

Greetings. If you read into all the articles and news bulletins, you'll see a lot of activity. There is always so much to say but we try to condense things down to a short article so that we don't lose your interest. We go into greater detail at each district meeting specific to your area. As Editor of the paper, I get to read all the articles before you do and there are a lot of kind words that lift me up there. I would first like to say, thanks for holding me up. It takes a lot of hours that are unseen by many, taking care of the extras such as, visiting hospitals in the evenings and weekends, attending funerals of fallen members and their loved ones, and being their support group in their time of distress and need. We also tend to the living members by helping retirees take care of small tasks that their bodies won't allow them to do anymore such as, mowing grass or changing lightbulbs. That spells out Brotherhood. All the while

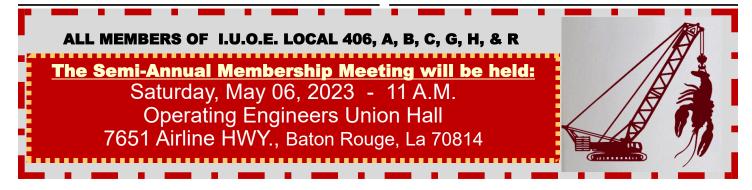
### B-R-O-T-H-E-R-H-O-O-D By D. Jason Billings Business Manager/President

looking into the future, the best that you can, to try and project what may be coming next and prepare for it. I'm glad they think I'm holding it all together but there can't be a machine



without all the parts, and we all serve a role. None of us could do it without each other. My thanks go out to the staff, the Apprenticeship and Training team, members, retirees, and the families that support the efforts of being the best Operating Engineers Local that we can be.

If you have been at any of our District meetings, you will have heard the staff and I speak about the changes coming with the Union properties and the projections to better secure our



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

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**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS** 

6:00 PM

ΡM

1st Wednesday of every month at

Temporary Time Change To 6:30 p.m.

Thursday of the week of the 1st

Thursday of the week of the 4th

Friday of the months of January,

April, July and October at 6:00 PM

Wednesday of the week of the 4th

Friday of the months of January, April, July and October at 6:00 PM

Temporary Time Change To 6:30 p.m.

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Wednesday of every month at 6:00

Temporary Time Change To 6:30 p.m.

### SCHEDULED MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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# PENSIONERS

### **Baton Rouge District**

Vicki Newton Johnny D. Ashford Nicholas J. Glaviano Jr. Ronny Lopez

Lake Charles/Lafayette District

Jackie L. Holland

# New Orleans District Dennis P. Guidry

Anthony C. Barient

Monroe/Shreveport District



# DECEASED

**Baton Rouge District** 

Edward Grandeury Jr Nolan Bueche Jr Johnnie Fox Marlon Fredericksen Larry Lee Thomas Morse Audrey Wells Charles Wesley Ferrell Brockwell Pervice Duvall

Lake Charles/Lafayette District

Lelan Labove Claude Norton Kenneth Racca

### **New Orleans District**

Henry Catania II Vincent Chatelain Timothy Ivey Alfred Rohli III James Carmouche

Monroe/Shreveport District Aubrey Givens

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future and safety. The Chef Hwy property is now listed, and we are under a 6-month contract with the Realtor. The permitting process is moving along and there has been an independent fiduciary appointed to the Apprenticeship Trust Board to show no favoritism and establish total transparency in accordance with the Labor Board and the laws that govern ERISA Funds. There have been lots of hours with our local counsel in conjunction with the International Counsel to ensure that we make positive steps forward in this process and not have to go backwards and correct mistakes.

In November 2022, a committee of delegates with alternates was elected and formed to trav-

el to and attend the 40th General Convention of the International Union of Operating Engineers, representing Local 406. The changes that govern all Locals within the International Union happen at these conventions every 5 years and are voted on by the delegates in attendance. The convention is slated to commence at the end of April and run into May. The business will continue at the local offices, however, there may be a slight delay in returning calls. If you need assistance, please call your district office where the staff can either relay messages or take

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care of your issue. Please be patient with us. Immediately upon our return, we will be preparing for and attending our Semiannual meeting to relay these changes firsthand on Saturday, May 6th at 11:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Union Hall.

I look forward to implementing any Constitutional changes that arise from the Convention as we lead into the future to make this Union stronger and better for all of us. As always, please continue to keep my family and myself in your thoughts and prayers, as I do yours. God Bless you all, Jason.

Brother Dean Matherne, receiving his 30 year pin from Business Manager/President Jason Billings



Business Manager/President Jason Billings at a private meeting to address the Calcasieu River Bridge Grant with the US Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg



# WORK IS ONGOING

by John Babin Business Rep. Stationary Engineers

Brothers and sisters, our local and our industry have been



through some tough times the last few years, with Covid forcing many of our stationary members to retire or face layoffs. Most of our stationary members are back at work, but not all. Our business manager Jason Billings is committed to growing our stationary side of the local. Jason has directed me to plug brothers. Kyle Leger and Miguel Perrault into all things that I do with representing the stationary members of this local and he is working closely with our international on stationary organizing targets for the local that I will be reporting on in the near future!

We continue to engage in talks with Cherokee Nation Entertainment, the new owners of the Gold Strike Hotel and Casino in Tunica, Mississippi over proposed policy changes.

As per the successorship language that we have, the new company had to sign onto the Union Contract as part of the sale of the property from MGM. As expected, the new company had some differences in their policies from the previous owners. We have engaged with them in talks for several changes in policies such as Attendance, Conflict of Interest, Jury Duty, and Military Leave. Brother Kyle Leger has assisted me in these talks via Zoom meetings with the company representatives as they transition into the Gold Strike. Our goal is to establish a relationship with the new company as well as make sure these policy changes are not unreasonable to our members.

I, along with Brothers, Kyle Leger and Miguel Perrault, made some job site visits to the Hale Boggs Federal Complex and Harrah's Casino, New Orleans.

At the Hale Boggs Federal Building we met with the Chief Engineer and the Union Stew-

ard. We also met with the Project Manager for Crystal Clear Maintenance, our Union Contractor that maintains the four federal buildings in the complex. We also toured the engine room of the Federal Court house and discussed some job site issues with the Chief Engineer and Union Steward. There is currently an opening for a General Maintenance Worker at the complex that the company is taking applications for. Qualifications must include, two years' experience in building maintenance.

Kyle, Miguel and I also made a job site visit to Harrah's Casino, New Orleans to meet with the Chief Engineer and the Engineers on shift. We also met with the Engineering Shift Supervisor and talked about the ongoing work at the new hotel and some remodeling work going on inside the casino. Harrah's continues to have an opening for a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Engineer, I am continuing to beat the bushes to find some qualified applicants to refer to the property.

# **BULLETIN BOARD**

# • THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Will be held in Baton Rouge this year. Saturday, May 06,2023 - 11 A.M. Operating Engineers Union Hall 7651 Airline HWY. Baton Rouge, La 70814

• The April Union Meeting for the Lake Charles District is CANCELLED, due to the General Convention being held around the same time.

## **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, up date 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.

# GIVE US A CALL

by Miguel Perrault Business Rep. New Orleans District



Work in the New Orleans District is hold-

ing steady. Civil work around the area is ongoing, with other projects slated to start. Refinery work is winding down and should pick back up in the fall. Contract negotiations with

Maxim have been finalized 5-year, statewide with а agreement. We will soon be negotiations entering with Boh Bros. Construction and M.R. Pittman. I encourage all members that will be finishing up to call the office and get on the "out-of-work" list. Also, availabilitv check the of courses offered at the Crosby Training Facility.

In 2019, Business Manager Jason Billings hired me to take on the role as a Business Representative for this District. My path from an apprentice to a journeyman operator took a lot of dedication and countless hours, and with this new journey, I haven't relaxed with learning all aspects of this role. With his guidance and professionalism, I have accelerated in learning the business side of our industry. I'm looking forward to the continuing knowledge and expertise he has to offer to me, our staff and Local 406.



# TRAINING SITE

by Craig Kaiser Apprenticeship Administrator

Brother & Sisters, Greetings: Many moving parts are going on at the



apprenticeship site and changes steadily coming for 2023.

First off congratulations to Mrs. Haylee Verret on her new baby Mia. Thanks to all that pulled together to keep the wheels in motion as well while she was out including apprentices, business agents and staff at the union halls, and the instructors. It was a change for sure. With everyone pulling together we were able to keep the pieces together and move forward.

In this last month of this quarter, we were able to catch two more career fairs: March 16, 2023 at Chappapeela Sports Park, in Hammond, LA and March 30, 2023 at J Gerald Berret, in Plaquemine,LA. At the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Baton Rouge union meeting, Brother Josh Normand asked if we could do some outreach in the Marksville area. Yes, we can do that! However, we need to share with the building and trades to ensure that the other trades are invited to such events as well. The job fair in Plaquemine, LA was a new one for us. I was contacted by the state asking us to go to one in Hammond, LA. I explained that we have already committed to two career fairs in Tangipahoa Parish this year and would rather do one in another area since our work is statewide. I was then put in contact with the coordinator for the Iberville Parish career fairs and we worked out the one in Plaquemine, LA. Brother Kyle Leger has been participating in the job fairs with Marina Spellman, as well as, helping with mechanic work around the apprenticeship. He is also working with Helmets to Hardhats to help service members transition back in the workforce: whether it be with the apprenticeship or bringing them in as Local 406 members.

The letters to come to application day should be in the applicant's mailbox by April 15, 2023. They are mailed to the last known address provided to us. Stated in the letter are the documents that the apprentices must bring on May 31, 2023. This gives 6 weeks and 3 working days for an applicant to put together the necessary documents to bring on application day. I reported the topic at the union meeting. If you were not there, we have two active apprentices that are participating but being left behind due to lack of calls. I wish we could get the contractors to work with 4 or 5 apprentices each year, to create more opportunities. During this time, we will see the individual's work ethic and begin getting them orientated if they are doing good or lay off the ones that are not.

I reported on upcoming changes with CCO last quarter and would like to share some new changes and/or corrections from what was shared last quarter. First, we will make it through this year with 3 more written paper/pencil tests. The first one took place on March 18<sup>th.</sup> The dates for the next two are: June 24, 2023 and Oct. 21, 2023. Please remember the transition to practical before written if you will be taking classes at the site. We cannot train on written, then test on practical with the same candidates. We did approve monies at our Apprentice Board Meeting, to build rooms to accommodate testing by computer. Since that time, I have taken my own rigger 1 recertification by OPT and it was not as complicated as it was laid out to be. I do not think we will proceed with building testing rooms, maybe something temporary that will still allow privacy for testing. This will be tabled again at our next board

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meeting, and we can decide from there. I would advise if you do take the OPT to pick a time that is at least an hour out. When I scheduled, I picked a time 33 minutes out. There were programs that needed to be loaded and other preparations. Once they were through, I only had 6 minutes before the test started. Also, we are moving forward with creating the telehandler course, in case that becomes a need, so that will be available. We have had sand delivered and are only waiting on equipment from the National Training Fund.

CDL is still an issue with the way it stands now and will probably remain. The ELDT training is 5 to 7 weeks. I realize that no one has that much time to take off to achieve this. It's not only hurting our craft, but many others as well. Instructor Emile Rome has created a great study guide that can help apprentices and anyone else who is not familiar with the information. However, it does not count towards ELDT training, as it remains to be recognized by the state, you must be open shop.

Lastly, I would like to report that we will be getting a few new pieces of smaller equipment to train on. If you were not aware, we had a new roof put on the old building. We also had two garage doors installed on the sides. We will be getting a new mini excavator and bobcat that they will park at the garage doors. This will allow training on one side during rainy days. But we can also do a lean down the road on the other side. This is also an attempt to keep the equipment close to the shop and have apprentices learn the basics before cutting them loose on the property.



The new Kubota Mini Excavator & Skid Steer for the Training Site

Brother Jamie Equihua, lifting a concrete bucket on the Fixed Cab Grove



Brothers Kenneth Rybczyk & Joshua Samson, working the Extendaboom Forklift



Brother Thomas "TJ" Landry, lifting a test weight with the Fixed Cab Grove



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Sister Felicia Tanner, getting some crane time in on the RT745 Apprentice Lauren Mayeux, using RT635 to pick up the Nissan for a tire repair

is

A & B LISTS

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



Spring here and we

have work being performed around the state in multiple locations. None of this could be possible without the leadership of our Business Manager Jason Billings and his staff at Local 406. We have had contractors calling for people to be dispatched and fill jobs for them and this is a welcome call. To be dispatched, you must be on the "Out of Work" list. Also, you

must be out of work to be on these lists. There is a Pipeline A & B list. You must work 1000 hours in the State of Louisiana to move from the B list to the A list. The Oiler's list includes all Oilers and has no restriction on hours. We are currently in need of an operator that lives in the northern part of the state that has current CCO crane certifications and forklift skills to work pulp and paper projects from time to time. These credentials can be obtained through our local training site in Robert, Louisiana or at our Training Site in National Crosby, Texas. Please utilize either of these locations to Page 8

gain these credentials or to make yourself more efficient and skilled in your craft. The more certifications that you have, the better your chances are of staying employed or gaining employment faster. I would like to say thank you to the stewards and craftsmen for representing Local 406 well. I am proud to say that we have some of the best craftsmen in the industry. As summer approaches, remember to stay hydrated. Be your brother's keeper and help each other out. Also, schools will be letting out before you know it, so please keep a lookout for the children.



Associated Safety Meeting in Anacoco, LA





# ALL IS WELL

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

Brothers and sisters, boy has this first quarter gone by in a flash! It seems



like yesterday that we brought in the new year and now we are starting the next quarter. At the time of this writing, all is well in the Baton Rouge District with plenty of work just as our signatory contractors had projected.

With the abundance of work requests arriving daily, it's been a task accommodating our signatory contractors with manpower. I have been working closely with the Business Representatives throughout the

state, with a steady pace of O perating Engineers looking for work and we have been doing our due diligence directing these calls to a district in which manpower is most needed to fill these requests. Special thanks to Business Manage Jason Billings for his commitment to Local 406 and his great communication skills with the International and all surrounding Locals that help us fill these requests as they come in. Through these communications he's made filling manpower requests more efficient less time and consuming. Time is of essence with our obligations to our signatories and new upcoming work these communications were kev and much needed for Local 406 to flourish.

Work was a bit slow in January, with only River Bend Station ramping up for the February outage. Day & Zimmerman, Williams Industrial Services, Sarens Nuclear and Mammoet all had a part in New Fuel Condenser/Retube projects, employing around 40 operators and is presently ongoing. The month of February kicked off with a bang with our crane rentals and Turner Maintenance all in need of manpower. Turner Crane Rental is still extremely busy with work in Oxy, Westlake, and Shell/Geismar Oxy/Convent, also Dow/ Plaquemine, Westlake/ Plaquemine, Placid /Port Allen and Rubicon followed by Eco Services/Baton Rouge. Deep South is presently finishing at Exxon Refinery/ Baton Rouge These jobs have put roughly 50 Operating Engineers to work and most are still employed at the present time. Sarens and Mammoet are both working in the Port Allen area in support of the Dow

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Plaquemine Module Project. Mammoet is working as crane support and Sarens oversees transporting bank modules with the use of SPMT's employing an additional 10 operators.

Boh Bros. are making their way on the HWY 19 and the Diversion Canal projects and no longer need any more operators at the present time. It's been a very slow start due to the reallocation of underground utilities and permits, but things are finally progressing. I also want to mention that Local 406 has opened contract negotiations for Boh Bros. and later in this quarter we will open Turner Shop's as well.

Thanks to all our brothers and sisters for all your hard work and commitment. If anyone can break loose from your busy schedules and has some spare time, please try and make the monthly union meetings. We look forward to seeing everyone and could possibly answer a few questions or concerns that you may have on a certain subject. Until then, stay safe and may God Bless!!



Sarens @ the Performance Yard in Plaquemine

## SPRING HAS SPRUNG

by David Hyatt Business Representative Lake Charles District

The Lake Charles/ Lafayette District has been busy with plant



turnarounds trying to play catch up. The refineries slowed their repairs down to a trickle during Covid and the changing economy so, it forced a bunch of outages/turnarounds to happen at once. Now we are back up and running normally again. Deep South has been busy at Citgo, P66 and Westlake South while Turner Crane and Rigging has been busy at Sasol and Westlake South. Maxim has been busy with hit and miss jobs in the area along with turnarounds at Calcasieu Refining. I'd be remiss to not send out thanks to the operators that helped us fill these seats and for putting the word out to their operator friends. Special thanks go out to Business Manager Jason Billings

also for assisting in getting manpower through his connections all over the country. Those connections come from years of experience and relationships with other Business Managers and Representatives whereby he can call when we need extra manpower and they are willing to reciprocate the same at a moment's notice. These types of surges in work were unpredicted and made it hard to fill but with your help, we were able to fill every seat. The big elephant in the room is the ME&I job that we have been waiting for since around August of last year. The contract getting signed took longer than expected because the scope changed and had to be rebid. Once the bid was accepted and won, the planning and engineering started. That also took longer than expected. At the time of this writing, they are currently awaiting spool pieces to be fabricated so they can get shipping dates secured for receiving on location. The latest report had the pre-job Page 10

conference slated to be right before hire in, mid-April. Thank you all for your patience with this project as it has been nerve-racking, to say the least, on our end because the start dates constantly change. I keep giving reports in the meetings and then must change them as I get more current information. The fall turnaround season looks to be bigger than normal as Deep South has a huge turnaround at Phillips 66. This is the big one that happens every five years or so. If you are a boomer or have friends that are, please let them know that it will be "all hands on deck" around August and should go through Thanksgiving. Remember that summertime is right around the corner and schools will be finishing up the school year so the roads will be crowded with kids on summer break. Please take extra precautions in your travels. If you will be vacationing with your families soon, safe travels to you and yours. I look forward to seeing you at your next regular district meeting.

### **\*ATTENTION MEMBERS AND RETIREES\***

Over the past couple of months, Business Manager Jason Billings attended a statewide Building and Trades Convention in Lake Charles and a statewide AFL-CIO convention in Baton Rouge and personally met Chris Colley, a representative of the law firm Baron & Budd, P.C. The firm specializes in representing workers and their family members suffering from diseases such as Mesothelioma and Lung Cancer caused by asbestos exposure. They have worked with all the Building and Trades locals in assisting their members with asbestos claims. The firm has offices in Baton Rouge and New Orleans. If any member or retiree has been affected by a disease associated with exposure to asbestos or would like more information, feel free to conat 1.800.222.2766 & Budd check out their tact Baron or website at www.baronandbudd.com.

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Baton Rouge

District



As the first quarter passes for 2023, April marks 1 year that I have been in the role of organizer for Local 406. During this time, I have learned quite a bit about how much time and dedication it takes from everyone to keep this business moving forward and to serve our members with the highest of standards.

Our Business Manager, Jason Billings has made sure that in the past year I have received the best training for my position as organizer while also ensuring that I am well rounded in the knowledge and responsibilities of others so that I may assist or fill in, if the need arises.

As we keep moving forward, we are always on the lookout for new work and new members. We are currently working on a Local 406 page on the Helmets to Hardhats internet site so that we may assist veterans who possess the knowledge and skills that our industry requires to utilize those skills upon transitioning from the military.

As Directed by our Business Manager Jason Billings, I have been shadowing Brother John Babin and learning the inner workings of the stationary side of Local 406 to include the casinos and the Super Dome. We are currently looking at possibly organizing some stationary work around the LSU area.

Let's all keep up the great work and we look forward to seeing you all at our monthly meetings and our semi-annual meeting in May.









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# Original Recipes published in the June 1976 is sue o fEngineers News. <u>Author Unknown</u>

# Chicken Sauce Piquant

- 1 Whole chicken large 4 Tbs. All-purpose flour 2 Tbs. Vegetable oil 1 Lg. Onion (chopped) 1 ½ tsp. Garlic (minced) 1 tsp. Sugar Water
- 1 can Mushrooms 1 can Peas 1 can Tomatoes 1 Med. Green bell pepper (chopped) 1/2 tsp. Crushed red pepper 1 tsp. Salt Steamed white rice, for serving.



Brown flour in oil; add onions and cook until golden brown. Add tomatoes and fry for several minutes. Add chicken, cut into pieces, and enough water to make a gravy. Cover and cook slowly until chicken is very tender. Just before serving add mushrooms and peas. Stir until hot and well combined. Serve over steamed rice.



# Grandma's Old-Fashioned Strawberry Shortcake

<u>STRAWBERRIES:</u> 6 C. Sliced fresh strawberries 1/2 C. Sugar 1 tsp. Vanilla extract

<u>TOPPING:</u> 1-1/2 C. Heavy cream 2 Tbs. Sugar 1/2 tsp. Vanilla extract SHORTCAKE: 3 C. All-purpose flour 3 tsp. Baking powder 1/2 tsp. Salt 1-1/4 C. Buttermilk 5 Tbs. Sugar (divided) 1 tsp. Baking soda 3/4 C. Cold butter (cubed) 2 Tbs. Heavy cream

Combine strawberries with sugar and vanilla; mash slightly. Let stand at least 30 minutes, tossing occasionally. Preheat oven to 400°.

<u>For shortcake:</u> whisk together flour, 4 tablespoons sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Cut in butter until crumbly. Add buttermilk; stir just until combined (do not overmix). Drop batter by 1/3 cupful's 2 in. apart onto an ungreased baking sheet. Brush with 2 tablespoons heavy cream; sprinkle with remaining 1 tablespoon sugar. Bake until golden, 18-20 minutes. Remove to wire racks to cool completely.

<u>For topping:</u> beat heavy cream until it begins to thicken. Add sugar and vanilla; beat until soft peaks form. Service: cut shortcakes in half; top with strawberries and whipped cream.



If you would like to submit a recipe from that era, to be featured in the Engineer Newsletter, please E-Mail your name and ingredient information to the E-Mail below. CSmith@IUOELocal406.org