

VOLUME 41 NO. 3  
JULY 2020

# 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

## REOPENING OFFICES AMID COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Since my last correspondence from me, there has been an insurmountable amount of changes. Picking up where we left off, the COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc across our nation and state. We went from fully functioning to working from home then back to reversing the temporary procedures and getting our offices back online. During the out of office time, I was conducting the local's business through teleconferences, emails, video conferencing, and communicating with all staff giving them direction to keep our day to day operations going in each district. This has been a challenging task as I am a hands-on person coming from the field as a mechanic/operator, so the digital aspect was different to say the least.

The South Central Annuity Funds Board of Trustees have been in weekly communications via Zoom conferencing to formulate a procedure to help alleviate the distress from our members during this trying time and developed a plan to work in conjunction with the CARES Act for hardship applications due to COVID-19. Currently over 500 hardship applications were reviewed by a subcommittee, which I serve as a

committee member. This procedure has been temporarily deactivated to reassess the damage done from COVID-19 and to prepare in case it worsens and may not be reactivated.

Phase 1 of the Governor's reopening plan found us being able to reopen our offices with limited contact. Our offices with window service were opened under my direction to service the members in this Phase. Once we moved into Phase 2, I directed all offices to open with or without a window but to practice safe social distancing and utilization of masks whenever social distancing was not possible under CDC recommendations. This allowed me to become mobile again to visit all offices every week as I had in the past, but I maintained all precautions and directives from the CDC and Governor's Office for minimal exposure from district to district. This allowed me to sit in on the application process for the 2020 Apprenticeship Class and help review those

By D. Jason Billings  
Business Manager-  
President



Continued on Page 3

### SCHOLARSHIP

This edition of *Engineers News* contains an application for the 2020-2021 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

# ENGINEERS NEWS

(USPS 007-810)  
Owned and Published Quarterly by  
**LOCAL UNION No. 406 AND SUBDIVISIONS**  
7370 Chef Menteur Highway — Phone (504) 241-1311 — New Orleans, LA 70126  
**D. Jason Billings, Editor**

Periodicals Postage Paid at New Orleans, LA

**POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes To:**  
Engineers News, 7370 Chef Menteur Hwy., New Orleans, LA 70126

## OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL UNION No. 406 OFFICERS

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Craig M. Kaiser, *Financial/Recording Secretary*  
Jason Tassin, *Guard*  
Marty Anderson, *Trustee*  
Leo Battistella, *Trustee*  
Mark Ferguson, *Trustee*  
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David Hyatt, *Vice President*  
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Arthur Robertson, *Conductor*  
Daniel Foy, Jr., *Auditor*  
James Potter, *Auditor*  
William Fee, *Auditor*

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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:

D. JASON BILLINGS  
JOHN BABIN  
MIGUEL PERRAULT  
(504)241-1311  
7370 Chef Menteur Hwy., New Orleans, LA 70126

#### BATON ROUGE

CARLOS BENOIT  
RUSSELL J. MADDIE, JR.  
(225)924-1311  
7651 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70814

#### LAKE CHARLES/LAFAYETTE

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DAVID HYATT  
(337) 436-7878  
130 W. 18th Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601

#### SHREVEPORT-MONROE-ALEXANDRIA

D. JASON BILLINGS  
WILLIAM E. YOUNG  
(318) 686-7745  
9300 Mansfield Rd. Ste. 201, Shreveport, LA 71118

#### STATEWIDE BUSINESS AGENTS

JOHN BABIN, Stationary Engineers Representative  
(504) 241-1311

#### STATEWIDE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

CRAIG KAISER, Apprenticeship Administrator  
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.iuoelocal406.org](http://www.iuoelocal406.org)

### 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

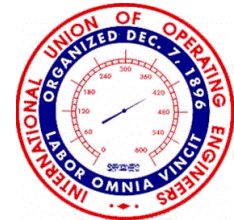
Jeffrey A Davert  
Westley J Hernandez, Jr.  
Tony J Lorena, Jr.  
Keith W Oxford

### Lake Charles/Lafayette District

Ettel Ardoin

### New Orleans District

Charle H Chabanaïs  
Larry L Lester  
Anthony Lombas  
Paul A Marino, Sr.



## DECEASED

### Baton Rouge District

George G Folks	12/30/2019
Archie Hooper	04/26/2020
Leo G Summers	05/01/2020
William N Tipler	04/26/2020

### Lake Charles/Lafayette District

Robert T Bridges	12/11/2019
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### New Orleans District

Earl J Allert, Jr.	05/24/2020
Stanley H Culver	05/22/2020
John B Doss	04/21/2020
Alfred J Dusang	12/30/2019
Frank Easley	03/04/2020
Leon J Giaccone	04/12/2020
William W Hall	02/08/2020
Carroll Leboff	07/02/2020
Gene Richardson	06/17/2020
Willie Tolliver	03/21/2020

### Monroe/Shreveport District

Danny E Abercrombie	03/08/2020
Oray Boston, Sr.	06/26/2020
Jimmy R Haynes	03/11/2020
Billy K Townsend	05/01/2020



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Continued from Page 1

applications and interview candidates.

New Orleans held to Phase 1 restrictions as the State moved into Phase 2 which made scheduling the Semi-Annual meeting difficult as this was an election year and necessary for the nominations to take place. I sought guidance from local and state officials as well as our International to make this happen as soon as humanly possible to conduct our business without risk to our members. Once a date was determined, we sent out notification by mail, of the date, place, and time along with the restrictions needed to have the meeting per the by-laws and constitution and speaking to General Counsel. This meeting was a "For Busi-

ness Only" meeting and was restricted to members only because of the limited space to social distance and take care of the business at hand. Maybe next year things will return to normal and we will be able to invite our families to participate again. In this meeting, nominations were closed for the election cycle and all petitions, after being certified and no opposition was reported, the Corresponding/Recording Secretary entered one vote for all positions without opposition for the ensuing term. All names were read before the membership and the entire slate was re-elected by acclamation for another term.

My sincerest thanks to the membership for the trust you have placed in me and my

team. There is no better compliment than a white slate ticket and it gives me great pride to represent you and to work with this staff of professionals for the next three years. We still have a long way to go, as we do not know where this virus will take us or if we will have to reverse course to prevent exposure. We are patiently awaiting direction from the experts, our state and local officials that take direction from those experts and God for guidance, to make the best decisions possible. I ask that you continue to pray for all of us as I continue to pray for you that this passes over us without injury to our people. Thank you, may God Bless and keep you safe until we meet again.

**Officers wearing mask at the Semi-Annual meeting held on June 27th, 2020 in New Orleans**



## Stationary Engineers Essential Workers

by John Babin  
Business Rep.  
Stationary  
Engineers



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we experienced layoffs at our properties where Local 406 Stationary Engineers work. The only properties that did not lay off any engineers, were the Superdome and the Hale Boggs Federal Building. All our casino properties in Louisiana and Mississippi laid off some but not all Stationary Engineers, as well as the Loews Hotel in New Orleans.

On Memorial Day weekend all the Mississippi Casinos reopened and Harrah's New Orleans reopened weeks later due to the Mayor's extended period of closure for all businesses in the City. At the time of this writing all our casinos have recalled their entire maintenance department

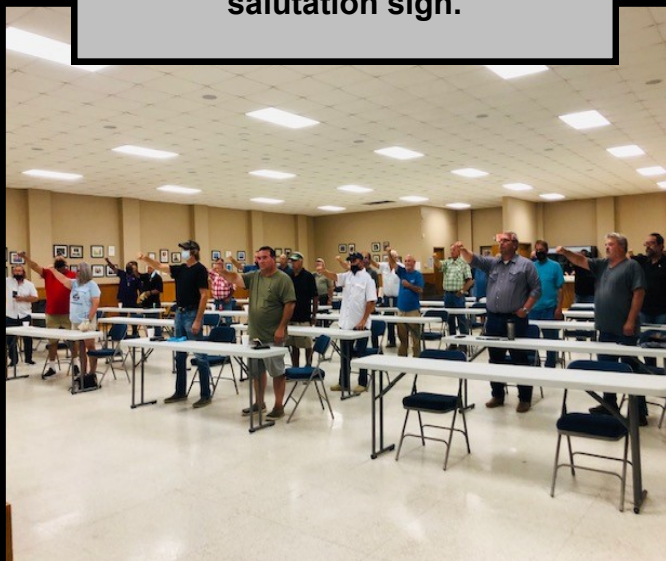
employees expect for the Beau Rivage and the Loews Hotel in New Orleans.

I expect the Loews Hotel to recall more employees by the end of the summer and the Beau Rivage Hotel and Casino in Biloxi to slowly ramp up their workforce by that time as well. Hopefully, there will not be another statewide closure in Louisiana and Mississippi and our members will stay employed.

Our collective bargaining agreements for the Loews Hotel New Orleans, Harrah's Casino New Orleans, and the Superdome are set to expire this summer, so we negotiated extensions for six months at each facility. Hopefully by early next year we can negotiate long term agreements at these properties and our Stationary Engineers can continue to provide necessary services for our Union companies for years to come.

Please adhere to all the safety guidelines put out by our local governments! Social distance and wear masks to protect not only yourself but others!

Members closing the Semi-Annual meeting with the salutation sign.



**Get Certified!**

**NCCCO  
Class & Test**

**Mark your calendars now!**

**Our next  
NCCCO Classes  
are scheduled for  
October 3, 2020  
&  
October 24, 2020**

**Test on  
November 14,  
2020**

**Note:  
October 23, 2020  
is the last day  
applications will  
be accepted.**

**Call the Training Site  
for more information  
(985)542-4322**

### Trouble Times

by Miguel Perrault  
Organizer  
New Orleans  
District



With the ongoing pandemic, the work has slowed tremendously. When the state shut down in March, no one ever expected this outcome to happen. The New Orleans out-of-work list went from a

few members to an enormous number. The majority of jobs were scaled back on manpower to adhere to the new state guidelines.

Under the direction of Business Manager Jason Billings, I made calls to the membership during the shutdown. It was tough, but necessary to reach out to as many of our members as possible. A courtesy call to check on them and their families was well received

and appreciated. Fortunately, every person that I spoke with was well, and not tested positive with the virus.

Being optimistic, I am looking forward to the jobs to start up or resume. All of us will need to change our ways of staying safe from this terrible virus. "WASH YOUR HANDS", "WEAR A MASK", and "SOCIAL DISTANCE" are the new "NORMAL"!!!



**Brother Miguel Perrault presenting honorary 40 year membership pin to Anthony Spera**

**Brother Leo Battistella being sworn in as Trustee by Business Manager Jason Billings.**



## Enrollment process begins for 2020 class

by Craig Kaiser  
Apprenticeship  
Administrator



Hopefully, all of you are doing well. The last couple of months has been a game changer across our whole nation. We went from every apprentice with the appropriate credentials working and myself working a pre apprentice, to almost all furloughed or laid off within two weeks.

I hope when everything returns to normal, there will be more work for incoming apprentices this year. I am sure there will be a lot of catching up to do. We sent out over 300 application letters. Despite the pandemic going on, we still hosted application day for incoming apprentices, which we had 39 complete. To maintain social distancing, we had everyone stay in their automobiles to do their paperwork. We did this to stay within the CDC guidelines. We also had everyone wait in their cars for the interview process, and sent a text when it was their turn. We are still running everything the same, but we had to make a few administrative changes to stay in compliance with CDC guidelines.

During the second quarter there was two make-up weeks that were missed for the students, so we gave each apprentice 24 hours for each of those weeks, as it was not their fault they could not attend. The week of May 18-22, 2020 we had a normal scheduled make up week. In

June we opened the whole month up as a makeup month, to give the opportunity to make up any missed hours. This worked well for those furloughed because they got the chance to get ahead, should work blow up and they are not able to take off.

Our first quarter written CCO test on March 28 and the second quarter on June 27 were both still done. To stay in compliance with CDC guidelines, the tables were separated 12 feet apart. To those of you that do not normally use email, please note that your communications from NCCCO are now coming by email. Please keep this in mind and check your emails, if this is not something you regularly do. Also, if you did not notice it in the previous newsletter, the fees have changed with NCCCO. Along with the fees going up they have done away with the updated card fee, should you add any credentials to an existing certification you will now receive an updated card at no cost. November 14<sup>th</sup> will be our next and last test for the 2020 calendar year.

It was nice to see those of you at the Semi-Annual meeting as always. Hopefully at the next one we can get back to normal and have our families come join as well.



**Brother Jason Billings interviewing a pre-apprentice on Interview Day 2020**



**Brother Carlos Benoit interviewing a pre-apprentice on Interview Day 2020**

### Baton Rouge Out-Of-Work List Tops 100

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



As I sit and think about how the year of 2020 came in, I cannot help but reminisce about how great the first quarter kicked off and work was striving. The Local was to continue into the second quarter equally as busy as the first. Or, so we thought.

The second week of March proved otherwise. Due to COVID-19, work began to stop and jobs began to push back until later with no dates or ideas of when work might improve.

As a reflux to the members, job losses, just on the Baton Rouge out-of-work list, escalated upwards towards the number of 100, not counting members that did not call and had received furloughs from signatory contractors. Numbers have fallen slightly due to Maxim taking on 24 for the BASF turnaround and Turner Crane Rental and Turner Maintenance taking on another 10 members for Rubicon, Methanex, and Honeywell.

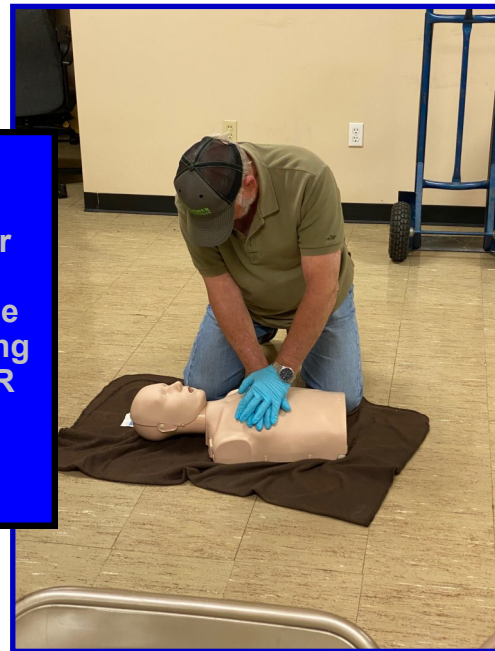
The out -of -work list numbers are quite high still, but word is, work is supposed to resume late July into August. Let us pray this is so, and the COVID-19 cases become fewer. We all know that is what it is going to take in order for things to get better.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Business Manager Jason Billings and all officers on their election victories. We look forward to another 3 years of leadership skills to keep Local 406 strong and healthy through these trying times. So, keep up the good work and may God bless and keep everyone safe.

# CPR/FIRST AID CLASS



**Brother Craig Kaiser at CPR/First Aid Class**



**Brother Leon Lemoine practicing his CPR skills**



**Brother Leon Lemoine and Brother Wilfredo Castro at CPR/First Aid class**

# APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING



Apprentices practicing their skills during June Make-Up Month



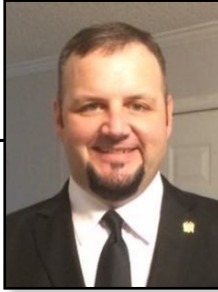
June Make-Up Month due to COVID-19





## Maintenance Work Picks Up

by David Hyatt  
Business  
Representative  
Lake Charles  
District



As the Summer comes upon us and we transition out of the Spring turnaround season, the work has slowed down as it does regularly in the dog days of Summer. The spring turnaround season was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as everything else. We took precautionary measures to limit the exposure of members and staff by reducing contact in the offices by implementing a closed-door procedure and worked through the window to get referrals out and the membership to work. When the threat level increased, we acted in closing the offices and working remotely from home. Many of you were able to take positions and I met with you at locations that were easily accessible to get your referral signed and practice good social dis-

tancing measures to put you on your way to get hired in.

With the reduction in crane rental work because of the pandemic, amazingly the maintenance work picked up and I was able to fill all the positions with displaced workers from the pandemic. We all know that the maintenance work doesn't pay like the crane rental does but it does keep the wolves away from the door, insurance on your families, pension contributions towards vestment credits and keeps a running relationship with the contractors, so that there are positions to fall back on when everything else falls apart. A special thanks goes out to you members who were willing to step up to the plate to keep these contracts rolling and provide for your families despite the wage gap. In talking with the crane rentals about upcoming work, there are a lot of variables and unknowns.

The gas prices look to be on the rise and as you well know, that is the bread and butter of our business. That affects every part of our industry from

pipeline to stationary as it takes fuel to run it all. Hopefully as the prices climb and the market rebounds, the industry will place their faith in it and start back rebuilding to crank off production again and put us back to work. The turnarounds that were scheduled for the fall, for now have been pushed to the Spring unless things change here in Lake Charles. There may be a few hits and miss outages by the end of July or the first of August if things hold out. As I receive more information, I will relay it at the district meetings in all areas.

Finally, we just finished with the nominations and Semi-Annual Meeting for electing the administration for the next term. I greatly appreciate the vote of confidence of a white slate election because it speaks volumes for what you think of this team. To know that you feel strongly enough that things are on the right track and that it doesn't push you to feel as if you should run for a position to offer change, means that we are doing right by the membership. My sincerest thanks and I look forward to seeing you at your next district meeting.



2016  
Recipient of the  
Peter  
Babin, Jr.  
Scholarship  
Award

Megan Fowler is  
the daughter of  
long time  
member,  
Kevin Fowler

Megan Fowler attended the Semi-Annual Meeting held in June in New Orleans to personally express her thanks and appreciation for the award.

### Health Fund Available to Answer Questions

Carlos Benoit  
Business Rep.  
Baton Rouge District



At the time of this writing, work in the Baton Rouge district is still slow. We are hearing of some jobs toward the end of July and the beginning of August, lets keep our fingers crossed they come through.

I know quite a few of you have been out of work since the end of March, if you want to find out how much insurance you have left, call Ms. Peggy with Southern Operators Health Fund at 800-831-4914, she can give you the correct answer. If you do run out of hours, please refer to the Southern Operators Health Fund booklet, page 18, "Self Contributions For Active Eligible Employees", which explains self contributions to continue your eligibility.

I would like to take this time to congratulate Business Manager Jason Billings and the rest of the officers for their re-Election with no opposition. Jason has righted – the – ship and I believe that Local 406 has a very bright future with this administration steering the ship.

# June 27th, 2020 Semi-Annual Meeting

Members at the Semi-Annual meeting on June 27th, 2020 practicing social distancing.



Members closing the Semi-Annual meeting on June 27th, 2020.



## Pipeliners' and Retiree's BBQ

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



I hope this article finds everyone healthy. The summer is here and with that comes high temperatures. Stay hydrated and take breaks to insure good health. As we all know, we are now living in uncertain times, with that, work is following the same trend.

We are seeing the rehab work on the Mississippi River bridge in Delta, LA and Vicksburg, MS continuing. The progress has been good, and it is soon to be completed. The MDS project has been completed.

Thanks to all that made it a great success. We are working with some contractors to try and capture more work here in our state. The T.G. Mercer work has been stopped due to permit issues. Emergency directional drills happen from time to time, so keep yourself updated on the out of work list. Also, update your skills as you gain experience.

Please maintain your good health by social distancing and frequent hand washing. We have masks in all the offices and ask that you wear one for your protection, as well as ours. We are hoping to have the annual Pipeliners' and Retiree's BBQ in September, it is all dependent upon the Governor's mandate at that time.

## 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, 2020 for 2020-2021 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 \*\***



**Local 406 do NOT forget to wear your mask, stay safe!!!!!!!**

**2020-2021 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 2020-2021 \_\_\_\_\_

Will or did you work during the summer of 2020? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 If yes, state the amount of your projected earnings. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Will you work during the 2020-2021 school year? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 If yes, state the estimated school year income. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Projected school budget for 2020-2021

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 2020-2021 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_