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I want to start off by commenting on the Regional Meeting in Cleveland, OH. I think this was the best Regional Meeting I've ever been involved in. Lincoln Electric provided the place to hold this meeting at its world headquarters, and in my opinion, it was a total success. The hospitality that Lincoln showed our membership was right on the mark. Everyone who came to the meeting on their only day off showed their commitment and support for this Local Union. That's what a brotherhood and sisterhood is all about. Thanks to our Business Manager Danny Hendrix, Financial Secretary-Treasurer Wade Pilgreen and their office staff for putting the event together and making it work so well. Also, thanks Lincoln Electric and all the other vendors that showed up with all their products. Local 798 and these vendors have a long-lasting partnership that doesn't exist anywhere else in the pipelining industry.

I met a lot of new members at the meeting that came on board this year to join this union and get away from the non-union sector where they have no representation as workers, no health care for their wives and babies, and no pension when they retire. I want to welcome all of you to this organization and say to you, this was the most important decision of your life. Some new members will not stay with us for one reason or another. It takes a strong commitment to make Union Membership work for you. Nothing will be given to you. You have to earn it to be successful in this business. It's not hard to do, but you must work hard, and show up every day, sober and ready to put in your 10 hours so you can get paid what you deserve. Our members will help you in any way if you have a teachable spirit and attitude. If you need to hone your welding skills, we have a training center that will get you to where you need to be. You will find out that the inspector will treat you a lot tougher than they did on the non-union side. But that's ok, we're used to it. We come right back at them with skilled craftsmanship. Take part in your Local Union and try to make every weld better than the last one. Never be satisfied with "that's good enough to make it." Take pride in your work, and you will go far in this Union. Welcome, new Brothers and Sisters.

The work in my area is still mostly Maintenance and Integrity. These are good jobs, they just don't put a lot of people to work. Our welders need to have the Lo Hi skills along with the downhill welding, and the Lo Hi is run Open Butt. Enbridge, Koch, Northern Natural Gas, Enable, and more gas and oil companies are going to the in-service weld testing. These are small crews and the welders need to be able to fab it, test it, weld the stopples on the old line, and tie the new piece in. Integrity work is the future of this Local when the big-inch work slows down some day.

I still have some mainline projects on the books for the next two or three years. The Keystone XL is in the permit block right now but the Nebraska Utility Commission will

make some decisions before years' end. The Line 3 Replacement in Minnesota is also held up on permits, but I think it will be resolved sometime early to mid-2018. The Sandpiper Pipeline in Minnesota is dead. Enbridge has sold and shipped the 24" and 30" pipe out of Minnesota to Oklahoma and Texas. The sad part of this is, I don't look for any of that pipe to be laid by union members down south.

The work in the Northeast seems to be holding up for the next few years, so take advantage of the work available!

What a great time to be a 798 Pipeliner.
Never forget, United We Stand, Divided We fall.