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

ABILITY

PROGRESS

SAFETY

UNITY

## BUSY BUSINESS

Welcome to a new year for Local 406. In this article, you will find information from all areas around the State and other areas that we represent, but first and foremost, I'd like to express my appreciation to all those who help to make this possible.

The Retirees' Christmas Party and Vacation Fund Check Distribution held at our Training Site was a great success. It wouldn't have been possible without the tremendous effort put forth by our Administration there under the direction of Craig Kaiser and his assistant, Haylee Verret; together with our staff from the Metairie and Baton Rouge offices. This, along with our other retiree functions across the state, wouldn't be possible without our staff in those areas, also. While on topic of the training site, congratulations to our 2024-2025 graduates in the Apprenticeship Program, whose names are listed in Bro. Craig's article.

The articles posted herein will give you information on what is coming and give you a chance to better position yourself to take every opportunity to advance. Reading through these articles, you will notice the Representatives advising you to get on the district out of work lists of choice; but remember, you must update your name on the list for availability at least once every thirty days to remain on it. The Louisiana Workforce Commission requires you to seek employment weekly, but under Union rule, we con-

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



stantly seek employment for you weekly, but you are required to register monthly here. This applies to all Out of Work lists in each district.

The Pipeline projects are continuing to move forward after the holidays. I attended their weekly safety briefing with Business Representative William Young and Steward Lamar Dousay in Anacoco. I was able to meet with several of the women working in the industry and get a photograph with most of them before they headed out to the ROW -- you will see that picture in this edition. Thanks to our women and men who serve this industry as professionals and represent our Local well there.

**UPDATE ON THE SALE OF THE PROPERTY:** If you have attended the Union meetings across the state, you are already informed of where we are in this process. However, I will give a quick recap here. After a long negotiating process, we have successfully obtained a signed purchase agreement on the Chef Menteur Highway property, with the guidance of our legal counsel. Hopefully, this will be fulfilled in early 2025. There are a lot of hurdles that the purchaser must clear to obtain the fi-

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Miguel Perrault  
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## **SCHEDULED MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

### **OFFICES AND BUSINESS AGENTS**

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WILLIAM YOUNG, Pipeline Representative  
318.686.7745

#### **STATEWIDE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM**

CRAIG KAISER, Apprenticeship Administrator  
504.241.1311

### **MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

1st Wednesday of every month at  
6:00 PM

Temporary Time Change To 6:30 p.m.

Thursday of the week of the 1st  
Wednesday of every month at 6:00  
PM

Temporary Time Change To 6:30 p.m.

Thursday of the week of the 4th  
Friday of the months of January,  
April, July and October at 6:00 PM

Temporary Time Change To 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday of the week of the 4th  
Friday of the months of January,  
April, July and October at 6:00 PM

Temporary Time Change To 6:30 p.m.

### **SELA District - NO Metro**

Salvador A. Mangano Jr.  
Lawrence W. Thonn Jr.

### **SELA District - BR Metro**

Lawrence Allen Jr  
Thomas R. Olinde

### **SWLA District**

William Ellett  
Russell D. Moore

### **North LA District**

Craig E. Chelette  
Charles Blazier



## **DECEASED**

### **SELA District - NO Metro**

David Arnaud  
William K Bellefy Sr.  
Elmer L Coleman Jr.  
Louis Eschette Jr.  
Dennis P. Gosney  
Joe W. Lacey  
Salvadore Lopinto III  
August Taylor III  
Eddie Ray Trapani

### **SELA District - BR Metro**

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Sylvan Landreneau  
Lennet Little Sr.  
Sam B Pocorello  
Willard J Sonnier  
Paul C. Stelly  
Corley N Trawick

### **SWLA District**

Peter L Darte  
Dennie H Dyer  
Eugene Gilbert

### **North LA District**

Kevin Dugar

Chef Menthour Highway property.

**NOTICE TO MEMBERS:**  
Following a favorable vote by our membership at the May 2024 semi-annual meeting to permit a special guest to attend and speak at our November 2024 semi-annual meeting, Crystal Ewing with American Income Life, attended and addressed the membership at said meeting. She brought forth a proposal for a supplemental insurance for our membership. If we sign a one-year agreement to allow her to contact our membership, it will give our current members in good standings, a free \$2,500.00 Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) policy. She, nor American Income Life will have access to your information but will take the mailer to the Local offices and we will print the labels with your address on it and mail it for her. There will be

the offer, you must complete the paperwork and send it to American Income Life. Thereafter, they will send an agent out to talk with you. Should you choose not to engage, a second offer will come six months after the first one. Ms. Ewing has reassured that there will be no harassment by them. However, should that occur, please contact your district office. Once we determine how many members participate in this program, we will decide whether or not to renew for additional years.

**CHANGES OF INFORMATION:**  
The new year brings awareness to all policies and documentation for updates. If your address, telephone numbers, marital status, email address, dependents, or beneficiaries have changed, please contact your local district office and let

You will notice some new faces in our offices around the state. Please help me welcome Mrs. Charise Robbins in Lake Charles, Mrs. Chris Juneau in Baton Rouge, and Mrs. Charlyn Powell in Metairie. I look forward to working with them to achieve Local 406's goals in the future. I also want to recognize Mrs. Tracy Jones and thank her for her many years of dedication and service to Local 406. I hope she spends many years enjoying the rewards of her well-earned retirement. I had the privilege of working with her for more than 20 years. Lastly, I pray that this new year brings you all prosperity and joy. I wish you and your families good fortune and blessings from above. As always, please keep me in your prayers as I pray for you.



**Pictured Left:** President/Business Manager D. Jason Billings and Elizabeth E. Malley, Administrative Asst. Pipeline Dept., International Union of Operating Engineers Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

**Pictured Center (Left to Right):** Kelly Meyer, Administrative Asst. COS and Construction Dept., International Union of Operating Engineers Headquarters in Washington D.C.; Business Manager/President D. Jason



Happy New Year! I hope you all had a great holiday season spent with family and friends and made memories to last a lifetime. Last year was a fairly good year for Operating Engineers in the SWLA District with turnarounds and projects. This year looks to be a copy of last year except with some added projects. The turnaround season is almost upon us with Deep South kicking off at two facilities here in Lake Charles, which look to be heavy on labor demands. GEM Inc. is currently working at the First Solar site in New Iberia and employing four Operating Engineers. They're on the first part of the job and should be starting the second phase in March, which will require five or six more operating engineers for that part. GEM is an all-union company out of Ohio that is working under the NMAPC Na-

and the holidays, I worked with William and Business Manager Jason Billings on a job that is coming to the North Louisiana District which is a massive undertaking in Richland Parish and has already started. Jason worked months ahead of this project with the Public Service Commissioner there to get a foothold for our contractors to get in on the project. Contractors are bidding on the next phases of it and have been contacting us about wage packages to bid on. Due to the size of this project, it will take a couple of us working together to fill all positions needed should they win the bid. Therefore, please keep your credentials up to date and stay in contact with us both for more information. If you need help in obtaining new credentials, please reach out to us and we can help get you to the right places to obtain them. Stay safe out there and I hope you all have a prosperous year in 2025!

rently. March will see them installing the machinery needed to produce solar panels and will be working with Millwrights and Ironworkers to do so. Currently the job is working 5 days a week, but they expect that to change to 6 once the material begins coming in.

Boh Bros had a job at Venture Global in Cameron which was scheduled to start in January but has been put on hold by the new Presidential Administration to be in office later this month. Boh Bros expects start it back up by June or July after they work out the issues. That should employ around 10 Operating Engineers with the possibility of taking on a couple Apprentices for servicing equipment on nights to have it ready for the day shift to start. The project at Venture Global is estimated to be around 8 to 10 months of work.

Though there has been no word on whether or when it will begin, there are still discussions regarding ME&I returning for a second phase of the Air

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## BULLETIN BOARD

- **CHECK YOUR DUES STATUS**
- **CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATE OF ANY OF YOUR CERTIFICATIONS AND/OR CREDENTIALS**
- **SCHEDULE ANY TRAININGS OR NCCCO CLASSES**
- **KEEP YOUR TWIC CARD CURRENT**
- **SCHEDULE ANY NEEDED DOT PHYSICALS**
- **IF YOU'RE ON THE OUR OF WORK LIST, BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR STATUS AND CALL IN MONTHLY TO KEEP YOUR NAME ON THE LIST**
- **TRY TO ATTEND ANY UPCOMING UNION MEETINGS IN YOUR AREA**
- **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.

The fall outages with Deep South, Turner and Maxim concluded without any incidents. It is projected to be busy again in January, needing seats filled by 406 members and travelers. Changes have been made to the credential requirements that will be implemented to help reduce the downtime between hiring and start dates. All Operators will be responsible for Basic Plus Safety



course online. Operators will need current TWIC, DOT physical, and NCCCO Crane Certifications.

Background checks may be required depending on the facility, and drug screening requirements may differ depending on the facility. If mileage requirements for per diem are met, the Operator must provide a utility bill with an address that matches their driver's license address; per diem will begin once approved by Contractor.

ratified. The PLA With Omega Foundation Services kicked off with a clearing crew. This is a great opportunity for our members who specialize in the Civil side of our business.

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication in 2024 and looking forward to a great year ahead of us.



Members working with Boh Brothers Construction repaving the streets in the French Quarter preparing for the Superbowl



**Season's Greetings and New Year Wishes**

We hope everyone had a fantastic time at our Christmas party and enjoyed a joyous holiday season with family and friends. As we step into 2025, we wish you all health, success, and happiness in the new year. Thank you for being part of our union family and for your continued dedication to the growth and excellence of Local 406.

**Apprenticeship Status Update**

As of now, 34 of our 60 apprentices are actively working. Here's the breakdown:

- 10 apprentices at Boh Bros
- 19 apprentices at Deep South
- 4 apprentices at Turner
- 1 apprentice at Maxim

We are proud of the progress being made and look forward to seeing all of our apprentices continue to grow and excel in their roles.

**Online Proctor Testing**

Remember, tests are available to be scheduled a year in advance, so please stay on top of your credentials to avoid last-minute issues. Additionally, we've begun testing our upload and download speeds before proctoring. If technical problems arise, we assure you it's not our equipment but likely the servers belonging to ProctorU or Examstudio. Thank you for understanding.

**Davis-Bacon Certificates**

All contractors were sent updated Davis-Bacon certificates on November 14, 2024. These will need renewal following Progression, Cancellation, Resignation, and Graduation Day in February. Please ensure all updates are processed promptly.

compliance to better serve our apprentices.

**Apprenticeship Site Update**

Due to funding and availability, we have not been able to employ any apprentices at the site. However, we remain optimistic and are working to create more opportunities.

**Equipment Update**

Unfortunately, our large hydraulic crane used for practical testing is currently down due to a leaking swivel. Efforts to bypass the issue by marrying the transmission lines were unsuccessful. We are working to address this issue and will keep everyone informed of progress.

Additionally, we're auctioning off the carry deck crane and military generator, which have been non-functional for our needs. These items, together with the P&H crane which was previously sold but never picked up, will all be included in an online auction this month.

**Efforts to Recruit Operators**

In our continued efforts to strengthen our union, we scheduled 12 evaluations on October 2, November 6, and December 4 to assess potential operators for the union. We remain committed to expanding our membership and will continue working toward this goal.

**Career Fairs and Outreach**

·**OSHA Update for Construction:** October 7, 2024, at ITEC Center, Crosby

·**CCO Test Site Coordination:** Myself and Haylee Verret completed our credentialing in October.

·**Teaching Techniques 2:** Emile Rome attended at the ITEC Center, October 14-16.

·**Kenner Discovery Center Ca-**

Nicholas Demars.

Thank you to everyone who participated in these events and represented Local 406 with pride.

**Congratulations to Our Graduates!**

We are proud to announce the following February 2025 graduates:

- Tommy Thompson Jr.
- Tristen Depew
- Marina Spellman
- Jamie Equhia
- Kenneth Rybczyk

State certificates should arrive by May or June, and we'll distribute them as received.

Additionally, congratulations to the apprentices who graduated in August 2024, whose certificates were mailed on November 4, 2024:

- Wyatt Moreau
- Joshua Samson
- Carla Johnson

**Looking Ahead to 2025**

·**CCO Classes:**

Scheduled for March 1 and 8. Call 985-542-4322 to enroll.

·**Next Application Day:**

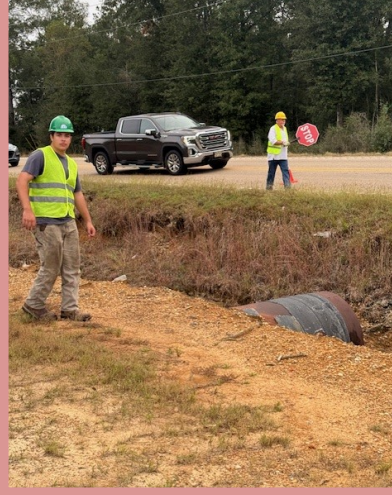
June 11. We expect a large number of applicants and will be more selective to maintain high standards for our program. TWIC and Safety Council certifications will now be required for entry. Apprentices cannot be placed with employers without these, so they will not be accepted into the program without meeting these requirements.

·**Policy Change:**

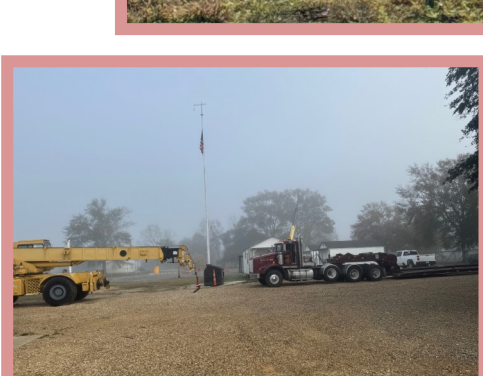
New apprentices will not be eligible for advanced classes until they reach their fifth six-month level.

Stay tuned for updates on our website, Facebook page, and the 2025 calendar shared with contractors, agents, and apprentices.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to the union.



Johnathan Whittington, Tyler Gross, Ted Hartley, and Leon Lemoine doing a pre-inspection of equipment



North LA District  
& Pipeline  
Business Rep.



We are now in a brand-new year. I hope everyone had a great time with friends and family over the holidays. Continue to be safe; remember we have families that depend on us!

The long-awaited work is here and ongoing. We have many different contractors doing a variety of jobs across the state. To those that have your

is trained up on the mainline; however, the supporting contractors do call for people from time to time, so be ready and have all your things in order; they don't give us much time to dispatch someone. Precision Infrastructure in Baker, Louisiana has their job manned as well at this point. The work for this year looks promising.

Don't forget to utilize the training site in Crosby, TX to gather the skills needed to keep you ahead of the game. Also, please remember your

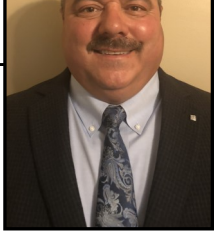
your kindness and who it was that showed them a better way! We are a brotherhood, and the guests that are here in our house are our brothers and sisters. Please show professionalism to the contractors; we need them as much as they need us.

Lastly, thanks to everyone on the ROW, you guys and gals are what makes Local 406 a cut above. We have the best Pipeliners in the industry.



Ladies of the Pipeline at the safety meeting posing with Business Manager/President





At the time of this writing, work in Southeast Louisiana (Baton Rouge Metro Area) has slowed down to a crawl as we close the last quarter of 2024. The Baton Rouge out-of-work list has been growing daily as the fall turnaround season has come to an end. The good news is that work is expected to be plentiful as we begin the first quarter of 2025.

Crane rental work throughout the Southeast Baton Rouge District will be kicking off mid-January with Deep South having work at Exxon Mobil/Baton Rouge and Shintech/Plaquemine. There are no definite manpower numbers for job requests at this time, but we should be receiving them shortly.

After meeting with Deep South management, members, Business Manager Jason Billings and Business Representatives from across the state multiple times during contract negotiations, Local 406 has ratified another solid 3-year bargaining agreement offering our brother members more work opportunities with better pay and better benefits.

Turner Crane Rentals is expected to be busy starting sometime in the month of January. The particulars for these jobs haven't been disclosed yet, but we should be hearing something by the be-

lighted to say that Local 406 has finally ratified a hard-earned and newly revised 3-year bargaining agreement for our members on December 17, 2024.

BOH Brothers are finishing up College Drive/Baton Rouge, but work is continuing on the Comite Diversion Project and Highway 19. Speaking on the subject of the Diversion Project, a local contractor called Omega Foundations from Slaughter, LA has requested wage rates for bids on some of the same work as BOH Brothers. Business Manager Jason Billings, Business Representative Miguel Perrault and I have been in close communication with them orchestrating a new Project Labor Agreement for

members.

River Bend Station presently has 9 Operating Engineers working. Seven are working for Day & Zimmerman and two are working for Allied Power, all of which are working projects and work support for the upcoming February outage. We will need approximately six more people for Day & Zimmerman and three to five more for Allied Power, as they prepare for the Refuel and Exciter outage work.

In closing, I hope everyone has a great holiday season and a very happy, prosperous New Year. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and support to Local 406 throughout 2024. I look forward to working with everyone in 2025. Stay safe and God Bless!



Deep South picking up RT635 to do some free repairs. Assisting in the loading is Josh McManus, Operator; Terry Seal, mechanic; Chris Starns, truck driver

Organizer/ Business  
Rep.  
Baton Rouge Office



Here we are! Another year has come and gone. It was definitely a busy one. With multiple contract negotiations going on and the long hours put into it all, it seems to pass in the blink of an eye. In 2024 we welcomed some new ladies into some of our office locations and are proud to have them as part of our organization. Their contributions to our organization is tremendous and is very appreciated. So, thank you all for everything you do.

Our Business Manager/ President, Jason Billings, has really built a great crew to work with. With his guidance,

to each of our retirees, thank you for setting the foundation for us all to build on. Lastly, thank you to everyone who put their time and effort into our annual Retiree Christmas gathering and to all our members and retirees who came out to celebrate and fellowship. I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!

to be a part of contract negotiations in each other's respective districts. In doing so, we are also able to create connections with those contractors in the event someone is ill or cannot be where they are needed. These are the types of things that make our team strong.

Moving into 2025 we will be hitting the ground running on our stationary side with contract negotiations with the Gold Strike Casino in Tunica, Mississippi. IUOE Local 406 represents stationary engineers at this and multiple other properties. These positions include facility maintenance, and slot techs, in our casinos.

Although 2024 was busy, it was a great year. I would like

To each of our retirees, thank you for setting the foundation for us all to build on. Lastly, thank you to everyone who put their time and effort into our annual Retiree Christmas gathering and to all our members and retirees who came out to celebrate and fellowship. I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!



A joyful moment with some of our staff as we honor our retirees and spread holiday cheer!





President/Business Manager D. Jason Billings & Retiree Charles Methvien



President/Business Manager D. Jason Billings & Retiree's at the Annual Christmas Party in Loranger, LA.



## NCCCO OPT TESTING (WRITTEN)

- OPT testing is computer based testing and available to anyone needing to certify or recertify.
- OPT testing is ONLY offered on the computer.
- To schedule your OPT test today, please contact the training site at 985-542-4322 or email hverrett@iuoelocal406.org

## NCCCO Classes

### 1st QTR Classes

- March 1, 2025— Core Review Day
- March 8, 2025— Load Chart Review Day

### 2nd QTR Test Dates

- June 7, 2025— Core Review Day
- June 14, 2025— Load Chart Review Day

### 3rd QTR Test Dates

- October 4, 2025— Core Review Day
- October 11, 2025 Load Chart Review Day

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

**50713 HWY 445  
Loranger, LA 70446  
All Classes begin at 7AM.**

To participate in any of the above classes/tests, please contact the



Congratulations

## Travis Sinclair II

who was selected winner of  
the 2024 Peter Babin, Jr.  
Scholarship Award.

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After graduating Parkway High School, Travis enrolled in Northwestern State University of Louisiana, where he is majoring in Music Education to share his love of music with the future generation of musicians.

Travis' senior year high school band awards consisted of Assistant Drum Major, Best Musician, Honor Band, 1st Chair Tuba Wind Ensemble, and Superior Performance in Conducting at LMEA Festival.

Travis is the son of Travis L. Sinclair, a Pipeliner, who is a 23-year member of IUOE Local 406. We wish this fine young man the best of luck in all his future endeavors.