idea to have a plan and decide where you will go. Learn evacuation routes and procedures for your area. Plans should also be made for those with special needs. Create an inventory when protecting your home and property. Prepare important documents and memorabilia as well as insurance information. Make necessary provisions for your pets. And also, have a plan to communicate with family members.

You may want to consider participating in Local 406's **Disaster Relief Fund** which is available to all Local 406 members. If you are interested, simply complete the form below and mail to: IUOE Local 406 along with your enrollment fee.



## DISASTER RELIEF FUND

IUOE LOCAL 406

The Annual Disaster Relief Fund Fee is \$25.00 per year.

### Membership Information

The IUOE Local 406 Disaster Relief Fund is a charitable 501(c)(3) developed to assist Local 406 operating engineer members who have suffered a financial loss from a federally declared disaster or in cases of natural or man-made disasters including floods, hurricanes, tornadoes or fires.

### Eligibility

Applicants must be current DRF members at the time the disaster occurred and must reside in the area which has been declared a disaster by the U.S. or State Government or by a majority of the Trustees. A member is eligible for assistance if substantial damage has been incurred from his/her primary residence because of the disaster. The address must coincide with current address on file with Local 406.

### Grants

Disaster Relief Grants may be awarded for the purpose of providing cash for temporary emergency expenses for current IUOE Local 406 DRF members approved for relief under the Fund's guidelines.

### IUOE LOCAL 406 DISASTER RELIEF FUND APPLICATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Register # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE/FAMILY MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact info for spouse/family member: \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT: 1 YEAR (\$25.00)      2 YEARS (\$50.00)      3 YEARS \$75.00)      4 YEARS (\$100.00)

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN FORM AND ENROLLMENT FEE TO: IUOE LOCAL 406 DRF, 7370 CHEF MENTEUR HWY, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70126



## Spring 2021

by  
William Young  
Business Rep.  
Shreveport-  
Monroe Districts  
And Pipeline  
Business Rep.



Spring is finally here, and I would have to say it has been a winter for the record books. We all know that the pipeline work is slow as we come into this new Federal administration. We are looking forward to the new infrastructure bill to offset the work, by creating places to work for our operators that are skilled in the dirt market. Our state needs road and bridge repair and this will help Operating Engineers. The Heavy and Highway is an area that we are working diligently to grow. We were able to put some people to work with Brandenburg Industrial Services in Monroe on a short demolition job and a pipeline reversal project in

the Baton Rouge area. These are the times that we need to help one another. If work comes up out of state. Please keep our 406 Brothers and Sisters in mind to help fill the seats wherever we can. Remember that the crane work has been steady. If you can get your NCCO certifications and want to work on both sides of the construction side of our craft, this would help your chances for employment. Please reach out to Brother Craig Kaiser at the training site or myself for more information. Please do your best to keep yourself and your family safe from the COVID-19 virus. It is not a joke and has no political affiliation. It can kill anyone and will. I am speaking from experience not hearsay. Please remember all our fallen Brothers and Sisters families in your daily devotions. God bless you and your families and stay safe as we transition into the Summer.

## Charitable Contribution Report

In an effort to build respect and take an active part in our community and our fellow trade unions, Local 406 has always been actively involved in contributing to like-minded organizations with the same core values of our union as well as taking part in charitable contributions to benefit our community.

Below is a report of organizations we have contributed to for year ended December 31, 2020.

- Louisiana Building & Construction Trades Council
- Team Gleason Foundation
- Greater Baton Rouge Building & Construction Trades Council
- South East Louisiana Building & Construction Trades Council
- March of Dimes
- Irish Peace Foundation
- IUOE National Charity Fund
- Joseph M Bertucci Scholarship Fund
- Little Sisters of the Poor

## Union Members



AT&T is the only Nationwide unionized wireless carrier. When you choose AT&T, you support the nearly 150,000 union members employed there. Visit an AT&T store where you'll be helped by a fellow union member.

**AT&T Retailer:** The Union Plus Discount Code is **3508840**.

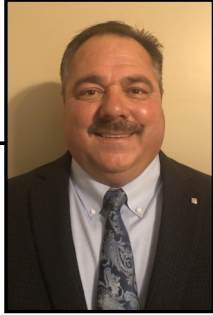
### **Sign up today!**

Take this coupon and a union membership card, to your local AT&T store (discount not available at authorized dealers or kiosks). Ask about the AT&T discount through Union Plus or register for the discount at [UnionPlus.org/ATT15](http://UnionPlus.org/ATT15).

**SAVE UP TO \$10 PER LINE PER MONTH**

# Work Starting to Pick Up

by  
Russell Maddie, Jr.  
Business Rep.  
Baton Rouge  
District



As everyone knows, the start of 2021 started off slow compared to the normal high-capacity work requests. Toward the end of January, into February we started to see some light at the end of the tunnel with Turner Crane Rental and Turner Maintenance sending requests for jobs at Shintech, Rubicon, and CF Industries.

As we entered the month of March until the present, work

has become steady as Deep South, Turner Crane Rental and Turner Maintenance have put most operators to work at Rubicon, CF Industries, Oxy/Convent, Westlake/Plaquemine, and Shell/Geismar, leaving about 18 operators in all on the Baton Rouge out-of-work list. These jobs have come as a great blessing as compared to what the members have had to endure for over a year now. Thank you, guys, for hanging in there and hopefully this is the beginning of a great year, for as what our signatories are saying, we should have an abundant and steady workload heading our way.

Business Manager, Jason Billings and the 406 staff

have been working diligently making sure Local 406 members and their families are priority during these trying times of Covid-19 pandemic, from ensuring members having their healthcare to organizing new business for the welfare of our membership.

With that said, Boh Bros. and Cooper Consolidated (Cooper T. Smith) contracts have been opened for contract negotiations. Some crane rentals will open later in the year at which time you will be notified in the upcoming newsletters.

In closing, I would like to tell everyone to take care and be safe and we would like to see more faces attending the monthly union meetings.

**Brother Leon Lemoine, Brother Davis Fontenot, Brother Brennen Bueche, Brother Tyler Cunningham, Brother Wilfredo Castro, Brother Russel Maddie, and Brother Jack Housley attended the CCO Core Class at the training site.**



### Attend Your Local Union Meetings

by David Hyatt  
Business Representative  
Lake Charles District



Work in the Lake Charles District has been relatively slow for this time of year. Normally we would be just finishing up with our Spring outages and getting ready for the slow summertime but our battle with the pandemic continues. The price of oil dropping to historic levels towards the end of last year brought on by a huge surplus of oil and with no travel from the pandemic, it made it harder to sell. The refineries could not produce anymore fuels because there was no place to store it so they opted to go into idle mode until the market recovered and fuel sales could re-

sume. We are seeing the gas prices inch higher now and that is promising as we know that there are much needed turnarounds to get those units back up to full production capacities.

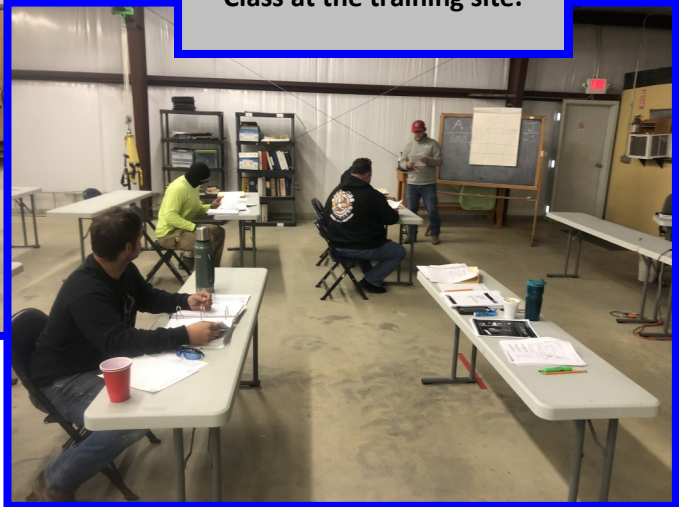
During these past few months there have been small maintenance jobs that have employed operators in this district and kept them from totally going under. There has been some movement in the area under the Building Trades that created another place to work. APCom has obtained a three-year contract with Entergy and has one full time operator and has employed others as needed for that facility. Their turnaround work will continue to keep our guys working there to cover the outages for the foreseeable future and they have been a good company to work with.

There are some rumors of some turnarounds coming in the fall but at this point they are still just rumors. To keep up to date with all the latest information on work or future work, I encourage you to join us at your next district meeting where we will discuss all the latest news as we get it. The purpose of these meetings is to inform you with all the information that we must keep you up to date with opportunities as they come along to better utilize your skills and make Local 406 the best, well informed and skilled workforce in the State of Louisiana and to keep us being the first choice in the business. As we transition into the Summer months and children will be at play again, remember this in your commutes. Look twice and save a life.



Brother Leon Lemoine going over dozer simulator scores with Apprentice Tyler Cunningham.

Members going over study material at the CCO Core Class at the training site.



**Self-Pay Extended till June 2021**

*Carlos Benoit  
Business Rep.  
Baton Rouge District*



At the time of this writing, work in the Baton Rouge District is starting to pick up. For a more detailed account please read Russell's article.

As mentioned in the last writing 406 Health & Welfare Fund is paying the Self-Pay portion to Southern Operators Health Fund for our members that lost the coverage due to work stoppage or slowed down because of Covid related issues. I am glad to inform you that the Trustees of IUOE Local 406 Health and Welfare Fund have extended this help through the end of June 2021.

As of last meeting with Southern Operators Health Fund the Trustees had to raise the hourly rate by \$.25 for the insurance. The 406 Health & Welfare trustees also accepted to pick that increase up for all until the Fund runs out of money. The projection is from 12 to 18 months.

With that being said, as stated back in January 2017 when we started with Southern Operators Health Fund, 406 Health & Welfare has been picking up \$.25 from inception. This may mean that when the Health & Welfare Fund runs out of money you, the participants will have to pick this contribution up.

This money from the 406 Health & Welfare Fund has been and will continue to give back to our members, until it runs dry. Summer time is coming and it's a good time to spend time with your children and grandkids making memories so take advantage of it.



Demag 2800 Crane at the Marriott Hotel in New Orleans for Deep South job.

**IUOE LOCAL 406 WELFARE FUND**

We know the ability to work continues to be difficult during this COVID-19 National Emergency, and many of you are concerned about working enough hours to keep your health coverage under SOHF. To help you through these difficult times, we have decide to grant a final

**3-month extension of the self-pay relief program for "Eligible Employees".** An Eligible Employee is an active employee of a collective bargaining agreement.

Original the program period was 08/01/2020 through 12/31/2020 and then extended until 03/31/2021.

We are granting a final extension through 06/30/2021.



Apprentices during make-up week completing a test.