



VOLUME 44 NO. 1
JANUARY 2024

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

By D. Jason Billings
Business Manager-President



I hope your holidays went well and was spent with family and friends. A lot of the photos that you will see in this edition make it look very festive and enjoyable but there was a lot of hard work that went on behind the scenes to keep Local 406's business running while executing these functions as well. I want to thank the full staff that came together to make this possible and have another successful holiday season. Here we are facing another brand-new year and new challenges as well. If you take a moment to read the rest of the articles by the Representatives, you will see the activities around the state as they are projected to unfold. We are already in the thick of work with continued negotiations at Hard Rock and Beau Rivage in Biloxi. Laws have changed now, and all the Representatives are registering with the Mississippi Gaming Commission with the help of our legal counsel, Louis Robein and Associates to be able to lawfully service the members there. With John Babin's retirement, we wish him well in his endeavors. I have been working hand in hand with Kyle and Miguel to pass over the responsibilities and cover this area of our business.

In my previous article, I addressed the Loranger property acquisition and the sale of the Chef Highway properties. As an update at this point regarding the acquisition of the Loranger property, I had a conference call with the DOL and the independent fiduciary at our legal counsel's of-

fic. The outcome of that call was positive. There needed to be some language cleanup in our application but its moving in the right direction now and an update will follow as we get more details in the future. As for the Chef Highway property, there have been a lot of views of the property. Multiple organizations have expressed interest; we have received a few offers, but they were low-ball offers which were not accepted upon the recommendation of our realtor who thinks we can get better. I will report on each property venture at our district meetings as they progress.

The General Executive Board met after the General Convention in April 2023 and decided to increase per capita, effective July of 2023. I approached the Local Executive Board and proposed a hold on the increase of window dues to be assessed to the membership, per the Constitution, and pick it up through the general treasury until the end of the year to which the proposal was unanimously approved by the Local Executive Board. This was to give enough time to be able to discuss a business plan at the statewide semi-annual general membership meeting. Along with this proposal, the window dues were to remain at \$30.00, at least until the next convention in five years. Our Semi-Annual meeting was held in November in Baton Rouge where I proposed

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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

3525 N. Causeway Blvd., Ste. 406 — Phone 504.241.1311 — Metairie, LA 70002

D. Jason Billings, Editor

Periodicals Postage Paid at New Orleans, LA

**POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes To:
Engineers News, PO Box 7610, Metairie, LA 70010**

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50713 Highway 445, Loranger, LA 70446
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PENSIONERS

Baton Rouge District

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Lyndon K. Breeden Sr.
Anthony Smith

Lake Charles District

Zane Carruth
Anthony P. Ransonet
Ronnie Willis

New Orleans District

John E. Babin
Ronald E. Lemoine Jr
Henry A. Willis

Monroe/Shreveport District

Douglas Temple



DECEASED

Baton Rouge District

John Angelle
Nolan Bueche, III
Alton "JIMMY" Guidry
Patrick Hebert

Lake Charles/Lafayette District

Raymon Powell

New Orleans District

Louis Daigle, JR
Hillary Moore
Oneil Williams

Monroe/Shreveport District

an increase in the working assessments to the Local Executive Board. This hasn't been addressed in over 30 years and has been explained in detail in our local district meetings. With this approach, we may never have to address this again in our careers. The Local Executive Board unanimously agreed. It was then proposed to the general membership at the Statewide Semi-Annual Business Meeting, at which the membership voted by secret ballot, following the directive of the International Constitution to increase to 3%. It passed with majority vote. Given the majority vote approval, now we must approach said increase as we move forward. It is part of our dues structure and must be implemented through either payroll or collected from the member themselves.

With this increase, we remain in the lower percentile of assessments from other Unions in our area. We worked based on being proactive in-

stead of reactive. However, this deduction shall gradually be increased over a reasonable amount of time until the current three percent (3%) is fully reached, but we must put forth an effort to achieve this goal. The reasonable amount of time is to properly incorporate it into the CBA's during negotiations rather than an immediate increase, as is with per capita or was with the previous increase that was immediate over 30 years ago. This will be reported on throughout the year at our district meetings.

Please note that we now have a new interactive and updated website where you can find information about current events and answers to questions that you may have about the Local, 24 hours a day. New Years bring new challenges and with your help we can achieve them. Thanks for all the support going forward and may this be your best year yet.

PRESIDENT/BUSINESS MANAGER JASON BILLINGS,
PRESENTING BROTHER BUSTER BUXTON WITH HIS 50 YEAR
PIN & CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION.



by Kyle Leger
Organizer
Baton Rouge
District



It has been quite a busy year. It comes and goes faster than we sometimes realize. I would like to thank everyone who attended our retirees Christmas Party in Loranger. It was also nice to see everyone who stopped in to pick up their vacation checks. I would also like to thank everyone who helped make the event a great success.

Towards the end of the year, before Brother John Babin retired, we, together with Business Manager Jason Billings, were able to organize the Hard Rock Casino in Biloxi, MS. We are working on a collective bargaining agreement and getting

the details worked out with management for signatures to finalize it. We also went into contract negotiations with the Beau Rivage Casino in Biloxi and Harrah's Casino in New Orleans. Business Manager Jason Billings has ensured that all the business representatives have had some experience with the inner workings of the stationary side, as well as getting some experience and knowledge of the pipeline side of the business. This is important because with the number of people we have and the amount of work that goes with it, if someone were to become sick or have some type of emergency, one of us can step in to help.

As the new year begins, it will be time for more turnaround work. With these jobs comes the demand for manpower which brings in travelers and non-members as we per-

mit them to work here under review to satisfy the additional needs for manpower. I think it is important that we make them feel welcome here. It could be the difference in whether they return for more work or possibly become members themselves.

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season and new year. We look forward to seeing all of you at our monthly meetings. I encourage you all to come to these meetings. It is a great chance to gain information on what is going on in the Local and voice any concerns you may have. I would also encourage you all to take advantage of going to the IUOE Training and Education Center in Crosby, Texas. For information on the training center, go to www.iuoe-itrs.org to find out about classes and dates.

May you all have a great year, stay safe and STAY UNION STRONG!

BULLETIN BOARD

• UPDATE YOUR BENEFICIARIES

Remember to check your beneficiary for the Central Pension Fund, Southern Operators Health Fund or IUOE & Pipeline Employers Health and Welfare Fund and your Annuity Fund. Be sure you have named a designated beneficiary and if there has been a change, update your beneficiary information. Forms can be obtained by calling any Local 406 Office.

• UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBERS & EMAILS

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.

• ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Check your dues status and make sure you are current.
- Check the expiration date on any of your certifications and/or credentials.
- Schedule any needed training or CCO classes.
- Keep your TWIC card current.
- Schedule any needed DOT physicals.
- If you are on the Out-Of-Work List, be sure to check your status and call in monthly to keep your place on the list.
- Try to attend any upcoming meetings in your area.

CLOSING OUT THE YEAR

by Miguel Perrault
Business Rep.
New Orleans
District



I, together with Business Manager Jason Billings, Representative David Hyatt, and Representative Kyle Leger, participated in negotiations for a new tentative agreement at Hard Rock Casino. We are also currently still in negotiations with Beaux Rivage Casino in Biloxi. Kyle and I were involved with a new 5-year agreement with Jazz Casino-Harrah's, New Orleans in December.

We are looking forward to a busy start in the new year. I am currently filling seats for turn-around work at Marathon Oil/Garyville and Valero/St. Charles. Later in February I will be filling seats for Chalmette Refinery. If interested, please make sure all certifications are up to date and current. Per diem is available for people that meet the requirements requested. Drug screenings and background checks are required to enter the facilities.

Thanks to all who have come before for these outages and I look forward to seeing you again. Please doublecheck your credentials so that it doesn't affect my ability to refer you back out. Happy New Year!



Semi-Annual Meeting in New Orleans



Santa's little helpers pulling the winning raffle tickets at the SELA Retiree & Vacation Fund Check Distribution Christmas Party

UP TO DATE

by Craig Kaiser
Apprenticeship
Administrator



Happy New Year! We at the apprenticeship program hope you all had a great holiday season. We have been busy doing some much-needed updates around the site such as road work, updating internet, getting connected to city water, and looking into air conditioning options. We have also been completing the required training for CCO to stay up to date with their changes. Tablet testing is up and rolling for this year. Leon Lemoine and I attended a live training session in October in Houston and Crosby, Texas. I also attended the NCCCO fall meetings for 2023. The results for practical testing should now ap-

pear as soon as the test is sent in, hence the same day is the idea. OPT testing is still going well as we say goodbye to written paper/pencil testing which is now a thing of the past. The training calendar for 2024 has been posted online at www.iuoeocal406.org. Throughout October and November, we had 5 career fair days.

We attended the following:

- New Orleans Career Center - New Orleans, LA
- Build Strong Academy - Kenner, LA
- Project Cypress Training Center - Sulphur, LA
- Denham Springs Jr. High School - Denham Springs, LA
- Live Oak High School - Denham Springs, LA

Also, Haylee Verret and I have been in touch with the Louisiana Department of Education regarding our program being part of high schools within the state. This would be at high

school level and that is why you see us attending a Junior High career fair listed above. Under normal circumstances we would not attend Jr. High School as they are too young. The step that we are at as of now is that we are approved as a secondary education option through the Louisiana BESE Board. The only interest that we have at the time of this article is from Live Oak High School in Watson, LA. The Louisiana Department of Education is guiding us through the process and helping to pair us up with a school. We have also been approved by the BESE Board.

We held another application day on 12/05/2023 which went well. Hopefully, we can get some calls in to put these apprentices to work. Please think about using apprentices as we need to build an upcoming workforce to replace ourselves. Last year was really the most opportunity we had to offer and that was rewarding to see that many chances coming available. At the end of October, we had 42 apprentices working. They do not all make it to the contractors or here at the program, but we cannot give up. We need to filter through them faster and more often. Moving forward, we plan to take in apprentices at least twice a year. We will be doing one day in June and one day in December for incoming apprentices. We now have it where we can do applications, interviews, and indenture all in a single day. This makes for a longer day and doesn't leave much wiggle room for people showing up without the proper documentation.

In closing let's strive for a safe and productive year moving forward into 2024.



Brother Peter Babin IV, his wife Kelly Babin, Mrs. Katie Hyatt, Pete Babin III & his wife Marlene Babin enjoying fellowship at the SELA Retiree & Vacation Fund Check Distribution Christmas Party

President Jason Billings, swearing in Brothers James Potter, Brandon Harris & Mark Ferguson



President/Business Representative Jason Billings, swearing in Leo Battistella as Trustee



President/Business Representative Jason Billings, swearing in Buster Buxton as Trustee



President Jason Billings, swearing in Mark Schexneider for the Executive Board



Brother Marvin Welch, receiving his 70 Year Pin from President Jason Billings



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



Once again, the holidays are here at the time of the writing of this article. I hope everyone is enjoying the downtime and getting a little rest and relaxation during this holiday season.

As for work, we have had a good year in 2023 and are expecting a great year in 2024. Work has had a wide range of work from some over-head crane work in the paper industry to Pipeline work for our members (including racking of pipe); to pipeline installation, as well as anomaly digs in our state this year. We have high hopes that the work most everyone has heard about comes to pass. I have been talking with the contractors and am awaiting Pre-job notifications. The work that Price Gregory has is currently in litigation and we aren't sure when it will go. However, they are setting up their yard with anticipation that it will be in the near future.

Please remember to utilize the training offered at ITEC in Crosby, TX, our International training program, to get the necessary skills to make yourself the most employable possible. Level up or add new skills during your downtime. The more skills you have, the more opportunities that await. The 2024 schedule is on international website at www.iuoe-

itrs.org.

As a reminder, please make every effort to attend union meetings. Union meetings are a great place to meet new friends, reconnect with old friends, and the best place to gather information on what is happening in your Local.

We hope everyone has had a wonderful holiday and a happy new year. We are anxiously awaiting what may happen in 2024. As we enter the new year, take a moment to remember our fallen brothers and sisters. May God bless you and your families.

The donations for TOYS FOR TOTS at the SELA Retiree & Vacation Fund Check Distribution Christmas Party



Lake Charles Secretaries, Retired Mrs. Anna Moss, Ms. Chantilly Smith & Mrs. Martha Spell, passing out the raffle tickets at the LC Retirees Christmas Party

BIG SHOES TO FILL

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



Happy New Year everyone! I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season and got to spend some quality time with family and friends.

2024 appears that employment opportunities should be plentiful for our members and shows some normalcy compared to pre-covid.

At the time of this writing, work requests have been flooding my desk daily with work from Hoisting and Portable and Crane Rentals. As I stated earlier, this amount of work was the norm before Covid and it is great to see and welcomed.

Turner Maintenance at Rubicon and Honeywell/Geismar

turn arounds start on January 8 and have requested approximately 11 operators, with the possibility of needing more at a later date. CF Industries in Donaldsonville has requested approximately 24 operators, also with the possibility of needing more as well. Depending on the job scope employment will be from 3 weeks to 45 days at these jobs.

On the crane rental side of things, manpower for multiple sites is in the horizon for 2024 1st quarter. For starters, Deep South is presently in need of approximately 13 operators at Shintech/Plaquemine and an additional 18 operators and apprentices to man Nova Chemical/Geismar working 7-10's plus for 4 weeks with most positions starting January 15. Also, Total Refinery/Geismar will be manning soon with no confirmed dates at the present time. Turner Crane is

presently manning Placid Oil/Port Allen needing 20 additional operators starting on January 8. Additional work is expected, but no confirmation dates have been received from the account managers at the present time.

As the first quarter kicks off, I encourage everyone to pay close attention to your credential's expiration dates. No receipts are accepted at these facilities, only hard cards in hand. I enjoy seeing my brothers and sisters prosper, but sometimes this could make or break the opportunity for employment, so make sure everything is current and up to date.

Finally, upon finishing a job in which you were dispatched, please call, or come by one of the district union halls and get on the out-of-work list. It could be to your advantage for continuous employment.

May God keep everyone safely blessed.



BROTHERS WILLIAM "BILL" DODDS, GENE ROMERO, LADDIE BOB WITHERWAX, RONNIE BOURQUE & GENE GILBERT ENJOYING CONVERSATION AT THE LAKE CHARLES RETIREES CHRISTMAS PARTY

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

by David Hyatt
Business Rep.
Lake Charles District



Happy New Year! The Holidays came super-fast and now here we are about to start the spring outages. It seems time keeps getting faster each day. We enjoyed seeing all the retirees across the state at the holiday functions and the actively working members who were also able to attend. It feels good to share in the fellowship and camaraderie of those who cut the paths that we travel down today.

The fall turnarounds went well and even though they were smaller than expected, they produced a fair amount of work for our operators and travelers who came in

to help at P66, Citgo and Westlake with Deep South. After talking with our signatories, it seems that 2024 looks to be a busy year for the crane rental companies. Miguel, Russell, and I stay connected with one another on our work schedules and it looks as if our turnarounds will be overlapping again this year. If you are looking to work in the refineries for the crane rentals, make sure your safety council cards; TWIC; and DOT Physicals are current. You don't want to miss an opportunity over a technicality.

Deep South will be ramping back up here in a few weeks at multiple locations and should be exercising their managements rights and calling back operators from the fall outages to man the spring ones. There are multiple companies that have called in looking to employ Apprentices through the Inflation Reduction

Act that reimburses employers a portion of the salaries if they use registered Apprentices. These have been non-union companies that are now getting exposed to us by the federal legislation which makes it easier for them to do business. Thus far, none have signed an agreement, but they have been reviewing them and should be communicating with us on future endeavors.

I hope this turnaround season brings you all lots of hours and money in the bank. I look forward to seeing you all at your next district meeting but until then, be safe out there.



BROTHER OSSIE NORTON, WON THIS YEARS WATCH PRIZE AT THE LAKE CHARLES RETIREES CHRISTMAS PARTY

SPOTLIGHT 2023 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Sara Beth Glasscock



The selected winner of the 2023-2024 Peter Babin, Jr. Scholarship Award.

The daughter of Michael Larry Glasscock, a loyal member of 28 years.

After graduating from Denham Springs Highschool, Sara, enrolled into Southeastern Louisiana University.

Sara has been a very busy bee with her honors and activities these last 4 years. She was a member in Advanced Choir; NafME All-National Honor Choir; Graduated Magna Cum Laude and an Active Member of SADD.

Congratulations Sara, we wish you all the best with your future education.



SELA Retiree & Vacation Fund Check Distribution Christmas Party



2024 CCO REVIEW DATES

NCCCO OPT TESTING (WRITTEN)

- OPT Testing is computer based testing and availability to anybody needing to certify or recertify.
- OPT Testing is ONLY offered on the computer.
- To schedule your OPT Test today, please contact the Training Facility at 985.542.4322 or Email HVerret@IUOELocal406.org

NCCCO CLASS DATES

1st QTR Classes

- March 02, 2024
Core Review Day
- March 09, 2024
Load Chart Review Day

2nd QTR Classes

- June 01, 2024
Core Review Day
- June 08, 2024
Load Chart Review Day

3rd QTR Classes

- October 05, 2024
Core Review Day
- October 12, 2024
Load Chart Review Day

To participate in any of the above classes/tests, please contact the Training Facility at 985.542.4322, in order to receive instructions on applying for the NCCCO credentials.

The physical address at which you will attend classes and test is:

**50713 HWY 445
Loranger, LA 70446**

ALL CLASSES BEGIN AT 7AM
