

VOLUME 42 NO. 2  
APRIL 2022

# 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

Spring is here and all the holidays are past us now. The first quarter has remained active as with years past except for the two years previous with the pandemic. We are finally coming back to some form of normalcy and our hearts go out to all that have lost family and loved ones through this great tragedy. As you read through the Business Representatives' articles here, you will see how the industry has adjusted to navigate through the pandemic, assisting our contractors in getting back to work.

We are currently engaged in our yearly audit for the transparency necessary for a nonprofit organization to operate on an annual basis. That report should be complete and on file within the month and a financial report will be given at the next available Union Meeting at the respective districts. This

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



should reflect the economic impact on our Local post pandemic. From an economic standpoint, the Russian occupancy of Ukraine has impacted the global market with sanctions being levied. These sanctions have skyrocketed the fuel costs which comes as a direct impact on our industry and the Local's finances. The energy and fuel costs have increased considerably. Inflation has caused interest rates to rise, and the cost of living is elevated to higher-than-normal costs for the same commodities as you well know and are living it.

We had an inspection per the insurance to maintain coverage on the Local's properties and there

## 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*  
Leo Battistella, *Trustee*  
Mark Ferguson, *Trustee*  
Peter Babin, III, *Business Manager Emeritus*  
David Hyatt, *Vice President*

Carlos Benoit, *Treasurer*  
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Daniel Foy, Jr., *Auditor*  
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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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(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

GENE G BUECHE  
EUGENE G GORDON, JR  
JERRY G PARKER  
ELTON E PAUL  
BRUCE G PURVIS

### New Orleans District

MATTHEW L BAUER  
ALVIN BENTLEY, SR  
CAMILLE BOURGEOIS, JR  
ACHILLE M FINK  
THOMPSON GAMBOA  
RALPH KASTNER  
TERRY M PERRY  
LOUIS A SCANDURRO  
ANTHONY J SPERA  
HAROLD R WINTERS, JR  
HOWARD YOUNG

### Monroe/Shreveport District

WILLIAM RANDALL



# DECEASED

### Baton Rouge District

DOMINICK T BURRESKIA	12/16/2021
JEFFREY DAVERT	06/28/2021
FRANK J DELRIE	08/23/2021
RAYMOND WILLIBY	10/30/2021
DONALD G WHEAT	08/26/2021

### Lake Charles/Lafayette District

GARY W BERRY	01/02/2022
RONALD R BRUNO	01/12/2022
LEE FOGLEMAN, JR	04/21/2021
ELMER C GRANTHAN, JR	11/27/2021
BRADLEY L REESE	09/14/2021

### New Orleans District

ERVIN J ARNUVILLE	11/29/2021
OLIVER BRIDGES, III	12/15/2021
JESSE BOWMAN	12/27/2021
ROGER J CALLIA	08/18/2021
JOHN W FRABBIELE, JR	11/21/2021
ANTHONY GOVERNALE, JR	11/16/2021
NOLAN LEDOUX	12/21/2021
PETER S MARINO	10/11/2021
DARRYL E STEWART	08/02/2021

### Monroe/Shreveport District

HUEY P BONNER	12/14/2021
GENE R CHAPMAN	09/21/2021
HERIBERTO P DELEON	10/06/2021
TROY HARPER	09/11/2021
TROY E HARPER	08/10/2021
JAMES R KELLEY	11/06/2021
CHARLES LYLES, SR	04/30/2021
HOWARD R TALIAFERRO	07/04/2021
KYLE L WOOLEY	08/05/2021

was a punch list of repairs for each property that had to be addressed to maintain coverage with a 30-day deadline. The repairs were performed before the deadline without asking for any extensions. Some of these repairs were made by your staff to save the Local money and meet the deadline for lack of contractors to bid and complete the work in a timely fashion. For that, I would like to thank all that were involved in these repairs. You will see pictures in this edition to reflect those repairs.

In our efforts to maintain the best qualified and trained staff, we have resumed our continued education on all levels of staffing. The Pandemic taught us how to

utilize online sessions and webinars to train without exposure or interruption in training. The Pandemic wreaked havoc on our membership and there have been a series of early retirements, deaths and members choosing to take up another vocation that wasn't as volatile. This has caused a drop in total membership. In efforts to combat that deficit, I have made the decision to bring on an organizer to help capture some of the work that is taking place in our state after the pandemic. It gives me great pleasure to welcome Kyle Leger onboard. Organizing is an

overwhelming task especially when you are new to it and I ask for your patience while I and the staff train him to be a success and it profit us all on recovering the market share that was lost.

Please keep mindful of the changing temperatures and be aware that hurricane season is right around the corner. Schools will be out soon, and children will be at play so watch out for them on your commutes. Keep safety in mind and please keep me in your prayers as I pray for wisdom to lead and for you and your family's safety.

**Business Manager Jason Billings and Business Agents David Hyatt, Miguel Perrault, and John Babin redoing New Orleans Union Hall roof.**



# NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE

by John Babin  
Business Rep.  
Stationary Engineers



Negotiations are on-going for five-year agreements at the Lowes Hotel in New Orleans and at the MGM Gold Strike Hotel and Casino in Tunica Mississippi. At the Lowes Hotel in New Orleans economic negotiations continue with the company. Local 406 as well as Unite/HERE Local 23 have presented our wage proposals to the company and we are waiting for the companies' counter proposal. We also are attempting to get an in-person meeting with the Loews management and our worker committee at the property to negotiate in person since

covid has prevented us from meeting in person. We should receive an economic counter from Lowes in the next two weeks.

April 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> I will be at the Gold Strike Casino in Tunica Mississippi to begin economic negotiations for a new five-year agreement. Local 406 as well as our partners Unite/HERE and the Teamsters had several zoom call negotiations over language changes in the contract and now we are ready to meet face to face with the company and our bargaining committee of workers from the Gold Strike. Our first contract with the Gold Strike expired in January and we hope to negotiate significant gains in our wages for our members in the maintenance de-

partment over the next five years. Which ever agreement that we reach on wages at the Gold Strike will set the table for our negotiations at the Beau Rivage next year when that first contract is set to expire as well. The good news at both properties is that a large majority of our members in the maintenance department who were laid off from covid have been recalled to their jobs and some new classifications have been created and added to the bargaining unit.

I currently have a position open at Harrah's New Orleans for a stationary engineer. Any member who knows any qualified engineers looking for work have hem contact me at the Union Hall.

**US Secretary of Labor, Marty Walsh, visited with New Orleans area unions and allies on Monday, February 7. He is a friend of organized labor as a former member of the Laborer's Union and a proven ally to our union as mayor of Boston.**



# BACK TO NORMAL

by Miguel Perrault  
Business Rep.  
New Orleans  
District



The first quarter of 2022 has been really busy. There have been several outages at nearby refineries and many civil projects started as well. But we have to ask ourselves... are we back to normal? Even though corona virus cases are down, it changed the way jobs are normally manned. Some sites had different requirements than others regarding vaccinations, mask mandates and social distancing. Some of the contractors also changed the hire-in process to work along those requirements for a safe process. And to add to those hurdles, last years storms has had a long-term effect on local and traveling operating engineers. There is a shortage of available travel trailer sites and motels in this region, which makes it harder for travelers to commit. Living expenses has sky rocketed so much, it is a tough decision for a traveler. Again...

## ARE WE BACK TOO NORMAL?

I would like to reiterate the importance of keep up with all certifications and contact information. Please call your districts office if there were any changes to address, phone numbers or beneficiaries. The ITEC has courses scheduled throughout the year, take advantage of any free time!

**Business Agent Miguel Perrault visiting the BOH Brothers Tulane job. Photo of Brother Members Cary Deiglos and Charles Singletary.**



## REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

by Craig Kaiser  
Apprenticeship  
Administrator



Hello to all brothers and sisters. I hope this finds you and your family doing well and in good health.

The beginning months of 2022 seem to have been busy. In the last newsletter I mentioned getting rid of the old GSA equipment. During this quarter, the old Grove RT58 was picked up and brought to Henderson Auction. We hauled the flatbed trailer to scrap yard after cutting it in small enough pieces to haul. We were busy this quarter working on our own equipment and getting maintenance done to buildings around the site in preparation for insurance inspections. Also, in the last newsletter I made an inaccurate statement announcing the written paper/pencil test would end year 2023. I have since went through a virtual meeting where talks of written paper/pencil exams extended out further. I will be attending a NCCCO board meeting in April and I hope to get a definitive answer or explanation from there that will be passed on.

March 31<sup>st</sup> was the last day to accept apprenticeship applications and our numbers were lower than I have seen them in the past. We have about 85 applicants but that goes to show where the outreach does work from the career fairs. We only had one in person career fair through 2021 and that is where a lot of applicants come from. This year we have completed two career fairs during this quarter.

I would also like to congratulate our apprentices that have graduated in February 2022 and wish them a long and successful career with Operating Engineers Local 406. The following apprentices that graduated; Wilfredo Castro-Rodriguez, Tyler Cunningham, Brennen Bueche, David Fontenot, Steven Maggard, and Peyton Stafford.

The online learning management system Moodle that I announced previously did roll out in mid-February. I hope that it will assist more apprentices towards completing their requirements in the future.

We hosted our first NCCCO paper/pencil written this quarter on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Our next written paper/pencil test will be on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Please contact the training site at 985-542-4322 if you are interested in participating. Check your credentials and remember you can take your refreshers within a year of expiration. Also, on NCCCO topic Brother / Instructor Leon Lemoine went

through a PEAP examiner refresher class as well on 03/16/2022. There has been a change to the signalperson practical examinations that will be different than the previous exams due to flash player not being able to support the old test any longer. All that will change for those taking the test is 10 more scenarios and the instructions will be read instead of played over speakers. Last on NCCCO I would like to share if you have not been informed that the mobile cranes recertification and new candidate test are the same length test now. There is no longer a shorter test for recertification candidates everyone takes the same length test.

At the beginning of the year, we pulled the cranes off the courses to do some repairs on them and do some necessary groundwork near and around the courses. The Grove RT-745 blew a hydraulic hose while heading off the course and it snowballed from there. When it was all said and done this ended up being \$15,000 worth of repairs mostly hydraulic issues and a new computer display for in the cab. This was not the only piece that decided to be stubborn and cause us issues as the following pieces had the following issues as well. The Tensioner for John Deere 750 Dozer needs to be rebuilt and cannot be ran until repaired, as the tracks will not stay adjusted. The Grove RT-635 (we use this for evaluations) and a backup for practical exams) started overheating and that ended up being two belts that came off and has since been repaired at \$340 for two belts no labor. The left boom lift cylinder and alternator went out on Bobcat that has been repaired at approximately \$500, no labor. The right blade lift cylinder went out on Case dozer and is still pending repair at the time. The Gradall forklift blew hoses inside the boom and needed a new sheave as well approx. \$1500, no labor. The Reverser Seal went out and was repaired on Case Backhoe which was a cheap \$40 repair but still another to work on to keep the machines going. Restocked oils and lubricants after repairs at approximately. \$1,500.

On Maintenance around the site, we had the following necessary repairs and upkeep that were necessary to pass an upcoming insurance inspection. The ceiling fell in on office in the rear shop. There was more labor cost on this and dump fees than anything just tearing it down and hauling it to landfill. We basically broke even with the flatbed trailer that was hauled to scrap yard. Updated Copier before the maintenance lease plan ran out on the old copier. Which came in at a cost of \$4,000 to update and have another 3-year maintenance

plan at three to four hundred a year depending on number of copies. The annual fire extinguisher inspections at \$423. Repairs to metal roof that will need replacing this year or next at \$1,688 just in materials no labor. Wooden Steps to access cabs of cranes, materials alone came in at \$791.63 no labor cost included. We replaced two damaged ladders and one damaged extension cord at \$400.

If you have been following IUOE LOCAL 406 on Facebook, you have seen that we received a Dozer Simulator from International in February that we will have for three months, and this has given the apprentices a chance to familiarize themselves with the controls of a modern-day John Deere Dozer. This is very appreciated when they loan these to us as they are not cheap to rent.

On the evaluations of applicants for membership we postponed due to repairs and worked more on getting our stuff going or to a stopping point before showing any attention to the testing crane for applicants. We did get that crane back up near the end of February and were back doing evaluations in March.

Last, I want to remind everyone about the 2022 School Year deadlines. If you know any applicants for apprenticeship or pre apprentices working out there that will be coming in this year, please express that it is imperative for them to be present on the following dates. If one day is missed the applicant will not be accepted into the program. The applicants will receive this same information by mail at the address that was given when they applied.

- Application and Aptitude test day May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 8 a.m. at the training site in Loranger. Note they must have Driver's License, Social Security Card, Birth Certificate, High School Diploma or equivalent, and a negative drug screen WITH NEGATIVE TEST RESULTS. I put the last one in caps as we have a lot of pre apprentices that show up with control and custody forms from employers. We cannot accept these as they do not show results, they only show that the individual took a test.
- Interview Day June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, 8 a.m. at New Orleans Union Hall. This process is where they will be interviewed by representatives from the union hall and contractors
- Indenture Day June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, 8 a.m. at the training site in Loranger. This date is where they will sign their indenture agreement to register with the program and will be given instructions as to what to do moving forward.

# APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

**Apprentices Joshua Samson and Jacob Crawford putting new hoses on forklift.**



**Apprentice Kentrell Smith learning to run the dozer on simulator.**



**Apprentice Tristen Depew on dozer simulator.**



**Apprentice Wyatt Moreau moving RT635.**



**Apprentice Jack Legans pulling tin off roof with forklift.**



**Instructor  
John Wiebelt at job fair.**



**Apprentice  
Marina  
Spellman  
backing up  
Bobcat.**



**Apprentice  
Marina Spell-  
man checking  
oil and water  
on Grove RT-  
745.**



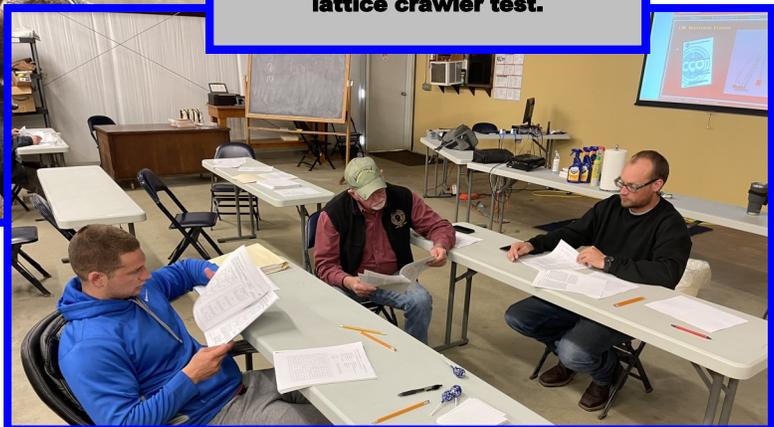
**Craig Kaiser teaching writ-  
ten rigger and signal to  
apprentices.**



**Apprentice Jordan Wyatts  
installing new alternator on  
bobcat.**



**Instructor Leon Lemoine working  
with apprentices on  
lattice crawler test.**



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



Spring is around the corner and work is ramping up on the Michel's job, that everyone has been hearing about. Please keep your name updated on the Out of Work List if you are interested in doing Pipeline work. The phone number is 318-686-7745 this is the Shreveport District Office and is the office that all pipeline work is dispatched from. Make sure that you have the skills listed that you are proficient at and can do at a professional level. We can't forget the ongoing work that we have as well.

Amazon in Shreveport is still ongoing, and we picked up work in Grand Isle. Mid America Energy Services is doing the Directional Drills to bring power back to the island. This is a critical part of the infrastructure for the residents of this small community as they rebuild from the last hurricane to hit our beloved state. Please check all your information and let us update it as it changes phone numbers home addresses emails etc. The IUOE Training Center in Crosby has openings in classes so you can keep yourselves at the top of your industry by having the skills necessary to be employed by our signatory contractors.

**Brother Herman Hunt receiving his 60 year pin in Baton Rouge.**



### WORK IN BATON ROUGE

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



As the first quarter of this year is coming to an end, I am happy to report the abundance of work in the Baton Rouge District. We are having a very strong year in employment for our membership as the need for qualified workers has risen from the last couple of years due to Covid.

From all indications, the work outlook is expected to continue at this pace – or perhaps get better. Deep South, Maxim, and Turner Crane and Rigging are busy in six plants in the Baton Rouge District employing 51 operators at Shintech/Plaquemine, Dow/Plaquemine and Westlake/Geismar. As these jobs come to an end, more work is expected to fol-

low well into the year.

Building and Trades work is slow, but steady with only a few requests on occasion. CF Industries is expected to have an outage in the spring or early summer with another work opportunity for our members. Honeywell has rehired about 8 operators since the vaccination mandate in December 2021 in which most of these guys were furloughed and were able to return to work after which the vaccination was received.

Riverbend Station / St. Francisville also has project work with Day & Zimmerman and Williams Plant Services employing 5 operating engineers and preparing for the 2023 spring outage.

Manpower numbers have not yet been determined, so if anyone is interested in working at Entergy (Riverbend) please notify the hall so that we can possibly get you set up to become Nuke Certified (Red Badged).

In February, Local 406 and Belger

Cartage Services, Inc., a union contractor from Kansas City, MO., agreed upon a 1-year project labor agreement. Belger will be bidding on work throughout the state mostly for railroad demolition and reconstruction. At the present time we have two operators working on the Lottie Railroad Project and hopefully this will create more work opportunities in the future.

Also, BOH Brothers has an abundance of work in and around Baton Rouge with work at Shintech/Plaquemine, College Drive, and the new Diversion Canal job. The Baton Rouge District has put several operators on these jobs, but we are still in need of more grade/bluetop hands, so if you or someone you know is interested, please call the Hall so that we can set up an interview.

In closing, I ask everyone to please check your credentials and make sure that you're up to date on your certifications and, driver's license. May God bless and keep everyone safe.



**Business Manager Jason Billings with U.S. Representative Troy Carter.**

by David Hyatt  
Business Representative  
Lake Charles District



Work in the Lake Charles district has been steady with all our operators working that have the credentials to do so and none on the out of work list currently. The ongoing project with ME&I at the Shaw shop in Lake Charles currently has 4 Operating Engineers employed running overhead cranes and forklifts as they construct modules to ship to Marathon in Ramirez California. The project was slated for four to six months but they've been aggressively bidding on more modules and have a high probability of winning that bid as they are satisfied with the

level of craftsmanship they are getting from our members. The refinery work has been steady with Deep South at P66 and Citgo and able to keep our Operators employed there while waiting on the turnarounds to happen at Rain CII and another at P66. Turner Crane and Rigging has kept a full staff also with work around the area at various plants and shipped some of their core group to Baton Rouge to help with the overflow of work there. Russell Maddie and I met with the members out at CT Stevedoring and went out on the water where we were given a tour of the facilities that load grain on the ships and on barges. It was great to see our members there and to get a better understanding of just how intri-

cate their jobs really are with respect to what they do and how it contributes to the state and country. You should see some photos in this article of that trip. I'm talking with the contractors; this year looks to remain busy throughout the rest of the year. The forecast for work over the next couple of years looks to be promising also. Remember that as we transition into the summer months, schools will be letting out and children will be at play. Please keep this in mind as you travel about your daily duties. I look forward to seeing you at the next district meeting should you be able to attend. If I don't see you then have a safe and happy summer.



**Brothers David George, Bennie Meyers, and Steve Scott on BOH Bros project at the Port of Lake Charles.**



**SWIFTMD**

*Carlos Benoit  
Business Rep.  
Baton Rouge District*



At the time of writing this article the work in the Baton Rouge District is wide open. Revert to Russell's article for details. Southern Operators Health Fund had their first quarter meeting at the end of February. Some bullet points that came of the meeting are \$.25 increase in hourly contributions starting May 1 or anniversary date of contract, copays on specialty drugs from \$30 to \$40, and cobra from \$1135 per month to \$1180. SwfitMD has been in effect since we have started with Southern Operators Health Fund, it is a great instrument for most of your families' illnesses. If you are not taking advantage of this program, its your loss. It cost you ZERO. Here is the savings for year 2021, traditional visits \$516,917, SWIFTMD fees \$99,746, and savings \$417,161. I hope everyone has a great and safe summer. Please take precautions with the heat and stay hydrated.

# 2022 CCO WRITTEN TEST DATES

## 2ND QUARTER TEST DATES

**CLASS DAY: JUNE 4 & JUNE 11**  
**TEST DAY: JUNE 25**  
**LAST DAY TO APPLY: MAY 27**

## 3RD QUARTER TEST DATES

**CLASS DAY: OCT 1 & OCT 15**  
**TEST DAY: OCT 29**  
**LAST DAY TO APPLY: SEPT 29**

## BULLETIN BOARD

### • **IUOE LOCAL 406 HEALTH FUND**

**The IUOE Local 406 Health Fund has been supplementing premium increases in our Southern Operators Health Plan since 2017. Please remember the Fund will be sun setting on December 31, 2022 so there will be some changes that will affect our contracts. Please attend your district union meeting for more information.**

### • **UPDATE YOUR BENEFICIARIES**

**Remember to check you beneficiary for the Central Pension Fund, Southern Operators Health Fund or IUOE & Pipe Line Employers Health and Welfare Fund and your Annuity Fund. Be sure you have named a designated beneficiary and if there has been a change, update your beneficiary information. Forms can be obtained by calling any Local 406 Office.**

### • **UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBERS & EMAILS**

**If you move, be sure to update your address with the Union and the Benefit Funds. Ask for the proper forms from any Local 406 office.**