

VOLUME 41 NO. 1  
JANUARY 2021

# Engineers News

LOCAL 406

I.U.O.E.

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

ABILITY

PROGRESS

SAFETY

UNITY

## NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO CLOSE OUT 2020

As you read through the Business Representatives' articles, you will see the story unfolding of a historical year and I will do my best to not duplicate it. If you have read my articles from the previous year, it is a timeline that has kept you up to date as the events unfolded.

COVID-19: This started a series of events that caused catastrophic layoffs and work shortages. With Local 406 being a non-profit organization, employment opportunities are the financial engine that keeps the Union running. This year will be an Auditor's nightmare as the stay at home order forced new procedures to be formed so that we could remain operational as we were listed as essential employees in most areas because we refer construction workers essential to refinery work. My sincere thanks to the staff of Local 406 for all of the hours that you poured in with very unorthodox schedules and late hours, in order to help the membership and myself as I worked portable to make the contracts that produced the amount of work that we were able to capture during this time. Recapping the business end of it all, working with all the Trust funds and CARES Act that was implemented, we gave all of the assistance that we could legally extend as

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



Trustees and we review quarterly in the ongoing review process.

Union Elections: 2020 was an election year for the officers of Local 406. The May Semi-Annual meeting has always stood as the nominating meeting per our by-laws. The Labor Board and our General Executive Board gave us avenues to mitigate the restrictions for gathering until we could safely hold assemblies under the state restrictions and mandates at a later date. We had a successful Union Election process during the pandemic while following all mandates and procedures. We were afforded the ability to waive all meetings and elections due to the pandemic, through proper social distancing and outside the box thinking we accomplished our election of officers, staying within the confines of the bylaws. We closed out 2020 with no unfinished business.

Hurricanes: Not to sound repetitious, hurricane season was a tremendous season this year. There were five named storms hitting the Louisiana coast and doing extensive damage almost coast

*Continued on Page 3*

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

# ENGINEERS NEWS

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## OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL UNION No. 406 OFFICERS

D. Jason Billings, *Business Manager– President*  
Craig M. Kaiser, *Financial/Recording Secretary*  
Jason Tassin, *Guard*  
Marty Anderson, *Trustee*  
Leo Battistella, *Trustee*  
Mark Ferguson, *Trustee*  
Peter Babin, III, *Business Manager Emeritus*

David Hyatt, *Vice President*  
Carlos Benoit, *Treasurer*  
Arthur Robertson, *Conductor*  
Daniel Foy, Jr., *Auditor*  
James Potter, *Auditor*  
William Fee, *Auditor*

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

John Babin  
Carlos Benoit  
Donald J. Billings  
Buster Buxton  
Robert H. Cerise, Jr.  
Albert Frazer

Troy J. Gainey  
Billy W. Hubbard, Jr.  
David Hyatt  
Craig Kaiser  
Russell Maddie  
Salvador Mangano

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

### SCHEDULED MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

#### OFFICES AND BUSINESS AGENTS

##### NEW ORLEANS:

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JOHN BABIN  
MIGUEL PERRAULT  
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7370 Chef Menteur Hwy., New Orleans, LA 70126

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(504) 241-1311

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7370 Chef Menteur Hwy., New Orleans, LA 70126 (504)241-1311  
Robert Training Site: 50713 Highway 445, Loranger, LA 70446 (985)542-4322

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



Like us on Facebook

#### MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

1st Wednesday of every month at  
6:00 p.m.

Temporary Time Change To 6:30 p.m.

Thursday of the week of the 1st  
Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m.

Temporary Time Change To 6:30 p.m.

Thursday of the week of the 4th  
Friday of the months of January  
April, July & October at 6:00 p.m. ,

Temporary Time Change To 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday of the week of the 4th  
Friday of the months of January &  
July at 6:00 p.m.

Temporary Time Change To 6:30 p.m.

## PENSIONERS

### Baton Rouge District

Robert Boudreaux  
Dean Carmouche  
George Hardy  
Patrick S Hebert  
Bruce W Jackson  
Ryan M Reason  
Jonathan M Rhodes  
John M Roussell  
Elliott J Watts.

### Lake Charles/Lafayette District

Eddie A Brooks  
David J Fruge  
Billy Savant  
Robert P Stanley

### New Orleans District

Ricky Audibert  
James Bayless  
Richard Brisset  
Ernest Camp  
Lindy S Collins, Jr.  
Allen D Crawford  
Lawrence Dupont, III  
James W Dupree  
Kenneth E Little  
Kenneth Rowell  
Frank J Savarino, Jr.

### Monroe/Shreveport District

Burton H Burns  
Robert L Buxton  
Kenneth Goleman  
Phillip Gray  
Walter E Gray, Jr.  
Benny V Haile  
Jeri V Hearn  
Alan W Littleton  
Thomas W McMurray  
Billy J McNeil, Jr.  
Steve R Sanders  
Elise M Smith  
Harry D White



## DECEASED

### Baton Rouge District

Van Broussard, Jr.	11/17/2020
Jimmy Bihm	10/23/2020
Walter Hankton, Sr.	06/05/2020
Tony M Kilpatrick	10/16/2020
James D Lanclos	10/22/2020
Michael D Morace, Jr.	12/05/2020
Clyde Morgan	10/21/2020
Harris Naquin	10/30/2020
Roy G Walton	11/13/2020

### Lake Charles/Lafayette District

Donald W Cauthron	09/30/2020
Collins Guillory	09/06/2020
Alex Istre	07/25/2020
Charles H Lovett, Jr.	12/16/2020

### New Orleans District

Oray Boston, Sr.	07/20/2020
Wesley Boudreaux	10/03/2020
Hubert Berry	06/25/2020
Glyn Carter	05/14/2020
Hayward Cavalier	07/14/2020
Rayford B Cloy	11/24/2020
Joseph F CoCo, Jr.	10/09/2020
George H Hallner	12/08/2020
Herbert S Kraus, Jr.	12/31/2020

### Monroe/Shreveport District

Louis W Dannehl	08/15/2020
Ronnie L Hamilton	10/23/2020
Norman Norsworthy	09/30/2020
Donald D Turner	12/26/2020
William R Wynn	09/20/2020

Continued from Page 1

to coast. While still practicing the social distance measures, we began to rebuild from these storm ourselves, in order to save our building from mold and disrepair. This was an arduous task for us, as there were no contractors for us to secure immediately. We began the demolition process immediately to remove the wet material from the structure. We also put fans and dehumidifiers on generated power for nearly a month to dry the building out. We also tarped the roof to avoid any more water intrusion. While working physically in the storm on damaged properties, I was on the phone assisting the Business Representatives and staff with decision making for their offices and areas to keep our Local running

smoothly and working with the Trust Funds as a Trustee.

At this time I want to extend a special thanks to any member that was able to help with any portion of the work that involved getting the Local back on it's feet, from the damage for this is an ongoing process. Chris Crane worked tirelessly between jobs at the Lake Charles office as a volunteer and greatly alleviated the burden of cleanup, removal of debris, and with the remodeling process.

Our last Semi-Annual meeting was held in Baton Rouge in November and the Executive Board met and received scholarship applications for the Peter Babin Jr. Scholarship. The scholar-

ship applications were taken home for review and the secret ballots were mailed in with their selection. Congratulations to Bella Grace Billings on being chosen for the Scholarship out of several worthy candidates. I want to thank the Executive Board for their due diligence in this process.

It has been an extremely long mental and physical year. By the time you read this, it will have ended and 2021 will have began. I hope everyone had a safe and happy Holiday Season with their loved ones. I look forward to a brighter year to come. May God bless you and your families in the coming months. Hold your head up and walk straight.



**Business Manager Jason Billings receiving his 25 year pin at the Semi-Annual meeting held in Baton Rouge in November.**



**Business Agent William Young, Business Agent David Hyatt, & Business Manager Jason Billings presenting Brandon Harris with his National Charity Fund Disaster Relief Check.**

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

by John Babin  
Business Rep.  
Stationary Engineers



We have opened negotiations for Harrah's Casino New Orleans and Harrah's Gulf Coast Casino in Biloxi Mississippi. We are seeking five-year contracts at both properties with a wage opener in year three at Harrah's Casino New Orleans due to a new 340 room hotel that is going to be constructed on top the existing casino. Harrah's Casino New Orleans will also be rebranded back to the Caesars name. With the rebranding and upgrades of the new hotel we hope to be in a better negotiating position three years from now. Although we addressed wage increases for the next two years, we also proposed some manpower limits, the development of a storm team, and some health and safety issues. We also included some Shop Steward language into the new agreement. The Building Trades Council made their initial proposal, and we are awaiting a counter proposal from Harrah's Management.

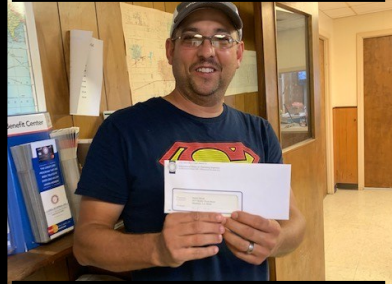
I along with representatives from Unite/HERE and the Teamsters International Unions also opened negotiation for a five-year agreement at Harrah's Gulf Coast Casino in Biloxi Mississippi. At Harrah's Gulf Coast we are introducing a Union Health Care plan that is administered through Unite/HERE that will save the members significant amounts on monthly premiums for their health care as well as vision and dental benefits. We also introduced language to protect the members from COVID-19 at work as well as no waiting period for healthcare when you return to work if you are laid off due to COVID-19. We also proposed stronger protections

around layoffs and recalls including extending recall rights to two years from the date of layoff. There will also be some guaranteed wage increases every year starting in the second year of the five-year agreement. I hope to have both agreements ratified in January of 2021 and put into effect.

I want to wish all members of Local 406 a Happy and Safe New Year!

**Throughout the newspaper you will see pictures of our members receiving their Disaster Relief Checks from the Operating Engineers National Charity Fund.**

**Brother Joshua Monk with his National Charity Fund Disaster Relief Check.**



**Brother Keith Mitchell with his National Charity Fund Disaster Relief Check.**



**Brother Kodie Hawkes with his National Charity Fund Disaster Relief Check.**



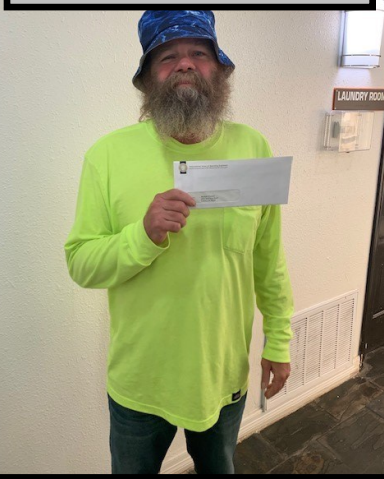
**Brother Mark Ferguson with his National Charity Fund Disaster Relief Check.**



**Brother Michael Ashworth with his National Charity Fund Disaster Relief Check.**



**Brother Michael Winsted with his National Charity Fund Disaster Relief Check.**



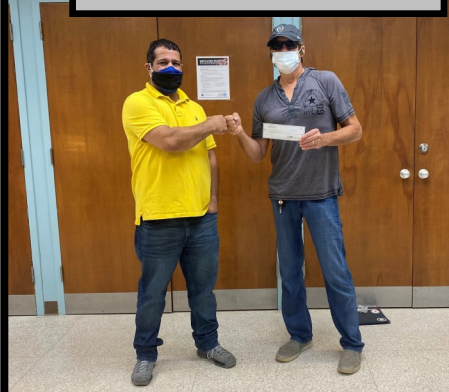
### A Year to Remember

by Miguel Perrault  
Organizer  
New Orleans  
District



It has been a tough year to remember. Everything was going smooth with work for our members, unfortunately, it was impacted really hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Then to top it off, we had a historic hurricane season that affected many of our members. Luckily, we were able to appropriate funds to help our members with assistance for maintaining their health insurance. Also, those that participated in our Local 406 Disaster Relief Fund received additional funding to help recover from damages due to recent natural disasters. With all that happening, the year still seemed to pass quickly. I know there is a lot to learn, and I'm looking forward to absorb as much as possible to keep our local strong. If there is any concerns or questions regarding our Local 406 Disaster Relief Fund, please feel free to contact me.

Brother Miguel Perrault giving Brother David Spellman his Local 406 Disaster Relief Check.



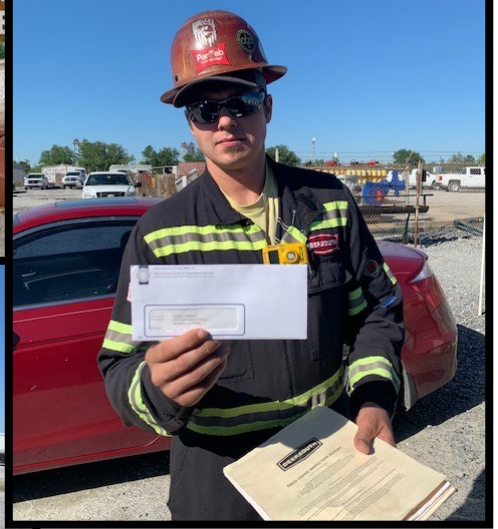
Brother Troy Gainey with his National Charity Fund Disaster Relief Check.



Brother Troy LeBoeuf with his National Charity Fund Disaster Relief Check.



Brother Zachary Bushnell with his National Charity Fund Disaster Relief Check.



Brother Jordan Begnaud with his National Charity Fund Disaster Relief Check.



## Ending Year 2020

by Craig Kaiser  
Apprenticeship  
Administrator



I hope you all had a blessed Holiday season in 2020. I also hope this year will turn out better than we have experienced in 2020, I think we can all agree on that. Moving into 2021, I would like to share that the apprentice schedule is available on the local's website, [www.iuoelocal406.org](http://www.iuoelocal406.org). While speaking of the new class schedule for 2021, if you have anyone that you know interested in the apprenticeship and would meet the requirements please have them contact Ms. Haylee Pierce at 985-542-4322 to leave their information. The requirements are listed on our website. March 31, 2021 will be the last day that any applications will be accepted. Also, if you know of anyone that filled out an application between April 2020 and now please make sure they turned in their application with a correct address. I would imagine a lot of addresses have changed with all the storms Louisiana has experienced. When these unfortunate events occur and the applicant does not call to change his/her address, we mail the letter inviting them to application day to the address on file and it results in the applicant not receiving the letter. Depending on what work turns out like this upcoming year we may not take as many apprentices as usual because approximately only 75 percent of the apprentices that came in last year still have not been able to be employed. The good news is these apprentices that came in 2020 took advantage of their class hours and a fair share of them have enough class hours that if work did pick up seven days a week, they are ahead on their class hours so they will not need to take off for class. Brother Miguel Perrault picked up a job at the Port of Orleans that we were able to work a few apprentices on and this helped some of them acquire on the job hours. As work picks up please keep these apprentices in mind and call the hall if you see a spot for them. They will not all make it, but they all deserve a

chance after what they have done this far in the program.

In the last article I wrote that we were getting rid of some of the GSA equipment and I must be honest this process is not going as fast as it normally does. Currently we have removed three pieces from the inventory and have two in the works at the time. The total amount of equipment that will be taken off inventory is twelve. We have received two pieces of equipment from the National Training Fund, that are nice to have for training the apprentices and journeyman. The two pieces of equipment are a John Deer excavator and dozer. You will see attached pictures throughout the paper with them working on both.

The next thing I would like to report on is the last NCCCO written of 2020. For the past two years we have consistently paid NCCCO to host a written exam, as we did not have 15 members that tested each quarter. This past year we cut the NCCCO down from four a year to three a year and the last test we had enough members to avoid the less than fee from NCCCO. Out of that class the percentage that passed was 90 percent, which is a good number in my opinion. Out of 51 test, 46 of the members passed. I wish that number could be 100 percent, but those are still very good numbers. Please remember to check your expirations on your NCCCO cards. Remember that you can take the test for your recertifications within the last year of your expiration and not lose any time on your current card. 2021 dates for NCCCO are attached in this newsletter. Also, during the last quarter there was a reboot program that Brother David Hyatt caught wind of and passed the information on. The program was a free opportunity funded by grant money for certified NCCCO candidates needing a recertification to take the test for nothing. It may have helped more than one member as we shared on the local's Facebook page. One of our members that tested with us on 11/24/2020 used it to take his, just in case he would need two chances to pass. We have also been busy with practical examinations for the members that passed our NCCCO written and needed to take a practical.

Last let us be grateful and proud of our local and our contractors that came up with alternative procedures and policies to make it through the uncertain times last year. Just as soon as you would get one plan moving, another obstacle was thrown in the mix. Throughout all the turmoil business at hand was still taken care of and we still moved forward to continue providing for our families. We will all make it through this together same as always. Please stay blessed and Louisiana Proud.

## Need your CCO or need to recertify?

Mark your  
calendars now for our  
upcoming tests:

### 1st Quarter:

**Test on March 13, 2021**

**Class Dates are**

**February 13 and**

**February 27, 2021**

**\*\* Last day for applications is  
February 19, 2021.**

### 2nd Quarter:

**Test on June 26, 2021**

**Class Dates are**

**June 5 and**

**June 12, 2021**

**\*\* Last day for applications is  
May 28, 2021.**

### 3rd Quarter:

**Test on November 6, 2021**

**Class Dates are**

**October 9 and**

**October 23, 2021**

**\*\* Last day for applications is  
October 15, 2021.**

*To participate in any of the above classes, please contact the Training Site at 985-542-4322 to put your name on the roster and have an application mailed to you.*

# APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

Apprentice Logan Hanna  
in excavator.



Apprentices getting familiar  
with the excavator.



Apprentice Felicia Tanner pulling  
a tree out of the pond bank.

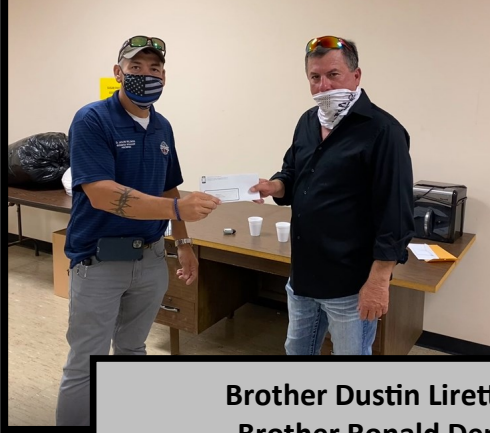


Apprentice Shaden Hammad  
helping Felicia Tanner  
on operating dozer.

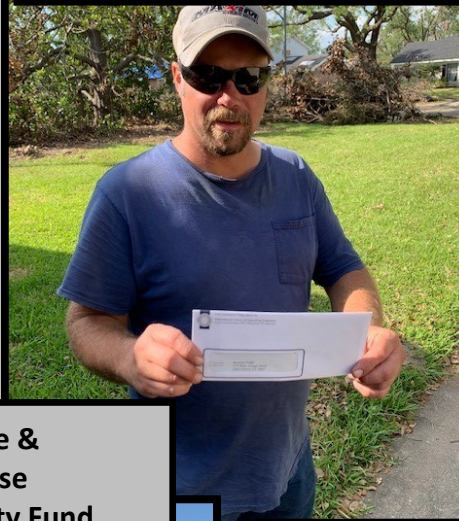
2nd & 3rd  
Year  
Apprentice



**Business Manager Jason Billings presenting Brother Bill Fee with his National Charity Fund disaster relief check.**



**Brother Brandon Dodds with his National Charity Fund Disaster Relief Check.**



**Brother Buster Buxton with his National Charity Fund Disaster Relief Check.**



**Brother Dustin Lirette & Brother Ronald Derise with their National Charity Fund disaster relief checks.**



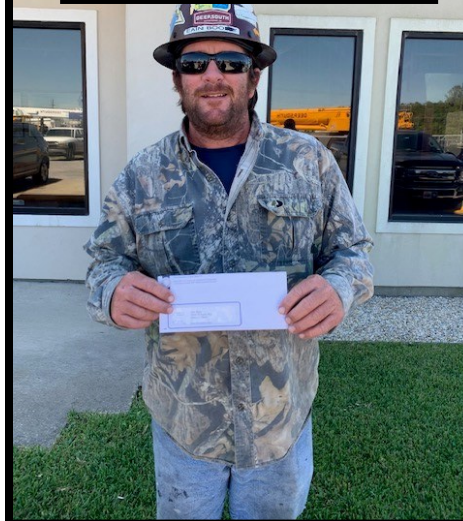
**Business Manager Jason Billings presenting Brother Jesse Alleman with his National Charity Fund disaster relief check.**



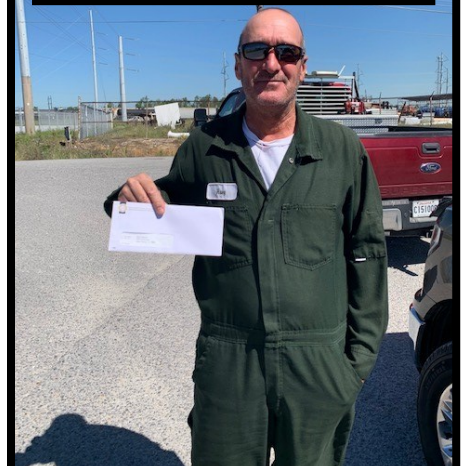
**Brother Daniel Henry with his National Charity Fund Disaster Relief Check.**



**Brother Eain Boone with his National Charity Fund Disaster Relief Check.**



**Brother Huey Hebert with his National Charity Fund Disaster Relief Check.**





### Ongoing Efforts in North Louisiana

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



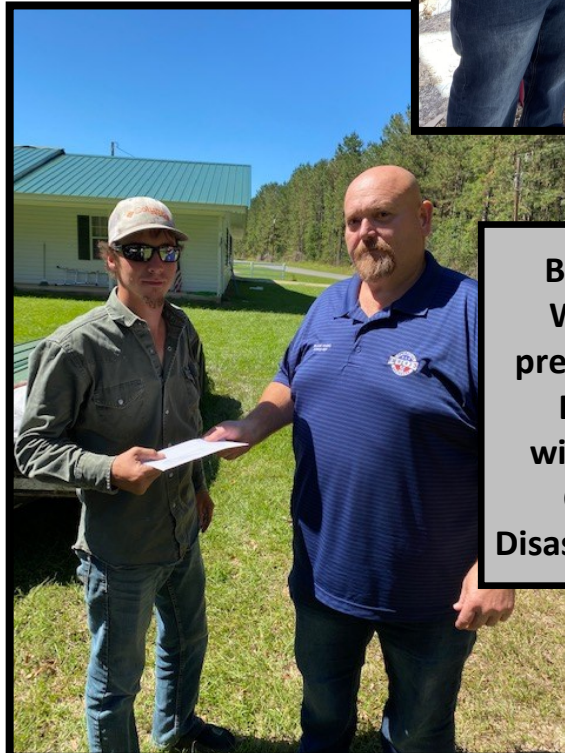
The holidays are past us now and as we are starting this New Year, we are writing a new chapter in history. I sincerely hope this article finds everyone healthy and happy, as I always do. We are coming into this new year with great hope and aspirations for work in Louisiana. With the help of Brother Jason Billings our President and Business Manager, we have signed another Heavy Highway contractor. This is the second one that we have signed in 2020. We had three Union contractors working on the Mississippi River Bridge while negotiating these contracts. With this we are starting the momentum that is needed to apply pressure to the Non-Union companies to consider us for their manpower needs and the realization that what we have to offer is better than they can find without us. We need the help of everyone to make it happen. So please let me know if you see contractors from other states working on roads, bridges, or pipelines. We have ongoing efforts to organize these contractors. It helps to put our people back to work. So far there are a lot of rumors about the pipeline work for 2021. We hope that they become a realization. Please stay healthy and do not forget about others and their families during these trying times. Keeping your distance does not cost, it saves you and others from unnecessary heartache and trouble later.



**Business Agent William Young presenting Brother Donald Perkins with his National Charity Fund Disaster Relief Check.**



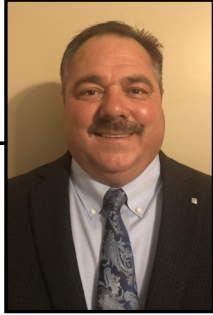
**Business Agent William Young presenting Brother Steve Meyer with his National Charity Fund Disaster Relief Check.**



**Business Agent William Young presenting Brother Evrick Kingan with his National Charity Fund Disaster Relief Check.**

# COVID-19 Impact

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



By the time this newsletter is received, the holidays will have already come and gone and 2020 will be only a memory. I believe that majority of the people will be happy to see 2020 with all its uncertain trials and tribulations come to an end and are anxious to see what 2021 will have to offer.

Hopefully, work will pick up and become steady just as it was before the pandemic and hurricanes. From what the contractors are telling us,

work is scheduled to pick up sometime in January, but dates are uncertain. The COVID-19 phases are going to have major impacts on work at that time, with plants and jobsites advancing or pushing jobs as they see fit financially and due to health concerns.

As the majority of our members know, work in the Baton Rouge District has almost come to a complete halt with very little to almost no work requests being sent by contractors. This is not only in the union sector but in non-union sectors as well. I have never received such a high volume of calls from people wanting to join Local 406 in search of work. There is just very little out there to offer anyone.

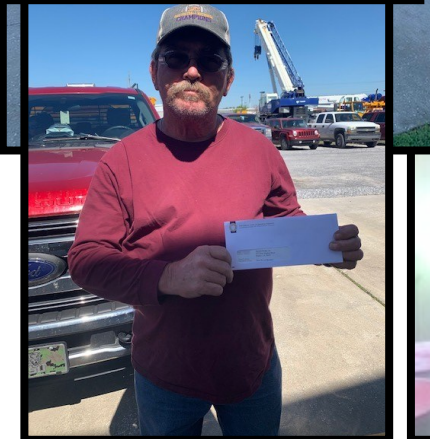
The Baton Rouge Out-Of-Work List has about 73 members in all on it. A few members have been dispatched to Turner Maintenance/Rubicon, Honeywell-Geismar, and Day and Zimmerman-Riverbend Station. Riverbend is going to need a few operators for projects and for the outage in the middle of February. All of these will need NCCCO overhead crane certs to be dispatched there. As for now, all we can do is hope and pray things get back to normal soon.

In closing, I wish everyone well and that they continue to practice social distancing, wearing masks when in public, and all forms of sanitation. Hopefully, this will all come to an end soon.

**Brother Ryan Reber  
with his National Charity Fund  
Disaster Relief Check.**



**Brother Samuel Walker Sr.  
with his National Charity Fund  
Disaster Relief Check.**



**Brother Tim Bushnell  
with his National Charity Fund  
Disaster Relief Check.**



**Brother Ricky Willis  
with his National Charity Fund  
Disaster Relief Check.**



**Brother Ossie Norton  
with his National Charity Fund  
Disaster Relief Check.**



**Brother Samuel Walker Jr.  
with his  
National Charity Fund  
Disaster Relief Check.**



## Rebuild on the Lake Charles Office

by David Hyatt  
Business Representative  
Lake Charles District



2020 has been a year for the history books. We first started off as any other normal year, and then when COVID-19 came we had to readjust our whole way of thinking. The pandemic left us operating on a scaled down version until we could figure out exactly how to mitigate the challenges. Once we figured out how to safely proceed, then we were facing hurricane damage across the state of Louisiana and the entire Gulf Coast.

As you know from reading my last article the damage at the Lake Charles office was substantial and we have been

working through the rebuild by doing the work ourselves, to save as much money as possible. At this point the work on the Lake Charles Hall is almost complete, barring a few items on the list to have it ready for members for our regularly scheduled meeting for January.

The work in the area has been extremely slow not only from COVID-19, but also with our typical slow holiday season. There have been a few maintenance opportunities that arose for our operators to help fill the gap in employment but not very many. We also had a small job out at Indorama that employed three of our operators for a short period of time, on a chimney and stack rebuild.

I have spoken countless times with our crane rentals about upcoming work and they all tell me that everything is pushed back in hopes of reemerging from

the pandemic in 2021 and the refineries are able to perform the repairs that need to be made to go back into full production as the fuel market has drastically declined with people not traveling. I guess the bright side of that is, should we get that opportunity soon, we should be busy trying to catch back up from things left undone.

By now, we have made it through the holidays, and I hope that everyone made it through with health and safety. I look forward to this year so that we can once again show that Operating Engineers are the best in this business and will continue to be because we are the highest skilled, best trained, and safest workforce in the world. I wish you all a prosperous New Year and may God's blessings be with you in your endeavors this year.



**Brother Chris Crane working at the Lake Charles office as a volunteer and greatly alleviated the burden of hurricane cleanup, removal of debris, and with the remodeling process.**



### Happy New Year

*Carlos Benoit  
Business Rep.  
Baton Rouge District*



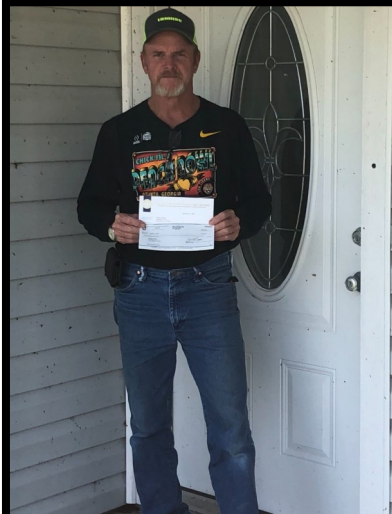
As this year has been a very crazy year, with the pandemic and all the hurricanes that Louisiana had to deal with, the one positive thing that I viewed was how resilient the people of Louisiana and especially the members of Local 406 and staff are. With the wisdom of our Business Manager Jason Billings, we are helping our members through this tough time by paying monthly "self-pay" premiums for our members' health insurance (104 at present) because of the lack of work from "COVID-19". This money was money that was left when we moved from Local 406 Health & Welfare Fund to Southern Operators Health Fund. What better way to use this money than giving back to the membership that is in need?

I am like most of you out there, hoping that 2021 slants back to normal. Wishing you and your family a Joyous New Year!

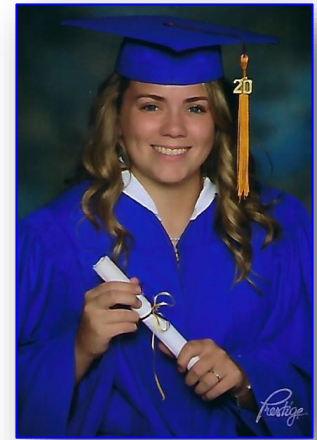
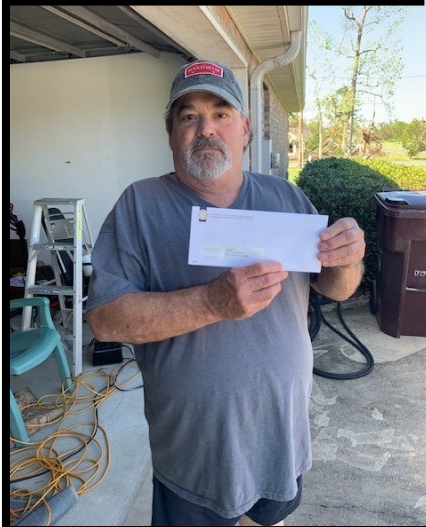
**Brother Jacob Gore  
with his National Charity  
Fund Disaster Relief Check.**



**Brother Jeffery Moseley  
with his National Charity Fund  
Disaster Relief Check.**



**Brother Joe Orr  
with his National Charity Fund  
Disaster Relief Check.**



Congratulations

### BELLA BILLINGS

who was selected winner of the 2020-2021 Peter Babin, Jr. Scholarship Award.

After graduating South Beauregard High School, Bella enrolled at LSU majoring in Radiologic Sciences.

Bella served as a trainer for her high school football team, member of student council, H.O.S.A, FCCLA, and National Honors Society.

Bella is the daughter of Business Manger Jason Billings. We wish this fine young lady the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

