

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 2017 just flew by and the work was fantastic with man-hours exceeding over 11 million. By all accounts 2018 looks to be even bigger! Local 798 and its members have been truly blessed.

2018 Steward School is just around the corner. We will kick off the week with our annual charity golf tournament on Monday, April 9, 2018. Lincoln Electric will host a BBQ on Tuesday, April 10, at the Local 798 Training Center. Steward School officially runs from Wednesday, April 11, through Friday, April 13, concluding around noon with a shrimp and crawfish boil hosted by Miller Electric at the 798 Training Center. Make your plans early to attend as rooms at the Renaissance Hotel fill up quickly.

At the end of November, TransCanada invited all four crafts to a meeting in Chicago. Also included was the UA Pipeline Department, along with six contractors. The theme of the meeting was safety and skilled manpower for work in 2018 and beyond. TransCanada was ecstatic that all four crafts not only showed up on such short notice, but enthusiastically engaged in the process. For many generations, we have met with clients and contractors, but always separately. What made this meeting historical and revolutionary was that all entities were in the same room to problem solve for a future project. The significance of that one event solidifies in my mind that we have been on the right track for many years now by partnering and advocating out front for the client's projects.

I know I sound like a broken record, but advocacy is working, and we need to double our efforts in the future. When you see an e-mail from Local 798, take a minute or two to take the action we are requesting. A few minutes of your time today to show support for a project could very well provide you and your family with a more secure future in the pipeline industry. I love a good old-fashioned picket line, but the truth is it hasn't provided us with a single man-hour in decades. Advocating is the key to better relations and more union projects. We are the best pipeline constructors in the world. Let's also be the best advocates for energy infrastructure to be built the right way, using Union Labor!

Department of Transportation regulations govern our drug testing in the pipeline industry. Beginning January 1, 2018, semi-synthetic opioids will be included. Please pay special attention to the Dispatcher's report that will give you a little more detail. Many of the medications that are prescribed for pain management will appear in this new testing.

The work outlook could very well be record setting. Some of the major projects that should be built in 2018 include: Atlantic Coast Pipeline, 580 miles of 20", 36", 42"; Atlantic Sunrise, 192 miles of 36"; Nexus, 250 miles of 36"; Penn-East, 114 miles of 36"; Northern Access, 97 miles of 24"; Pilgrim, 178 miles of 16' and 178 miles of 20"; Midship (Cheniere), 200 miles of 30" or 36"; and Driftwood, 96 miles of 36" and 42".

Many of the projects that will be built this year and into the future don't have fancy names, and are smaller by miles and diameter, but they are the bread and butter for man-hours just as well. As always, I am proud to say, ***"I work for you, the greatest pipeliners in the world."***

Fraternally,

Daniel C. Hendrix