

VOLUME 41 NO. 4  
OCTOBER 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

## AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE LAURA

One of the many tasks of my position is to edit this newsletter. That allows me to read all the District reports prior to writing my edition to be able to bring all of those together. There are many points of view for the current events of 2020. It is impossible to put in words the work that goes in and even more so impossible to complete our weekly tasks in a 40-hour schedule. While doing our regular jobs, we have had to consult with many professionals such as auditors, attorneys, accountants, trustees, insurance adjusters, general contractors and local/state public officials while following guidelines of operating a nonprofit organization just to make certain that every move is in compliance.

To the staff of Local 406, the Executive Board and the retirees that volunteered their services to pull off

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



an impossible year, my heartfelt thanks goes out to each of you because we couldn't be where we are without you. It is very hard to put in just a few words in an article to even come close to address the magnitude of the decision making that has occurred in this year. Fatigue sets in as we attempt to put 25 hours in a normal workday. Tasks seemed to snowball this year like never before.

The latest being the Hurricane that ravished Louisiana followed by a Tropical Storm that dumped rains for days on a devastated area. As you well

*Continued on Page 3*

### SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 7, 2020

**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 7, 2020 - 10 A.M.

Operating Engineers Union Hall, 7651 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

PLEASE ATTEND

Notice: Due to the Semi-Annual Meeting, All Regular Meetings for the month of November are Canceled

**Meeting will be held following all recommended CDC guidelines, such as hand sanitizers, face masks, and temperature checks.**

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:

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

#### BATON ROUGE

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RUSSELL J. MADDIE, JR.  
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#### 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.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

Danny Aydele  
Huey P. Comeaux  
Michael E. Hornsby  
Anthony Jasmin  
Ovid T. Wilcox

### Lake Charles/Lafayette District

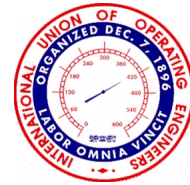
Stephen Byrd  
Bradley L. Reese

### New Orleans District

Salvadore Ferrara  
Frank J. Knoten  
David Rome  
Charles R. Vince

### Monroe/Shreveport District

William R. Gilbert, Jr.  
Randy Johnson  
Mark B. Kallies  
Joel R. Smith



## DECEASED

### Baton Rouge District

Leo L. Barry	08/14/2020
John Breaux	07/07/2020
Zerben "Ben" Guidry	04/28/2020
Scotland T. Carona	05/15/2020
Ronald R. Chandler	09/23/2020
John D. Hicks	09/17/2020
Randy M. Reason	05/01/2020
James E. Vinson	09/24/2020

### Lake Charles/Lafayette District

James Higginbotham 05/02/2020

### New Orleans District

Henry L. Childress, Sr.	09/25/2020
Adam W. Davidson Sr.	07/07/2020
Wade Dufrene	02/21/2020
Louis Johnson	04/08/2020
Leo Lacaze	06/05/2020
Murray Latapie	09/18/2020
John P. Mandle Jr.	09/29/2020
James F. Owens	08/31/2020
Sam Pardee	06/23/2020
Robert P. Prestenbach	08/28/2020
Benjamin Sansom	08/15/2020
Kenneth G. Schiffers	09/14/2020
Charles Wilson	08/13/2020

### Monroe/Shreveport District

Timothy A. Barnett	05/13/2020
David Yearling	03/04/2020
Marvin G. Young	09/27/2020

Continued from Page 1

know, Hurricane Laura hit Louisiana with a 650-mile-wide berth, the largest storm of the last century. It knocked out local media coverage and NOAA reporting, instantly leaving many of us in the dark as to the seriousness of it as we rode it out. Thankfully, the storm surge did not come as expected. That shows the power of prayer. The storm hit around 1:00 AM on the 27<sup>th</sup> of August. Once the sunrise provided light to navigate the devastation, we cut our way through to a major roadway and then the real work began. With a cell phone in one hand and a chainsaw in the other strapped with a nail apron and hammer, I along with Business Agents David, William and Russell came in immediately after the storm to assess and secure our building from further damage by putting tarps on and tearing out wet ceiling tile and insulation as you will see in the photo in this edition. We set up generators by

wiring into the electrical panel to back feed the building so we could run dehumidifiers and fans to do our best to salvage the property. We did not realize at the time that we would have to run generators for nearly a month before power was restored to the building. We not only secured our building but others in the community also. We joined forces with the Building Trades and Central Trades, Local Churches, Shriners, Masonic Lodges, Knights of Columbus, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, other local disaster relief teams and many volunteers to quickly provide as much assistance as possible to the relief efforts to get Louisiana back on its feet.

This year has been one for the books as nothing has followed normal protocol. It has rewired our thought processes to constantly be thinking outside the box.

This was an election year for the Local and it went with a white

slate as we reported in the last newsletter. Battling with COVID-19 and Hurricane Laura, the election and swearing in of Officers was postponed to the next earliest convenience as you will see in the photos here.

We are making strides in recovery from the tragedies of this year and will continue dealing with contractors and making appointments to handle Local 406's affairs which may alter our appearances around the state with meetings as we recover. I look forward to seeing all of you at these meetings, provided we can do so safely and without any other interruptions to our normal business. I ask you to pray for me for wisdom as I pray for all of you going forward with recovery and restoration via storm or virus. As we lead into Fall weather changes and Flu season, take extra precaution to keep you and your families safe. God Bless you all.

**The Honorable Judge Roland Belsome, Local 406 member, swearing in officers at the New Orleans union meeting on October 7, 2020.**



## Horseshoe Tunica First Contract Negotiated & Ratified

by John Babin  
Business Rep.  
Stationary Engineers



Local 406 along with our partners in the Mississippi casinos Unite/HERE and the Teamsters International Unions have successfully negotiated and ratified a first Union Contract at the Horseshoe Hotel and Casino in Tunica Mississippi.

The agreement is for five years and includes guaranteed wage increases every year, company health and welfare benefits, seniority rights, successorship language, and a severance package. The agreement also includes con-

tributions to our National Training Fund. Local 406 also negotiated new classifications for the maintenance employees and resolved some misclassifications of some of the workers, which resulted in additional wage increases for several maintenance employees. Congratulations to all the Horseshoe Tunica workers for sticking together and winning their first Union contract!

Local 406 is also in the process of negotiating a new agreement with Harrah's Gulf Coast in Biloxi, Mississippi. The current agreement at Harrah's Gulf Coast expires in November. Our goal is to get a new five-year agreement that will include Unite/HERE health and welfare benefits. This will provide better coverage at a cheaper price to the employees. We hope to complete these negotiations within the next month and have

it ratified by the employees.

We still have several employees at the Beau Rivage that have been laid off due to the COVID-19. We were successful in getting MGM to extend those employees' health benefits thru September 2020 and increase their recall rights for two years. If we are successful in negotiating the Union Unite/HERE healthcare plan at Harrah's Gulf Coast this will insure that our members at the Beau Rivage will continue to have the choice of the MGM Health Plan or the Union Unite/HERE plan for the remainder of the Beau Rivage contract term. The gaming Commission in Mississippi still will not let the Beau Rivage open at full capacity. Once we get pass the virus and open fully, we hope that most if not all our maintenance employees will be recalled to their jobs with no loss in pay, benefits, or seniority.

## -Attention Pipe Line Members - IMPORTANT NOTICE

When working out of state, please be advised that you **MUST** complete a Health Insurance Reciprocity Form correctly to insure the continuation of your health coverage.

Members of Local 406 are either insured by the IUOE & Pipe Line Employers Health & Welfare Fund or Southern Operators Health Fund.

Members who follow the pipeline industry are typically insured through the IUOE & Pipeline Employers Health & Welfare Fund while all other operators are insured through Southern Operators Health Fund.

Whichever you choose, please be sure to list it correctly on any reciprocal forms that ask "what is your home health and welfare fund" in order to insure that you contributions are forwarded correctly and in a timely manner.

If you have any questions, please call Business Representative William Young at 318-686-7745.

## A Year to Remember

by Miguel Perrault  
Organizer  
New Orleans  
District



Coming into an office environment

from an operator working in the field, has been an awesome experience. When I was offered the opportunity to come aboard, I was reluctant because I wasn't familiar with that side of the business. Upon my arrival last year, I was welcomed by the entire staff ..... "STATEWIDE"! They were excited just as much as I was. With direct guidance from our Business Manager Jason Billings and support from Peter and John Babin in the New Orleans office, I have gained knowledge from their many years of service to our local. Carlos Benoit, Russell Maddie, David Hyatt, and William

Young added to the necessary knowledge I will need for the future. Craig Kaiser has been great with apprenticeship program, NCCCO testing and recertifications, and evaluations of new operator candidates. I also had the opportunity to take some training at the IUOE International Training & Educational Center (ITEC) in Crosby, TX. From that experience, I do encourage all our members to take advantage of signing up for a course at least once, if not more. It was built for us, through IUOE to advance our skills needed for today's industry. The reception I've received has been really good, the feedback is very positive. Communications with personnel of our signatory contractors also has been awesome. Work was steady with shut-downs and construction projects until the unfortunate situation with corona virus restrictions. It is

slowly picking back up as those restrictions are being lifted. I was able to secure project agreements with two contractors recently, with more inquiries on the horizon. Although they are short term, I'm very confident in building a relationship with them to secure future projects. I did not get the opportunity to visit many of our ongoing projects to personally introduce myself to our membership because of COVID-19. I think that is very important, to put a face to a name and presence out in the field. Lastly, I want to thank the secretarial staff. They are very helpful and respectful when important documents are needed and filed. I am looking forward to continually grow and learn as much as possible to help build our local to new precedents.

## Vacation Fund Checks

**The fiscal year for 2020 Vacation Fund ends with the payroll period through September 30, 2020.**

**Checks will be distributed on Saturday, December 5, 2020 between the hours of 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM at the New Orleans Union Hall. All remaining checks will be mailed the same day.**

**There will be no union meeting on this date, the New Orleans Union Hall will be open for Check Distribution Only.**

**Discrepancies in the amount received and the amount deducted from your pay will be handled by the New Orleans office.**

**However, to correct any discrepancies, the member involved must be able to furnish all check stubs for the fiscal year ( 10/1/19 - 09/30/20).**

## Maintenance on Training Site

by Craig Kaiser  
Apprenticeship  
Administrator



I hope all of you are doing well and making it through these times that have come before us.

I would like to start by saying thanks to the part-time instructors, Leon Lemoine and John Wiebelt, for their continuous help towards training the apprentices and assisting with journeyman level training.

Participation at the site has been above normal with apprentices working limited hours or not working at all. They have been attending class to make up their hours. I could not make it without the help of our part time instructors, with as many attendees as we have been having. Out of the 37 first year apprentices that we took in this year, we still have full participation out of 23 of them. They are attending all their classes and make up weeks. Hats off to them for continuing to participate when there is no promising work currently. Speaking of not working, remember to watch your expiration dates on TWIC cards, Safety Council cards, physicals, respirator fit test, etc. NCCCO also has a new app out now that you can download on your phone and keep up with your credentials. During the registration you will also be including your email that I mentioned in the last newsletter that they will be. Using to contact you as needed. Please visit

[www.nccco.org](http://www.nccco.org) to download the app or search "myNCCCO" in the app store on your mobile device. Remember the last NCCCO written for this year is Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> and the last day to accept applications is October 15, 2020. If you are interested in this class, please call 985-542-4322 and Ms. Haylee will take care of you.

The next thing I would like to mention is we have been doing a lot of upkeep and maintenance at the site. We have brought in new

gravel for the road, had one of the air conditioners replaced, did roof repairs on the old shop, servicing equipment at the site, and pressure washed both shops. I am dealing with an issue with the state at this time with our road frontage as well. In the past we always kept up the road frontage and this was good training and familiarization for the apprentices. In 2014 a fiber optic line was put down in the ditch of the road frontage. They advised us to not have any more equipment in the ditch. Through phone calls back and forth with the parish and the state, I have narrowed it down to it being the state's responsibility. However, now the issue is to get them to put a work order in.

We are also going through the GSA government owned equipment and liquidating equipment that is no longer of use or costing us more to maintain than what we are getting out of it. We are having the lighting in the rear shop updated to LED lighting and doing away with the old missed matched donated lights that continue to burn ballast and bulbs.

Last, after looking for a third-party mechanic to help out around here we found a mechanic that used to work for Boh Bros., Scott Melerine. He has gone in business for himself (Parish Equip-

ment). We are having him come out and work on necessary repairs when needed. So far, we have only used him once on a two-day job but it looks as though it will work out well.

In closing, I would like to mention that when attending classes in Crosby at ITEC please do not list yourself as driving if you are riding as a passenger to receive the travel reimbursement. If you are flying this does not pertain to you. If you are driving, they reimburse the driver only. This is becoming a problem when comparing vehicle information with vehicles on site and people, it is not adding up. If we do not control this on our own, we are going to ruin a good thing. We all know what happens when that takes place, we never get it back. Please help with this issue and do not claim to drive if you ride share with someone. If this helps, think back to when we could drive up to the job, then we had to limit vehicles to one vehicle per 6 people, then parking in the parking lot and riding a bus, then parking in the back of the parking lot and walking all the way to your piece of equipment. If you can relate to that last sentence and you are shaking your head yes, please help me in spreading the word to the membership, how losing something good never comes back.



# APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING



Jacolby Jackson & Felicia Tanner changing hydraulic line.



Troydell Pugh spreading gravel at the site with backhoe.



John Alonso scoping rt58c back out after Hurricane Laura.

Collin Johnson operating the forklift at the site.



Leon Lemoine working on injector pump on John Deere.



John Dorsey scoping RT745 after Hurricane Laura.

**ELECTION DAY - NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

*IUOE Local 406, along with the Greater New Orleans AFL-CIO and the Central Trades & Labor Council, have endorsed the following candidates for the November 3rd election.*

**NATIONAL:**

PRESIDENT	JOSEPH BIDEN
UNITED STATES SENATE	ADRIAN PERKINS

**STATEWIDE MULTI-PARISH:**

ASSOC. SUPREME CT. DIST. 7 (DUAL ENDORSEMENT)	PIPER GRIFFIN
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DIST 1	TERRI LOVE
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DIST 2	NO POSITION
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DIST 6	CEDRIC RICHMOND
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, DIST. 1	NO POSITION

**CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS:**

1. AMENDMENT 1	NO POSITION
2. AMENDMENT 2	AGAINST
3. AMENDMENT 3	AGAINST
4. AMENDMENT 4	AGAINST
5. AMENDMENT 5	AGAINST
6. AMENDMENT 6	FOR
7. AMENDMENT 7	AGAINST

**ORLEANS PARISH:**

JUDGE CIVIL DIST. CT, DIV E	OMAR MASON
JUDGE, CIVIL DIST. CT, DIV F	"CHRIS" BRUNO
JUDGE, CIVIL DIST. CT, DIV G	ROBIN GIARRUSSO
JUDGE, CIVIL DIST. CT, DIV I	LORI JUPITER
JUDGE, CIVIL DIST. CT, DOM. SEC 1	BERNADETTE D'SOUZA
JUDGE, CRIMINAL DIST. CT, SEC A	LAURIE WHITE
JUDGE, CRIMINAL DIST. CT, SEC D	KIMYA HOLMES
JUDGE, CRIMINAL DIST. CT, SEC E	RHONDA GOODE-DOUGLAS
JUDGE, CRIMINAL DIST. CT, SEC G	NANDI CAMPBELL
JUDGE, CRIMINAL DIST. CT, SEC K	MARCUS DELARGE
JUDGE, CRIMINAL DIST. CT, SEC L	FRANZ ZIBILICH
MAG. SEC, CRIMINAL DIST. CT.	JUANA MARINE LOMBARD
DIST. ATTORNEY. CRIMINAL DIST. CT.	KEVA LANDRUM
JUDGE, JUVENILE CT, SEC. A	CLINT SMITH
JUDGE JUVENILE CT, SEC. F	RANORD DARENSBURG
JUDGE MUNICIPAL&TRAFFIC CT. DIV. A	PAUL SENS
MEM. OF SCHOOL BOARD DIST. 1	JOHN BROWN
MEM. OF SCHOOL BOARD DIST. 2	DR. CHANEL PAYNE
MEM. OF SCHOOL BOARD DIST. 3	OLIN PARKER
MEM. OF SCHOOL BOARD DIST. 4	WINSTON "BOOM" WHITTEN JR.
MEM. OF SCHOOL BOARD DIST. 5	ANTOINETTE WILLIAMS
MEM. OF SCHOOL BOARD DIST. 6	DAVID ALVAREZ
MEM. OF SCHOOL BOARD DIST. 7	NOLAN MARSHALL

**JEFFERSON PARISH:**

JUDGE, 24TH JDC DIST. CT, ES 2, DIV. B (DUAL ENDORSEMENT)	CHRIS COX
JUDGE, 24TH JDC DIST. CT, ES 2, DIV. H (DUAL ENDORSEMENT)	PAT ROONEY
JUDGE 2ND PARISH CT, DIV. A (DUAL ENDORSEMENT)	DONALD "CHICK" FORET
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, 1ST JUSTICE CT.	JERRY SMITH
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, 2ND JUSTICE CT.	NELSON CANTRELLE
CONSTABLE 3RD JUSTICE COURT	JOSEPH MARINO
CONSTABLE 6TH JUSTICE COURT	VERNON WILTY III
	MARK SPEARS
	BRENNAN ROJAS
	JASON URAL

**ST. BERNARD PARISH:**

34TH JUDICIAL DIST. CT. DIV. A	CULLEN TONRY
34TH JUDICIAL DIST. CT. DIV. B (DUAL ENDORSEMENT)	ERIC BOPP
	JUSTIN STEPHENS



## Hurricane Laura Relief Help

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



I hope this article finds everyone safe, as it has been a year for the record books with all that has happened. This year has brought major unforeseen challenges such as COVID-19 and Hurricane Laura, which was immediately followed by tropical storm Beta. Storm recovery by Local 406 shifted into gear following each challenge. My prayers have been with everyone that has been affected.

COVID spawned relief efforts for members that were displaced from work due to the crisis to meet their insurance needs. Hurricane Laura's relief

efforts were made by getting the members connected with the disaster relief from the International.

A committee was formed by President/Business Manager Jason Billings to assess members' needs, who were affected and help process the applications. The Executive Board voted to supply fuel to the members that had no power and were having to run off generators. This was to alleviate some of the costs involved in running generated power. We did our best to contact as many members as possible to get fuel to them. This effort also aided in offsetting fuel costs of getting our Lake Charles office back up and running while running off generator.

I was given the opportunity to help with the relief efforts. Being a part of this has brought me closer to

the members in these areas and makes me proud to be of service. I really enjoyed getting to meet some of the members in the Lake Charles area. I am glad I was able to help you all in this time of need. Thank you for your hospitality. We will come out of this stronger together. That is what the word Union means: be stronger together.

On the work front it has been slower than normal for the pipeline community. We are hoping that this will turn around soon. The rehab of the Mississippi River bridge is winding down. The Union contractors that are currently working on it are doing a great job. With COVID and the Storm, we were unable to have the BBQ for the pipeliners and retirees. We are hoping things will change in the future so this can resume fellowship again.

### **PLAQUEMINES PARISH:**

DIST. ATTORNEY, 25TH JDC GILBERT "GIBBY" ANDRY

### **ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**

5TH CIRCUIT CT. OF APPEAL DIST. 2, DIV A NO POSITION

### **LAFOURCHE PARISH:**

DIST. ATTORNEY, 22ND JDC KRISTINE RUSSELL

### **ST. TAMMANY PARISH**

DIST. ATTORNEY, 22ND JDC VINCENT WYNNE

### **WASHINGTON PARISH:**

DIST. ATTORNEY, 22ND JDC VINCENT WYNNE

### **BATON ROUGE AREA ENDORSEMENTS:**

JUDGE, CT. OF APPEAL 1ST CIRCUIT, 2ND DIST., DIV. A

JUDGE, 19TH JDC, ES1, DIV. D

JUDGE 19TH JDC, ES1, DIV. K

JUDGE 19TH JDC, ES2, DIV. G

JUDGE, 19TH JDC, ES2, DIV. M

CONSTABLE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE WADR 2, DIST. 2

ZACHARY COUNCILMAN, DIST. 2

CHRISTOPHER HESTER

DELE ADEBAMIJI

WILLIAM JORDEN

QUINTILLIS LAWRENCE

RICHARD ANDERSON

YVETTE ALEXANDER

VERETA TANNER LEE

JOHN LEBLANC

### **LAKE CHARLES AREA ENDORSEMENTS:**

CALCASIEU PARISH DIST. ATTORNEY

WARD 4 DISTRICT JUDGE

14TH JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE

STEPHEN DWIGHT

HARRY FONTENOT

MICHAEL MCHALE

### **Monroe/Shreveport Are Endorsements:**

LOUISIANA SUPREME CT. DIST. 4

JAY B MCCALLUM

Please encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to VOTE for our Labor-endorsed candidates in this very election.

## Wear Your Mask

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



I hope this newsletter finds everyone well and in good health. As we are entering into the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of this pandemic, I would like to emphasize on everyone's safety. Even though we are moving forward with our everyday lives, we must still remember to wear our masks, wash our hands, disinfect items, social distance, and be thoughtful of everyone around us. Remember that I wear a mask to protect you, and you wear yours to protect me! Please wear them the way they are designed and not hanging off your chin.

All our local districts are ask-

ing everyone to wear masks upon entry of the union halls. So, whether you are coming to conduct personal business or pick up work orders/referrals, please do so protected.

As for talking about referrals, much needed work around the Baton Rouge district has kicked off, slow but steady. Turner Maintenance at CF Industries and Rubicon received approximately 40 operators from July till our present time. Turner Crane Rental has requested another 18 operators for jobs at Shell/Geismar, Shell/Convent, Oxy/Geismar, Westlake, and Shintech with possible work to follow in the last quarter. Other signatory contractors are holding their own as work is starting to pick up some.

The out-of-work list in Baton Rouge is still approximately around 45 members combining all operators, oilers, and mechanics. Members that are out-of-work at the present time are

encouraged to check on their insurance hours with Southern Operators and make sure all credentials for work are up to date. It is too late after I call you for a job to get your items in order.

Before I close, I want to tell everyone not to forget about our Brothers and Sisters trying to recover from Hurricane Laura in our Lake Charles District. Most of these members have sustained great losses from the effect of this storm. From homes to cars, and some, everything!! Hurricane Laura was like Hurricane Katrina, but without the great flood. So, reach out to one another and offer your assistance.

In closing, I would like to tell everyone to stay safe and I look forward to seeing everyone at the next union meeting. May God bless everyone and keep you safe.



In support  
of our  
State Police  
SWAT  
&  
the Mobile Field  
Force,  
Business Agents  
William Young  
&  
Russell Maddie  
sponsored  
a cook out for  
these brave men  
in support of  
their efforts  
in the  
Shreveport area.

## Hurricane Laura

by David Hyatt  
Business  
Representative  
Lake Charles District



A lot has happened since the last correspondence from the Lake Charles District. COVID-19 has had us handicapped since early spring and, severely affected our members ability to work, make money, and keep their insurance hours to provide for their families. I diligently have been searching across the United States for Locals that have open seats for our operators to go to. Quite a few have made that choice to travel so they can stay afloat, and others could not, as it was too costly to do so. The Unemployment Stimulus from Congress and then the State has helped but does not cover benefits, just money. As you will hear in other reports, Local 406 stepped up to that challenge, with the insurance assistance for affected members.

Once we were able to somewhat stabilize the environment here in this district, Hurricane Laura came along and wreaked havoc from Lake Charles all the way to Shreveport and covered most of the central part of the state as it made it's push North. Hundreds of members were touched by this disaster. Many members lost homes and had major damage. At the time of this writing we are still assessing the damages to get back to normal life. Once again, Local 406 stepped in with overwhelming support from your Executive Board and President/Business Manager Jason Billings voting to provide disaster relief assistance in the form of fuel for members to run generators, chainsaws, tractors and heavy equipment needed to start the cleanup process to relieve distress. The Local also started the process of emailing Disaster Relief Assistance forms from the

International out to all members that we have email addresses for so that they could apply for the assistance. With the applications came the task of verifying the claims. Business Manager Jason Billings formed a committee utilizing staff members with Cheryl Frught and the New Orleans clerical along with Ms. Chantilly Smith to process the claims and work with the Agents to verify them. I was tasked to verify the claims in my area and Brother William Young helped with this area also as he took care of his area. For that I am appreciative. It has been a big task with all the members that have been affected.

I brought fuel in 5-gallon cans with me, dispensing them out to members as I went along. I contacted as many as I could that I knew were without power to get them fuel also. Many forms of outreach were made to reach as many as possible. Thanks to Ms. Angie Moses in Shreveport, Ms. Vicky Newton and Ms. Adrian Guillott in Baton Rouge, Ms. Alex Fugatt, Ms. Haylee Pierce, Ms.

Tracy Jones, and Ms. Shari Lataxes for handling the overflow of calls from our Lake Charles office.

While handling these tasks, the refineries went into rebuild mode and work started calling out for operators. Deep South, Turner Crane and Rigging, and Maxim started calling back members that were laid off or furloughed due to COVID-19 to put them back to work. Thanks to all of those that were able to come back and others that were able to fill positions that were not on callback. Thank you for being flexible and working with us to get you referred out without an office to do so. At this point, I am not sure what the fall looks like but if it's a continuation of what's happening now, the rest of 2020 should be busy. Thanks to the members and staff who are helping us to try to put Lake Charles back on its feet. It is greatly appreciated. I hope to see you all at the next meeting in your district. Until then, may God Bless you and your families and keep you safe.



**Business Manager Jason Billings along with Business Agents David Hyatt, William Young, and Russell Maddie cleaning up the Lake Charles office after Hurricane Laura.**

**Health & Welfare Fund**

*Carlos Benoit  
Business Rep.  
Baton Rouge District*



At the time of this writing, the work in the Baton Rouge District has picked up some. If you have your qualifications and certifications up to date you should be working (or) offered to go to work.

The trustees of the 406 Health and Welfare Fund sent letters and forms out to members for assistance up to three months of self-pay if you have lost coverage due to lack of work, because of COVID-19. As of date, we have assisted right at 80 members, so they did not lose their health care coverage. That is what being UNION can do for its members.

I would like to send out prayers to ALL, especially our Brothers and Sisters that were affected by Hurricane Laura.

Do NOT forget that November 3<sup>rd</sup> is Election Day. Please remember to vote, it is your right. The Semi-Annual meeting in Baton Rouge is scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup>. If there are any changes, we will let everyone know. Wishing everyone the best and STAY SAFE.

**Meeting Cancellations**

**Due to damages incurred by Hurricane Laura to our Lake Charles Office, we are unable to host a meeting, therefore we are canceling the Lake Charles Union Meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 2020 as well as all union activities for the remainder of the year.**

**Also it is with a heavy heart that we will be cancelling our Retirees Christmas Party gatherings this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2021.**

**Business Agent William Young presenting Brother Burton Burns with his 30 year pin.**



**Business Agent William Young presenting Brother Marvin O'Neil with his 60 year pin.**



**Business Manager Jason Billings presenting Brother Wayne M. Cortes with his 25 year pin.**

