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I want to start this report by expressing my deep gratitude to Danny Hendrix. His confidence in my ability to take over this jurisdiction is very humbling to say the least. He continually inspires everyone around him to “take the bull by the horns” and to always strive to make a positive impact on this great Local. It is because of his leadership skills, enthusiasm, and love for Local 798, that we are accomplishing record-breaking numbers in every aspect of our profession.

Next, I would like to express a heartfelt thank-you to Wade Pilgreen. He has gone above and beyond to help me during this transition. Wade has always been just a phone call away whenever I have had questions and I’ve had a million of them, not just recently, but over the years. He has always been a voice of reason no matter what the storm might have been. I am saddened by his retirement, but I know, without a doubt, that Justin Wallace will continue his legacy and do everything in his power to move our Local forward.

By now most of you know that Chad S. Williams has taken over as Inside Guard. Chad has been a member in good standing for the past 18 years and is an all-around great guy. I know he will do an amazing job, and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with him during his transition. I encourage everyone to become more involved and help serve as an Inside Guard at future meetings. Just contact Chad and let him know if you would like to help.

I have spent the last several months touring this jurisdiction with my predecessor, Darrell Turner. With his guidance, I have had the opportunity to meet key people in the UA and several of our union contractors. Make no mistake, the work in this area is abundant, but it is all being picked up by non-union contractors. The fact that sub-standard work is being chosen over the high quality that we can produce is aggravating and very frustrating. My immediate goals are to hit the road hard, continue to meet contacts, and try to encourage union contractors to honestly bid the work in the South.

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and that it is followed by a prosperous New Year. I want all my fellow Brothers and Sisters to know that I am always available, and that I am here to serve you. Also, please take the time to welcome and help guide new members with our way of doing things. Remember that they are trying to transition into a new work environment, so show patience and understanding. Please feel free to contact me as I look forward to hearing from you. God bless all of you and God bless our great Local for all the opportunities that have been bestowed upon us.

Pre-Jobs:

DD Pipeline Services:

Colbert City, AL. 2,600’ of 6” relocation. Gas Company: North Alabama Gas Authority.  
Steward: Jimmy Davis, Jr. Special Agreement rates.

TJ Construction Co:

AL, MS, TN. Maintenance upgrade 10”. Gas Company: American Midstream Corp. Steward:  
Dustin Bilbrey. Special Agreement rates