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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

BOLDLY FACING NEW CHALLENGES

By D. Jason Billings
Business Manager-President



If you take the time to read through these newsletters, you will see a lot of information that is given at our union meetings which has been concentrated. There are months in between these publications but this information is given monthly at our regular meetings in the districts. I have several items to address.

As we go into the turnaround season, the hottest item is the manpower shortage. By the time that you read this, we will have finished our second Indentured Apprentices process which was completed on September 27th. This is to bring more help to meet the demands that the contractors have for the utilization of Apprentices, which we were running short of, as you will read in Craig's article. All our contractors are needing manpower simultaneously, as well as all surrounding sister Locals in our region and others across the United States. When you have double shifts on 200 pieces of equipment, that creates a manpower need of 400 Operating Engineers. Months back after the Spring outages, I foresaw a potential

manpower shortage, so we went into heavy recruitment mode and vetting process to do our due diligence to provide qualified Operating Engineers for the requested positions of specific equipment. If you are an Operating Engineer that is unemployed now, there are only a handful of reasons why: (1) lack of credentials; (2) contractors exercising their managements rights in the contract to not re-employ those who have a history of performance inaccuracies or safety violation/insubordination by issuing a letter to place them on the "Not for Re-hire" list; (3) DISA; or (4) other miscellaneous issues.

I reached out to two International Regional Directors ahead of the flood of work and they shared the manpower needs for us with all Locals in their regions to be as prepared as we could possibly be. Those Locals are also under the

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Notice End of Year Member/Retiree Gatherings

The Operating Engineers Local 406 Apprenticeship & Educational Training Program is proudly hosting the Local 406 retiree Membership Christmas Party and Vacation Fund Check Distribution for 2023.

Saturday, December 2, 2023 – 10:00 AM–2:00 PM

Vacation Fund check distribution will begin at 8:00 AM

Operating Engineers Training Site: 50713 Highway 445 – Loranger, LA 70446

Food and refreshments will be provided. Spouse and family members invited. Everyone will have the opportunity to visit our Training Site firsthand and ask questions regarding our Training Program.

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

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PENSIONERS

Baton Rouge District

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EDWARD K SAUNDERS
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MARVIN D HOUSLEY

Lake Charles/Lafayette District

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DECEASED

Baton Rouge District

JERRY D. NEWSOM
JAMES E. OXNER, JR
A.J. POURCIAU, III

Lake Charles/Lafayette District

EDDIE RAY ASH
RAMON M. POWELL

New Orleans District

ROBERT S. ARNOUVILLE
SAM BOWMAN
O'NEIL J. WILLIAMS

Monroe/Shreveport District

Continued from Page 1

gun for manpower, as I am notified of their shortages as well. A lot of our members went to assist them in the off-season when there were no seats available at home, and this work has crossed each other. I know that our contractors read these articles and I want you assured that all hands are on deck, and we are leaving no stones unturned in getting qualified manpower to fulfill your requests.

In my last article, I spoke of the building on Chef Hwy being under contract to be sold but there have been changes. The sale fell through, I terminated the agreement with the realtor, renegotiated the terms and are now under contract to relist the property again. The property in Loranger that we have been going through the process to purchase for the last 12 months, hit a snag. I was contacted by the DOL with a tentative denial due to a glitch in the application process. I have arranged a conference call to address this issue with legal counsel, the independent fiduciary, and the Department of Labor. This is a hiccup, but it is ok because I want it to be done properly with no mistakes and get it right the first time. We were told that this process takes

approximately 18 months and so far, it is standing accurate.

As you will see in the photos here, the Executive Officers, Executive Board members and Business Manager Emeritus Bro. Peter Babin, III are being sworn in at our first meeting of the new term, which began September 2023, by our previous Business Manager/President Bro. Roy Serpas. Thanks to all those who were able to participate. The ones that were unable to attend that meeting have or will be sworn in at their district meetings across the state by myself as I make the rounds to each district for meetings.

I have been dividing my time in between the Hard Rock and Beau Rivage Casinos in Biloxi with Bro. John Babin for contract negotiations and, in North Louisiana with Bro William Young for the Pipeline and Retirees BBQ. I also have been traveling around to the other districts overseeing the needs there, as well as to Atlanta, GA for insurance quarterly meetings, and Houston, TX for the Annuity Board meeting. As you can see, there have been a lot of things going on since our last communication.

We have a Semi-Annual Meeting this quarter and there we will be addressing some of the mandatory changes coming to our bylaws that were addressed in our last Semi-Annual Meeting in May, as well as some local issues that needs to be discussed and ratified to move forward as a body. I would appreciate your participation in fulfilling your obligation to help your Union be successful.

The end of the year is closing in fast, and the Retirees Christmas Party/ Vacation Fund Check handout will be here in a flash at the Training Site in Loranger as we did last year. This will be the very first Retiree Party that Bro John Babin will attend as a retiree, and I'd like to wish him the absolute best on his achievement for over 30 years of knowledge and experience that he has given to this Local and helped impart to other staff, as well as myself. He will be missed by all. Craig and the staff there do a phenomenal job of hosting as you may have seen before. I look forward to seeing you there to share in the celebration and fellowship. If I don't see you there, I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Season. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers, as I do the same for you.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 4, 2023

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

The Semi-Annual General Membership Meeting Will Be Held Saturday, November 4, 2023, beginning at 10 A.M. @ Operating Engineers Union Hall, 7651 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND. In accordance with Article XXV, Section 1 of Local 406's Bylaws, please be advised a vote will be taken at the Semi-Annual Meeting on a proposal, duly recommended by the Executive Board, to change our Bylaws concerning our current working assessment percentages, together with other amendments.

PLEASE NOTE, due to the Semi-Annual Meeting, all regularly scheduled meetings for the month of November are canceled.

Contract Negotiations with MGM, Bally's, and Caesars Properties

*by John Babin
Business Rep.
Stationary
Engineers*



Local 406 is in negotiations for a new five-year contract with MGM at the Beau Rivage Hotel and Casino in Biloxi Mississippi. The current contract expired on August 1st, and we have secured an extension agreement till December 1st, 2023, to negotiate a new agreement. Our last session was held in August, and we are working with the company to set dates for our next session. We are scheduled to start negotiations with Bally's at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Biloxi Mississippi on September 26th through September 28th. We recently secured a card check recognition at the property with Bally's and this will be the first contract between Local 406 and Bally's. Local 406 will be representing the Maintenance Engineers as well as the Slot Tecs at the property in Biloxi and could gain recognition at other Bally's properties in Mississippi and Louisiana in the future.

In October, Local 406, together with the affiliates of the Southeast Building and Construction Trades,

will open negotiations with Caesars Entertainment for wages only for the Maintenance employees at Harrah's Casino New Orleans. We will be negotiating the raises for the next three years at the property. Local 406 also recently negotiated a new entry-level position of General Maintenance Worker with Caesars which will allow entry-level GMW's to train on the job as well as utilize our national training facility to promote into licensed Stationary Engineers.

Our Federal Contractors C&W and Crystal Clear Maintenance at the Hale Boggs Federal Complex over the last 4 years have lost the contract and a new contractor, SDAC, will take over the maintenance of the buildings on October 1st. I have reached out the President of SDAC and provided them with a Bridge Agreement to sign so they can assume the current contract under our successorship language. The current contract will remain in effect until October 2025.

Brothers and Sisters, this will be my last article as a Business Agent for Local 406. I am retiring at the end of October. I've worked as the Stationary Engineer Business Agent for the Local since May of 2007, with the commitment of building and maintaining our Stationary Membership in the Lo-

cal. I know our Business Manager, Jason Billings and the rest of the staff are also committed to building and maintaining our Stationary membership, especially in the Casino Industry.

I am a third generation Operating Engineer, following behind my Grandfather, Father and my Brother, all who were Officers of this organization. With starting as an Apprentice for Local 406 in 1982,



RETIRING!

**Goodbye TENSION
Hello PENSION**

building the external tanks for the space shuttle program at the NASA Facility. I worked my way up to a First Class Stationary Engineer. In 1996 I worked for the International Union as an International Representative, organizing members all over the Southeast Region of the United States. In May of 2007, I was hired by the Local to replace the retiring Stationary Agent, Mel Spizale.

Everything I have is because of this Organization, I shall remain a member till the end. I want to thank all the members for your support over the years and to continue supporting our current administration. I have worked for many Locals throughout our region with several Business Managers and their staff. Brothers and Sisters, we have one of the most committed and self-sacrificing Business Managers. With Jason Billings and his staff, I know our Local are in good hands, hopefully for another 120 years!

BROTHER PETER BABIN, IV, BROTHER PETER BABIN, III & BUSINESS REP. JOHN BABIN AT THE NEW ORLEANS METRO MEETING



BROTHER JOE REED & BUSINESS REP. JOHN BABIN AT THE PIPELINE & RETIREES BBQ

Fall Turnaround Boom

by Miguel Perrault
Business Rep.
New Orleans
District



The fall outage season here has been very busy. Maxim, Deep South, and Turner Crane and Rigging have been requesting manpower for crane operators in the refineries and it seems that it's more than the usual workload. We have been extremely busy contacting operators to fill these positions. Thanks to Bro. Kyle Leger for assisting me in helping make calls and

answering them also as it is overwhelming at times. Not only are we busy in the New Orleans district but, there are multiple Locals that have been contacting Business Manager Jason Billings which are also in need of operator assistance. It seems that every place across the nation needs operators at the same time. After Covid, a lot of the operators that work the outages and shutdowns took early retirement rather than be worried about what to do to mitigate the pandemic and that left us in need during turnaround season. If you know of any skilled operators that would be inter-

ested in seeing what the Union has to offer, please tell them to contact any of our district offices and we would be glad to help them start their career here.

There is also an outage at the Waterford Nuclear Site which will run through October. In conjunction with the outage work, I've also been working alongside Bro. John Babin with negotiations on stationary contracts.

Lastly, a reminder to all to take advantage of any down time you may have to update any certification needed and/or advanced training at the ITEC in Crosby, TX.

STAFF MEMBERS ANGIE, ADRIAN & SEELITTA, ALONG WITH PRESIDENT JASON BILLINGS & BROTHERS RUSSELL, WILLIAM, JOHN & MIGUEL ENJOYING THE PIPELINE & RETIREES BBQ



BROTHERS, COLEY STOCKMAN & TOM MCDANIEL AT THE PIPELINE & RETIREES BBQ

Apprentices in High Demand

by Craig Kaiser
Apprenticeship
Administrator



I hope this finds you all doing well. We have taken in our apprentices for 2023 and pretty much had most of them working before they were completely indentured somewhere as pre-apprentices. Classes took off in August and just as the classes finished calls began coming in for those that were not working. This was nice and probably the first time that it worked out this well that everyone, and I mean everyone, was given a chance. Thank you to the instructors for classes well done and helping the apprentices get their stuff together to be work ready. Thank you to the apprentices that went out and got their TWIC and Safety Council cards in time for the workload that came upon us.

The contractors that picked up pre-apprentices and/or apprentices were as follows.

BOH BROS 10 DEEP SOUTH 7 TURNER 1 HUB FOUNDATIONS 1

The NCCCO OPT (Online Proctor Testing) works out well and is able to help members that may not have a computer at their homes to take the exam. It has been asked a lot recently if the test can be taken from home. The answer to that is "Yes". That is basically all that we are doing is providing a computer that meets the requirements to test on and a quiet space. Before scheduling you will need to create an account in the MyCCO login. (You will find that located at the top right on their home screen.) You will have to pay for the exam and/or exams that you wish to take and email the authorization code with your scheduled time. While on CCO, the last paper-pencil exam that will be offered at the site is 10/21/2023. The window to sign up for that one has closed. Please call 985-542-4322 if you would like to schedule an OPT exam and speak with Ms. Haylee Verret.

At the end of September, we

had four pieces of equipment go on the online auction with Henderson Auction. We have finally gotten rid of the old pile driving rig, it has never tracked since it has been here. This has been a long-time eye sore which will finally be gone. On July 19, Marina Spellman and Kyle Leger participated in a career fair at BuildStrong academy in Kenner. Other than that, one it has been a little slow for career fairs. It will be picking up in October and November for sure during National Apprenticeship Week. More than likely we will participate in at least one for sure at the Baton Rouge Carpenters Hall.

Coming from the apprentices that were enrolled already and the instructors, it is nice to have the new pieces of equipment to train with. We are still in need of updated cranes, but we will make it for the time. As far as the telehandler is concerned, that kind of went away as the contractors do not feel like this is something they will be using or in need of. As we go into the holiday season, I wish you all a great end of year for 2023.

BROTHER LAVELLE SMITH & WIFE AT THE PIPELINE & RETIREES BBQ



PRESIDENT JASON BILLINGS CUTTING UP WITH BROTHER CHARLES METHVIEN & FAMILY AT THE PIPELINE & RETIREES BBQ

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

JAMIE EQUIHUA OPERATING RT745 AFTER REPAIRS



JSA/ PB&J 1ST YEAR CLASS



CRAIG KAISER & COLBY PENALBER MOVING CULVERTS

JAMIE EQUIHUA WORKING ON RT745 LEAKS



REGINALD BOUIE TAKING OPT CCO TEST



COLBY PENALBER WASHING NTF EQUIPMENT

MARSHALL THOMASSON TESTING TLL

Training for the Future

by Kyle Leger
Organizer
Baton Rouge
District



This year we have had a summer like we have never seen before. We have dealt with record heat and an extreme lack of rain which caused an abundance of wildfires across the state. As we move into the fall, I am sure that everyone is looking forward to cooler temperatures and lots of work.

In the last few months, I have had the pleasure of working with our Brother John Babin who takes care of our stationary engineers.

Brother John will be leaving us soon to go into retirement and start a new chapter in his life. Our Business Manager Jason Billings has directed the Business Representatives and me to have direct interaction with Brother John Babin on the stationary side of things and learn what we can from him while he is still here. This is to ensure that we are all familiar with the inner workings of the stationary side of business because it is going to take all of us to fill his shoes.

Between working to fill job positions with our signatory contractors who are manning up for turn-around and going into contract negotiations and renegotiating other contracts it has truly been all hands-on deck. With the guid-

ance of our Business Manager and the help of these awesome ladies we have working in our offices, we push forward and do our best to serve our members. Part of serving our members takes getting involved in the community, which includes state and local parish levels. By working with and attending scheduled meetings with the New Orleans AFL-CIO, I have had the pleasure of meeting some of our com-

This is important because these are the people who help to keep our state and economy moving forward, which creates more jobs and keeps us working.

I know that this is a busy time of year, but we hope to see you at our monthly meetings. These meetings are a great way to get information about what is going on across each jurisdiction and a great time to ask questions and voice your concerns. Take care of

BROTHER ROY SERPAS SWEARING IN THE EXECUTIVE BOARD & EXECUTIVE OFFICERS @ THE NEW ORLEANS METRO MEETING



munity and state leaders and have bore witness to some of the inner working of selecting those leaders that we will endorse.

yourselves and each other so that we can all go home at the end of the day.

BULLETIN BOARD

• 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

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.

Operators Needed

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



Brothers and Sisters, I hope all is well as we cope with these extreme temperatures while still performing daily job tasks. Remember to stay hydrated and take frequent breaks when possible. At the time of this writing, work around the Baton Rouge district has been very busy.

As stated in my last article, Turner Maintenance at CF Industries is still ongoing until the end of September. Honeywell Geismar has also requested a

few civil and NCCCO operators to fill full-time maintenance positions. I have filled some of these positions, but have fallen short, so if you or someone you know is interested in a full-time maintenance position, please give me a call, or come by the hall. Deep South and Turner Crane Rentals are extremely busy currently and have exhausted the majority of the Baton Rouge out of work list while manning the first phases of the September/October turnarounds. The second phase will be mid-to-late October with many more operator positions to fill as both contractors' man up for Westlake/Plaquemine, Honeywell/Geismar, Dow/Plaquemine, and Shintech/Plaquemine just to name a few. This work is expected to continue well into the holiday season,

possibly longer. Turner Crane Rental is also manning for a few jobs at Dow/Plaquemine for new construction.

Boh Bros. are taking a few operators that are grade and blue top hands at Dow/Plaquemine, meanwhile the Local needs new operators with these skills. If you know of someone, tell them to come by the hall for possible employment.

I would also like to mention that Business Manager D. Jason Billings, Organizer Kyle Leger, and I met with Turner Maintenance Shop supervision and the shop members on several occasions to negotiate and discuss items for their collective bargaining agreement. I am pleased to announce that Local 406 was successful in ratifying a decent 2-year CBA for our members there. Stay safe and may God bless and keep everyone safe.

ADRIAN GUILLOT & HER HUSBAND, MIKE @ THE PIPELINE & RETIREES BBQ



RETIRED BUSINESS MANAGER ROY SERPAS, PRESIDENT JASON BILLINGS & BROTHER PETER BABIN, III AT THE NEW ORLEANS METRO UNION MEETING

Fall Turnaround Season in Full Swing

by David Hyatt
Business Representative
Lake Charles District



Lake Charles has been busy with Turnarounds and some project work for a while now. Deep South has been on their fall outages at Phillips 66 and Citgo as well as Westlake Petrochem. The ME&I job at the Shaw Shop in South Lake Charles started slowly and then ramped up quickly employing 10 operators at the peak and then their supplies slowed down, and they had to cut back to 8 to stay up with the supply and demand, hopeful for recall when it picks back up. Turner has been hit or miss with jobs, although moving forward there has been talk about some outages that they'll be needing help with this month. That will be coming right off the heels of Deep South winding down so it may be a good opportunity for our guys to get right back to work.

I have been working with Business Manager Jason Billings, Bro. John Babin and other Local 406 representatives assisting in the negotiations at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi on a new 5-year contract. I have also attended DOL Training with Bro. William Young in Little Rock, Arkansas to better equip us to be in compliance with the Department of Labor to better serve our members and keep us on the cutting edge of the ever-changing laws. Business Manager Jason Billings sees the need to keep his staff as educated as possible so that the membership gets the best service that we can offer so he likes for us to cross train to be able to assist in any position that we can and have the knowledge to do it also.

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE DAVID HYATT & PRESIDENT JASON BILLINGS SHOWING THEIR SUPPORT FOR STITCH GUILLORY, SHERIFF CANDIDATE



PROUDLY RECITING THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AT THE NEW ORLEANS METRO UNION MEETING

Work for 2024 seems to be looking good. I have heard from our contractors, and they say there is work on the books for all next year. I've spoken to one of our signatories that is planning a project in the Baton Rouge District, which could be some long-term work should they get tentative dates and commitments from the facility. More information to follow as it is received from the signatory.

The Holidays are right around the corner and the end-of-year meetings for retirees and the Vacation Fund Checks will be here before you know it. I look forward to seeing you all there at those events as we share in good food, good fellowship and get to see those who don't get out much anymore. If I don't see you before then, I hope to see you there. If I don't see you there, I wish you and your families the Happiest of Holidays!

Busy Around the State

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



What a hot summer it turned out to be! We are glad for a break in the weather; it has been a welcome relief. We are now looking forward to the upcoming work. Associated Pipeline Contractors has started another phase; a 14-mile

project. We also have the TVA doing some levee work, although it is a small project, we are glad to have a few people working on this project. Michels Trenchless is doing directional drills for a non-union pipeline company in the Lake Charles area. We are proud of our Operating Engineers that are on that project as well.

We enjoyed seeing everyone at the Pipeline Barbecue and Retiree's Picnic in north Louisiana in September. There was a lot of good food

and fellowship. Hopefully, more of the membership will be able to attend the next one.

We have rumors of upcoming Pipeline work, but no pre-job yet. Our out-of-work lists are short, so if you want to do pipeline work and have the skills necessary to fill one of these pipeline positions, please call the Shreveport office at 318-686-7745. As a reminder, you must call once every 30 days to keep your name on the out of work list. You must be unemployed and not working to be on or remain on the out of work list.

PRESIDENT JASON BILLINGS & BROTHER MICHAEL DUBOIS



GOOD LAUGHS AND GREAT PEOPLE AT THE PIPELINE & RETIREES BBQ!



BROTHERS LARRY JENKINS, STEVE JONES, GEORGE STURDIVANT & JOE REED

Submitted Recipes

Sweet Potato Praline Casserole — Submitted by, Juanita Smith



5 LRG Sweet Potatoes or Yams
 1/3 C. Milk
 1/2 C. Softened Butter
 1/2 C. Heavy Cream
 1/2 C. Sugar
 1 C. Light Brown Sugar
 2 Eggs (Beaten)
 1/3 C. Melted Butter
 1 TSP. Vanilla
 1 C. Chopped Pecans

1. Preheat oven to 350-degrees F. Scrub the sweet potatoes or yams well and place them in the oven. Bake until tender, about 40 minutes, and remove. When they are cool enough to handle, halve them and scoop out the insides into a large mixing bowl. Mash well. You should have about 3 cups.
2. Mix the softened butter into the mashed yams or sweet potatoes along with the sugar, eggs, vanilla, and milk. Pour the mixture into a baking pan or casserole dish.
3. Bring the cream to a simmer in a small saucepan. Add the brown sugar and stir until it dissolves. Cook the mixture over medium heat until it reaches the soft-ball stage on a candy thermometer. Remove from heat and beat in the butter and the chopped pecans. Pour this mixture over the yams. Bake until very hot and top begins to brown.

Corbread Dressing - Submitted by, G. Myers



12 C. Crumbled Savory Corbread
 1/2 C. Butter
 1 LRG Sweet Onion (diced)
 2 Ribs Celery (diced)
 6 LRG Eggs (beaten)
 1-2 Tbsp. Chopped Fresh Sage (optional)
 2 1/2 Tsp. Poultry Seasoning
 1 Tsp. Salt
 1 Tsp. Ground Black Pepper
 1 Tsp. Garlic Powder
 1 Tsp. Onion Powder
 48 oz. Chicken Broth

- Preheat the oven to 350°F. Spray a 12 x 8-inch baking dish with cooking spray. Set aside.
- In a skillet over medium high heat melt butter, with diced onion and celery. Season lightly with salt and black pepper to your taste. Cook for 5-7 minutes until the vegetables begin to soften and brown.
- Meanwhile, place cubed corbread and Italian bread into a large bowl. To the bowl add sautéed onion and celery, soup, eggs, sage, poultry seasoning, salt, pepper, garlic and onion powder.
- Gradually add stock stirring until all of the chicken stock is used and ingredients are fully moistened.
- Pour corbread mixture evenly into the prepared baking dish. Bake for 50-60 minutes until the top is golden and baked through.
- Serve with cranberry sauce or turkey gravy.



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

CSmith@IUOELocal406.org