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JULY 2023

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

UPDATES FROM AROUND THE LOCAL

By D. Jason Billings
Business Manager-President



If you read my last article in the previous edition of Engineers News, it told you that we were planning to attend the IUOE General Convention. That has happened along with some changes that will affect us going forward. Those changes were explained at the Semiannual meeting on May 6, and continues to be explained at each local Union meeting across the state and in articles, such as this one. One of the changes is an addition of \$0.05 to the National Training Fund, for a total of \$0.10 per hour that MUST be negotiated into all our contracts, as per the updated Constitution.

One of the topics of the previous Semiannual meeting was the announcement of candidates and nominations for offices for the ensuing term. Nominations were announced and then closed without any opposition to the current officers. In the new term starting September 1, officers will be sworn into their respective positions. Congratulations to all and a special thanks to the entire staff of Local 406 for pulling extra weight at any given notice to help with the business of operating this Local and never letting anything go undone, if within their power to do so.

As my previous article stated, the property on Chef Hwy was listed and is now under a purchase contract which should be fulfilled within the next several months for closing. In lieu of paying for rental storage facilities, we purchased two 20-foot storage containers to keep our investments secure and climate controlled

as we transition into the purchase of our future property to build on. All paperwork has been filed with the Labor Board and the State, through our legal counsel, for the purchase of the property in Loranger. We are currently awaiting approval to make this a reality.

As Craig is recovering from surgery (he referred to that in his article), please be patient with our staff at the district offices as we attempt to fill in for him with any overflow. We enjoyed attending the Apprenticeship Application Day on June 14, as well as meeting with the potential new class of apprentices, together with contractor representatives from Boh Bros., Turner, and Deep South. It was a well put together presentation and delivery, from the parking all the way down to the flow of candidates as they stepped in for the interviews. Craig, Haylee, Marina, Emile, Leon, and John did a phenomenal job hosting, and their professionalism is unmatched thus far.

There has been an abundance of requests for hardship application for the Vacation Fund. Moreso than average. We were relaxed after the pandemic and hurricanes; however, it has become an issue now. The fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30 for the Vacation Fund contributions. Upon completion of the fiscal year, the monies are calculated according to

Continued on Page 3

SCHOLARSHIP

This edition of *Engineers News* contains an application for the 2023-2024 Peter Babin, Jr. Scholarship Fund. All members with children who have excelled scholastically during their senior year in high school should apply for the award.

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

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Jason Tassin, *Guard*
Leo Battistella, *Trustee*
Mark Ferguson, *Trustee*
Jason Draper, *Trustee*
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Brandon Harris, *Auditor*
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Salvador Mangano

David Perrault
Miguel Perrault
James Potter
Mark Schexnayder
Timothy J. Sziber
William Young

SCHEDULED MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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JOHN BABIN
MIGUEL PERRAULT
504.241.1311
3525 N. Causeway Blvd., Ste. 406, Metairie, LA 70002

BATON ROUGE

D. JASON BILLINGS
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225.924.1311
7651 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70814

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D. JASON BILLINGS
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JOHN BABIN, Stationary Engineers Representative
504.241.1311

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504.241.1311
Robert Training Site: 50713 Highway 445,
Loranger, LA 70446 985.542.4322

WEBSITE: www.iuolocal406.org



Like us on Facebook

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

1st Wednesday of every month at
6:00 PM

Temporary Time Change To 6:30 p.m.

Thursday of the week of the 1st
Wednesday of every month at 6:00
PM

Temporary Time Change To 6:30 p.m.

Thursday 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.

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.

PENSIONERS

Baton Rouge District
Carlos Benoit

Lake Charles/Lafayette District
David Lyons
John E. Weaver

Monroe/Shreveport District
Gerald E. Givens
Michael W. Gossett
Robert B. Taylor

New Orleans District
Cherilyn B. Frught
Gerald J. Boudreaux
LeRoy Brock Jr.



DECEASED

Baton Rouge District
Archie Wood
Billy Carber
Carl Guitreau
James LeBlanc

Lake Charles/Lafayette District
John Tommy Burns
Lucien Richard Jr

New Orleans District
Clay E. Duckworth
John G. Neil

Monroe/Shreveport District
Billy Lisenby
Robert Butler

Continued from Page 1

the hours and specific contracts that the member worked under; and then checks are cut, with very little time to spare, to make available for pick up, generally, on the first Saturday in December. This small window of time allows our staff time for creation of these checks, while still performing their regular day-to-day tasks, in addition to closing the business year out and helping with the retiree functions around the state. These checks are for approximately 3000 people and the trust document that governs the rule of when the checks can be written, allows for some flexibility on true hardships. Therefore, each request for hardship undergoes an application process which must be approved for a check to be issued. I need your help to reel this in to be able to continue this hardship service for our members.

During this time of year, I like to report on our charitable contributions as you have seen with previous articles. One of them that we like to donate to is the Louisiana State Police by cooking a meal for the trainees and instructors. This is another way that we give back to our communities and offer support

to our men and women in blue. William, Kyle and I were in attendance this year and assisted them with cooking and serving, as you will see in pictures in this edition of the newsletter. Local 406 also contributed to and participated in a charity skeet shoot for one of our own that is now disabled to help with medical bills that wouldn't otherwise be paid. Thanks to Kyle and Russell for representing Local 406 there while we were out of town at the 40th General Convention.

This year appears to be hotter, much earlier than it has been in the previous years. We all know what the heat can do to the human body, as well as what it produces in the Gulf of Mexico. Hurricane season is here so please stock up on the necessary items that you will need for an emergency such as:

Water (one gallon per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation)

Food (at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food)

- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert

- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Extra batteries
- Whistle (to signal for help)
- Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)

Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to [shelter in place](#))

- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)

Wrench or pliers (to [turn off utilities](#))

- Manual can opener (for food)

- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery

For more information, go to www.getagameplan.org

Thanks to all the members who keep this Organization going and for your support for the future. Please stay safe, stay hydrated and keep us all in your prayers as we keep you in ours. See you at the next district meeting!

President Jason Billings, Business Rep. William Young & Organizer Kyle Leger, at the State Police Training Program



Card Check Neutrality Agreement at Hard Rock Biloxi

by John Babin
Business Rep.
Stationary
Engineers



Local 406 Business Manager Jason Billings, with the assistance of our International Staff, secured a card check neutrality agreement at Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi. As part of the agreement, Bally's Gaming, the owner of the Hard Rock, agreed to take a neutral stance and give Local 406 Union staff, International staff, and Local 406 organizers access into the Maintenance and Slot Technician employees' break rooms to talk to them about forming a Union at the Hard Rock and authorize Local 406 to be their exclusive bargaining representative.

To be certified as the bargaining representative, Local 406 needed a majority of the Maintenance and Slot Technician employees to sign authorization cards and those cards would be verified by a card check process that Company representatives and Union representatives agreed to perform in the presence of a Federal Mediator from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

On June 7, Business Manager Jason Billings and I, together with the Federal Mediator, attended the card check at the Hard Rock Casino in Biloxi. After the cards were verified, the Federal Mediator signed off on the certification document which certifies Local 406 as the exclusive bargaining agent for the Facilities Maintenance employees and Slot Technicians at the Hard Rock

Hotel and Casino in Biloxi.

Our next move is to put a bargaining committee together, prioritize the issues that we want to bargain over, and then engage Bally's in contract negotiations for the first Union contract at Hard Rock.

With this organizing win at Hard Rock, Local 406 now represents Maintenance Engineers and Slot Technicians in six hotel and casinos under four different gaming companies between two states: (1) Harrah's Casino New Orleans; (2) Harrah's Gulf Coast Biloxi; (3) Horseshoe Casino in Tunica, Mississippi (all owned by Caesars); (4) Beau Rivage in Biloxi, Mississippi (owned by MGM); (5) Gold Strike in Tunica, Mississippi (owned by Cherokee Nation); and (6) Hard Rock Biloxi, Mississippi

(owned by Bally's). Local 406, under the leadership of our Business Manager Jason Billings, is committed to growing our market share in the Gaming Industries of both Louisiana and Mississippi!

In other gaming news, Local 406 along with our Council partners, UNITE**HERE!**, and the Teamsters will open negotiations with MGM at Beau Rivage Hotel and Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi on June 26th and 27th. Our first Union contract at the Beau Rivage was a five-year agreement and it is set to expire this August. We hope to build on the current agreement that we have and make some bold proposals for our next agreement that reflect the current market conditions, as well as economic conditions and workloads on our members. I will keep the membership posted on the progress of the negotiations!

President/Business Manager, Jason Billings & Business Representative, John Babin, holding the Election Certificate from the Hard Rock Casino in Biloxi, after securing a majority in the election.



Take Advantage of Your Down Time

by Miguel Perrault
Business Rep.
New Orleans
District



On the heels of the spring outages, the work in the New Orleans District has come to a screeching halt. This is a normal summer routine for our type of work, but I have been busy on the business end of thing by working with Business Manager Jason Billings to help secure a new 2-year agreement with Boh Bros. Construction. I am pleased to announce that the contract has been ratified with help from Business Representatives Russell Maddie, David Hyatt, and Organizer Kyle Leger. We worked closely together to organize and hold informational meetings and a day for the employees to vote across three districts. That was successful and produces a decent agreement for our members there. At the time of this writing, we are currently engaged in contract negotiations with M. R. Pittman Construction and will keep you posted on the outcome at our district meetings in your area as it unfolds. I have been taking advantage of the down time to make visits to jobsite across the New Orleans and surrounding areas, observing ongoing construction activities and sharing that information between the district offices. I have also been talking with our contractors about upcoming work, and it is expected to be very busy in the fall with outages in the refinery industry and nuclear energy plant at Waterford III. I encourage all who are not currently

BULLETIN BOARD

• UPDATE YOUR BENEFICIARIES

Remember to check your 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

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.

of the downtime to make sure any certifications, safety cards, physicals and background checks are up

to date. Summertime is here and the kids are out of school so please watch out for children in your travels.

employed to take advantage

Business Rep. John Babin & Business Rep. Miguel Perrault, enjoying good conversation at the Semi-Annual Union Meeting.



Site Is Busy With Activities

by Craig Kaiser
Apprenticeship
Administrator



Brothers and Sisters,

I hope all are doing well and staying hydrated. Things have been going well around the site with new faces coming in for the new year. We had 35 apprenticeship applicants up for Application Day. I hope we can place these soon. We have sent their profiles and information to our signatory contractors hoping they may pick some up. At the time, we already have five pre-apprentices working. We hired one of the new apprentices in May and he received a call to go to Turner at the beginning of June, at which time we brought another on board.

Here is an update of ongoing and completed projects. We removed the Grove RT58D off the

course and fixed some hydraulic leaks, along with belts. We did wait a long time on a tire which caused members a longer wait time before they could test. While it was off the course, they made a new limestone pad where that crane goes.

Haylee Verret has pulled us through our CPA yearly audit, and a Central Pension Fund Audit, together with additional tasks she has taken on. As soon as the two audits were completed, we jumped into taking in new apprentices, and planning Apprentice June board meeting and current budget.

I cannot forget mentioning Marina Spellman. She has completed many tasks on her watch also. If you have not been to the site in a while, you can see where she has made an enormous difference. Pictures of the changes around the site have been shared on Facebook and will be published here as well. Most projects completed in April goes to her credit, as I was on

the road for meetings and convention for four weeks of a 6-week run.

If you follow us on Facebook, you have seen that we have received a new Kubota skid steer and excavator. These are smaller machines that we can keep out of the weather by keeping in the shop where we just had the new roof put on. Emile Rome, John Wiebelt, Leon Lemoine, Haylee Verret, Collin Johnson, John Carr, Jamar Chenevert, Kentrell Smith and I have all worked on creating test specifically for these machines. These tests will be set up in a way one must be completed before moving on to the next one to ensure everyone that wants it is receiving adequate training.

We had our Apprentice Interview Day and board meeting back-to-back on June 14, 2023. These had to be pushed up as I had to go out for neck surgery on June 22, 2023. I am hoping for a speedy recovery and coming back to action soon.

We also had another written NCCCO paper pencil test on June 24th in which 19 members participated in. The next one will be October 21, 2023, which, unless something changes, should be the last paper pencil at the site. I have taken the test each way paper pencil, CBT, OPT, and EOT. To be honest, if paper pencil is going away, I preferred the OPT online proctored testing best. This has previously been discussed at our apprentice board meetings and OPT is the direction that we will be moving towards at the site. We have purchased a 6' x 8' shed and Marina Spellman and Colby Penalber built it inside the shop. We also purchased a computer that is for testing only. I have installed the required downloads and did my mobile recerts on it, so it is ready to go. This will allow members that do not have a computer that meets their requirements or a personal space to test, the option to come to the site and test.

Sister Marina Spellman & Pre-Apprentice Colby Penalber, working on the CCO Written OPT Room 3.



APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

Apprentice Jacob Crawford



Apprentice Joshua Samson



Apprentice Mathew Cruz



Apprentice Carla Johnson



Sister Felicia Tanner



Apprentices Mathew & Joseph Cruz



Apprentice Joseph Cruz



Apprentice Dylan Wyatt



Work is Holding Steady

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



As the summer is upon us the work is holding steady with Associated Pipeline in Anacoco Louisiana. We are glad to have these union contractors in the area working once again. PeBen USA is racking pipe in Many and Deridder, they are doing the Williams job. T.G. Mercer is cleaning up their yard in Shreveport, they have finished their work. We have work with Wayne Holden on-going in the Shreveport and Lake Charles areas. Michel's pipeline has finished

the seeding and is continuing to monitor the grass and erosion on the pipeline in the Leesville area. The Driftwood project has received the air permits that they were trying to secure. I would like to say thanks to all that attended the Town Hall meetings that helped make this happen.

Please remember that the Crosby training site is where you make yourself a better Operating Engineer and gain the skills necessary to stay the best in our industry. I sincerely believe that Local 406 has the best pipeliners in the industry. Thank you for your hard work and professionalism in these jobs. We are still planning to have the BBQ this year in north Louisiana in September. The date is yet to be determined.

Peter Babin, Jr. Scholarship Award Rules and Instructions

The International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 406 has established a scholarship program to be awarded to one child of Local 406 members annually. The college scholarship will be in the amount of \$1,000 and will continue for four years if grades are maintained. The following rules will apply:

1. ELIGIBILITY

- All sons and daughters of Local 406 members may apply, provided the parent has been a 406 member in good standing for 5 years.
- Applicants must be high school students who have, or will be, graduated during the year they apply.
- Applicants must have a cumulative "B" average at the time of their application.
- Applicants must meet the academic requirements of an accredited college of their choice.
- Applications must be received by September 15, 2023 for 2023-2024 school year.

2. AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS:

- The Local 406 Business Office will verify parental membership requirements.
- A committee composed of the Executive Officers will judge all applications and will select the winner.
- The election will be made on the basis of academic achievements, student activity and financial need.

3. PAYMENT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

- The scholarship is to be used at a college or university of your choice.
- Payment will be made directly to the college or university at which the student registers. If tuition is less than award, the difference will be given to recipient of award for books, supplies, living expenses, etc.
- The \$1,000 scholarship will continue for 4 years provided a "B" average is maintained.

4. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

- Application form is a part of the **Engineers News** and copies will also be available from the office of the Business Manager. When completed, application shall be sent to the Business Manager of Local 406.
- A copy of the high school transcript should be sent with application.
- A recent photograph of the applicant shall accompany the application.

APPLICATION ON PAGE 12 **

Submitted Recipes

Hush Puppies

Submitted by Mrs. Martha Spell on behalf of Sister Tina Comeaux



- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 can Cream Style Corn | 1/4 tsp. Salt |
| 1 cup Plain Flour | 1 small Onion, Diced |
| 1 cup Self Rising Corn Meal | 1 tbsp. Baking Powder |
| 1/4 cup Sugar | 1 Egg |

Mix all ingredients; have the oil to fry HOT! Use the batter right away or it will go flat. Drop the hush puppies into the oil by teaspoons; fry them until they are golden brown.

If you would like to submit a recipe, to be featured in the Engineer Newsletter, please E-mail your name and ingredient information to the E-Mail below.

CSmith@IUOELocal406.org

Slowing Down For Summer

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



At the time of this writing and considering this time of year as usual, work in the Baton Rouge District has slowed down quite a bit. After speaking with crane rentals, work is expected to be slow from now until late July, possibly into mid-August with some spotty work occasionally from Building and Trades at our maintenance facilities.

CF Industries presently has a maintenance turn-around employing 17 operating engineers and is expected to last until mid-July. The Riverbend Station outage is coming to an end with only a few operators presently employed by Williams Industrial Services and Day and Zimmerman as they try to complete a longer-than-expected job scope.

Boh Brothers is still working College Drive and by the LSU lakes, while the Diversion Project in Zachary is still having a slow start due to the Parish and utility issues. To my knowledge, as the Diversion Project progresses and most clearing is done Boh will be reaching out for dozer and trackhoe grade hands. So, if anyone

knows of some good hands, please tell them to contact the Baton Rouge hall for details. As I stated in my last article, Local 406 was opening Boh Brothers contract for negotiation and in doing so, we have negotiated and ratified another two-year agreement in the New Orleans and Baton Rouge Districts with great rate increases for our Brothers and Sisters there.

Turner Industries Shop contract expires at the end of July, and I have been in conversations with the job steward and Turner management coor-



dinating dates and times to schedule negotiation meetings.

I hope that everyone has a great summer and gets to spend quality time with their loved ones. Be safe and may God bless.

Brother William Fee, Business Rep. William Young & Business Rep. Russell Maddie enjoying conversation at the Semi-Annual Meeting Crawfish Boil.



Slow Summer Days

by David Hyatt
Business
Representative
Lake Charles District



The Lake Charles District has been busy during the last quarter, but the dog days of summer have set in. The crane rental companies have slowed down due to refineries slowing their repairs. The next bit of upcoming work, that we know of at this point, is the fall turnarounds. Fall was looking to be busy, but the plant has pushed the major

casieu Refining due to a lightning strike and a tank of Naphtha exploding. The damage is being assessed at the time of this writing and the work to come from it will be announced as they start planning the rebuild. ME&I started at the Shaw Modular facility but started very slowly due to material issues. They took in a couple of operators right off and then a couple more but when the material shortage



started, they froze the hiring until it could be worked out. They should be getting new start dates for the other op-

Business Rep. David Hyatt and his 2 sons at the Semi-Annual Meeting

turnaround that was supposed to be big in the fall, to next spring. There has been a major fire at Cal-



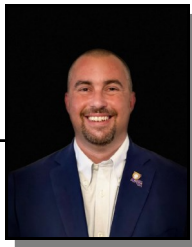
Brother Brandon Harris & family, enjoying the crawfish at the Semi-Annual Meeting

erators by mid-July. Please take the slow season to update any credentials that you need to make yourself employable. Enjoy the time with your families while school is out and please watch out for the children at play during the summer.

We hope to see you at your next district meeting.

Half Way There

by Kyle Leger
Organizer
Baton Rouge
District



Half of this year has already gone by, and the hot weather is here and plentiful. I hope everyone is doing well and staying hydrated, if you are working in the extreme heat. As many have seen in the years past, the summertime can be a bit slower when it comes to the work demand. Although the work may slow, there is always work to be done. In the past few months, under the direction of our Business Manager Jason Billings, I have been working on building a line of communication between Local 406 and the Louisiana Workforce Commission. In the past, we have seen heavy workloads that have taken all the manpower we have and then some. It is important that we succeed in filling the demand when the time comes.

By establishing lines of communication with LWC, Helms to Hardhats and other organizations we can find more people with the required skill set that we need to help complete the task at hand. This also helps to reach people who may not be aware of or informed about our local

one of our Brothers, who has been dealing with some medical issues. This is what we do, we take care of our own. I witnessed some of our members coming together a few years ago to help me when Hurricane Ida came through and I had just undergone my first spinal surgery. Members showed up



Union and its many benefits.

Baton Rouge Business Representative Russell Maddie and I had the opportunity to attend a benefit skeet shoot to help raise money for

at my house to cut down damaged and felled trees and remove debris. I cannot express the amount of gratitude I have for those who came to my aid.

One of the biggest benefits of this Local is being able to work with the members, because it is you that make this Local what it is. Your skills, professionalism and dedication are what keeps people wanting to hire union workers.

I would like to encourage you all to spread the word about Local 406. I know that when I show up to non-union company's offices, stop by random construction sites or stop people in gas station parking lots to tell them about IUOE Local 406, they probably see me as some kind of salesman, but as our members, you are our biggest selling point and living proof of how great this local is because you live it every day.



Brother Blaze Cauthron, Brother Justin Ganson & Brother Mark Ferguson, enjoying the crawfish at the Semi-Annual Meeting.

2023-2024 LOCAL 406 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Student's Name _____ Date of Birth _____
 (Last) (First) (Middle)

Address _____ Sex _____

State of Legal Residence _____ Soc. Sec. No. _____ Marital Status Single _____ Married _____

Graduation Date _____ High School Grade Point Average _____ Name of High School _____

Address of High School _____

High School Activities and Honors: (Use separate sheet of paper if necessary)

College or University you will attend _____

Name of Parent who is a Local 406 Member _____

Registration Number of Parent _____

Parent's Permanent Address _____

Other scholarships or financial aid for which you have qualified for 2023-2024 _____

Will or did you work during the summer of 2023? Yes _____ No _____
 If yes, state the amount of your projected earnings. \$ _____

Will you work during the 2023-2024 school year? Yes _____ No _____
 If yes, state the estimated school year income. \$ _____

Projected school budget for 2023-2024

a. Tuition fees, books	_____
b. Room and board	_____
c. Child care	_____
d. Clothing and laundry	_____
e. Transportation	_____
f. Medical and dental	_____
g. Other	_____
Total	_____

How much financial assistance will your parents give you for 2023-2024 \$ _____

During school, will you live at school? _____ or with parents? _____

If married, yes _____ or no _____, will your spouse contribute to your support?
 yes _____ no _____ If yes, how much? _____

State why you feel you should receive a scholarship (use additional paper if you wish):

Signature _____

Date _____